

Séminaire Général du Centre d'études européennes

Shaping Policy Long After Exit from Office: The Lasting Effect of Party Rule on the Political Ideology of Bureaucrats

Tuesday 28 March 2017

12.30 - 2.30 pm

Sciences Po,
Room Goguel
56, rue des Saints-Pères
(Entrance through the 27 rue Saint-Guillaume)
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The study of representation is central to political science. Numerous works have assessed whether elected officials share the ideological preferences of citizens and produce policies that accord with citizen interests. Yet, why bureaucrats share the ideological preferences of citizens in some countries, yet not others has not been paid attention to. This is an important omission. Bureaucrats have discretion in policy formulation and implementation. Whether they share the ideological preferences of citizens thus matters for whether policies reflect citizen interests. Drawing on multi-level analyses of WVS, CSES and ESS data, our paper is the first to shed light on the determinants of this variation in ideological congruence between citizens and bureaucrats. We find that bureaucrats are more left-leaning than citizens in countries that are richer and have a longer legacy of left-party rule – even after controlling for current governing party ideology and a series of other country controls. This suggests that parties continue to shape policy outcomes through ideologically aligned bureaucrats long after electoral defeat. This finding has important implications for our understanding of public policy, political control and political representation, and underscores more broadly the utility of studying variation in ideological congruence between citizens and bureaucrats.



Speaker

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Discussion

Philippe Bezes Sciences Po, CEE, CNRS

Clément Claret, Sciences Po, CEE

Compulsory registration on the link above - Contact: jan.rovny@sciencespo.fr

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