

***Political development of Lithuania:  
a comparative analysis of second post-communist decade***

*Zenonas Norkus*

The goal of paper is to put into focus and explain essential features of the political development in Lithuania during second post-communist decade by means of its comparison with the analogous processes in other Baltic States (Latvia and Estonia) and in those Central European countries with political systems which resemble most closely Lithuanian case (Poland and Hungary). In all these countries, second post-communist decade witnessed the rise of the new successful populist parties. The author argues that this populist rise is the proper context for the understanding of Rolandas Paksas' impeachment in Lithuania in 2003–2004. His Order and Justice party has to be classified together with the brothers Kaczynski's Law and Justice party and its even more radical allies in Poland, Viktor Orbán's Fidesz and Gábor Vona's Jobbik in Hungary, Juhan Part's Res Publica in Estonia and Einars Repše's New Era in Latvia. While the rise of right-wing populism did not change the political system in the former bureaucratic authoritarian countries Estonia and Latvia, in Hungary and Poland the outcome was the breakup of the implicit ex-communist and anti-communist elite pact which was the foundation of the political stability in these former countries of national communism. Lithuania is unique in that the ex-communist and anti-communist elite pact was not abolished, but preserved and consolidated due to the collaboration of all, by this time, "established" and Left-of-centre populist parties during the impeachment proceedings.

***Retrospective look at the problems of ethics  
in the Lithuanian public service: new problems,  
their content and forms of expression?***

*Jolanta Palidauskaitė*

This article provides a retrospective look at the problems of ethics in the independent state of Lithuania, the period of Soviet Union and after the re-establishment of Lithuania's independence. In this article, the author analyses the changing problems of ethics (red-tape, conflict of interest, bribery, abuse of authority, protectionism, corruption) in the Lithuanian public services in terms of their content, extent and forms. Although certain periods of time are characterised by smaller or larger individual problems, their essence remained almost the same throughout different stages of the public service. This conclusion points to the need to analyse the impact of Lithuanian political and administrative culture on public service ethics and other phenomena of public management.

***The Imperisation of the European Union  
and the small states***

*Benas Brunalas*

In this article by applying the ideas of M. Foucault, E. Said, A. Negri, M. Hardt, L. Wittgenstein, Z. Norkus, N. Statkus, R. Lopata, N. Luhmann and others, the model of the EU imperialism is introduced. By using the theory of family resemblance by L. Wittgenstein and logic of its employment as shown by Z. Norkus in his work on Grand Duchy of Lithuania as the empire, the conclusion arrives that the EU gravitates from the classical or neo-classical definition of the empire. However, inaccuracies, found by applying Z. Norkus' methodology, are caused more by the form, and not by the content, thus the claim that EU holds the notion of the empire is valid. This allows entitling the EU as the post-modern empire.

***Conceptions of justice and measures of efficiency:  
formation of the people's positions on progressive taxes  
and legal abortion issues in Lithuania in terms of cognitive  
schema theories***

*Ieva Petronytė*

By employing formerly in Lithuanian political science unexploited concept of cognitive schema, the formation of the people's attitudes towards political issues is explained in this article. The first results of the empirical research on the latent structures, forming the Lithuanian residents' thinking on political issues, are presented. Semi structured interviews on two political issues introducing the progressive taxes and abolition of the abortion – were analyzed and eight schemas, forming the informants' attitudes on these issues, were found. In this article the main components, internal structures and interrelationships among these schemas are presented and the broader implications on the knowledge about Lithuanians political thinking is discussed.

***Post-Communism after 20 years: the comparison  
of democracy indicators of Nordic countries,  
Southern Europe and Central and Eastern Europe***

*Saulius Spurga*

It is a common perception that 20 years after the fall of communism, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE), even though they have joined the EU, belong to the group of post-communist countries. This article analyses whether a clear distinction in the quality of democracy between the CCEE, which are new member states of the EU, and the old member states still could be made. The analysis has been performed by comparison of the democracy indicators of the countries of Southern Europe, Nordic countries and the CCEE. The research has revealed that the scores of democracy indicators of the countries of Southern Europe and the CCEE do not differ significantly, and in some cases, the scores of the group of

the CCEE correspond to a better quality of democracy. The scores of democracy indicators of the individual countries of the two groups overlap in most cases. However, the analysis has exhibited a considerable difference of the democracy indicators between the countries of Southern Europe and Nordic countries, although these countries belong to the group of the old member states of the EU. Thus, the difference in the scores of democracy indicators inside the group of the old member states of the EU is bigger than the difference between the CCEE and the countries of Southern Europe. This means that the requirements for the quality of democracy, which are applied to mature Western democracies, have to be applied to the CCEE.