

Abstracts

HORIUCHI Yusaku & NATORI Ryota, The Impact of Subnational Electoral Systems on Duvergerian Competition : The Case of Japan

In this paper, using district-level data from Japan, we show that the larger the effective number of subnational-level candidates in a multi-member district (MMD) under the single non-transferable vote (SNTV) system, the larger the effective number of national-level candidates in a single-member district (SMD). This finding suggests that the SMD system's alleged district-level effect on producing two-candidate competition is weaker if subnational-level politicians, who have strategic interactions with national-level politicians, are elected under a more proportional electoral system. Our findings suggest that the degree of subnational-level partisan fragmentation determines the degree of bipartism in a national legislature.

TSUTSUMI, Hidenori & UEKAMI, Takayoshi, Party Policy Coherence in Japan : Evidence from 2003 Candidate-Level Electoral Platforms

In this paper, we clarify whether party/policy-centered electoral competition has been realized and examine the "inconsistent electoral system" model by analyzing candidate platform data of 2003 general election. The differences of policies between Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), which are major two parties in Japan, are not large and intra-party policy cohesion is low. As for the effect of different electoral systems of Diet and Local Assembly, it was partially confirmed that policy competitions at national level did not penetrate those at the local level. This is due to the strength of affiliated relation (Keiretsu) between Diet members and Local Assembly members and the different types of competition in Local Assembly elections.

YAMADA Masahiro, Conservative Rule and the Relationship between National Politicians and Local Politicians : A Case Study of Confrontation among Local Politicians in Hokota Town

This article claims that the relationship among national elections and local ones never independent. For the purpose, this article focuses upon the political confrontation between two local politicians in Hokota Town, Kashima-gun, Ibaraki prefecture. In the election of prefectural congress, Kashima-gun is a district of single nontransferable vote system (SNTV).

From our observation, we notice not only that conflict among local politicians influences the strategies of national politicians, but also that it is difficult to form coherent local organization under the SNTV system of local elections, even after introducing the mixed system of SMD and PR in the Japanese HR election.

MAEDA Yukio, The Continuity of Candidate-Oriented Voting Decision after the 1994 Electoral Reform : How Inconsistent Electoral Systems Affect Individual Judgment

The electoral reform of 1994 presumes that the Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV) sys-

tem is a source of candidate-centered election campaign and pork barrel politics. The Mixed-Member Majoritarian (MMM) system is introduced to generate party-centered electoral campaign and policy-based electoral competition. However, the electoral system of the House of Representatives is only a part of the entire configuration of the electoral institutions across different levels of governments. As long as national and local politicians are interdependent, the impact of electoral reform can be counter-balanced by the existing electoral institutions at sub-national levels. This paper tries to address this problem by analyzing the impact of number of seats in prefecture assembly election on people's judgment criterion in voting decision in the House of Representative election.

NISHIKAWA Misa, The Impact of the 1994 Japanese Electoral Reform : A comparative perspective

The Japanese Lower House adopted a mixed electoral rule in 1994, and this new rule seems to have brought about some important changes in Japanese party politics. However, many still claim that the new electoral system has been slow in pushing the original intent of the reforms —discouraging pork barrel politics, promoting cohesive party platforms, and creating an environment conducive to alternation of parties in power. The purpose of our panel is to show that the inconsistency of electoral rules between the national and local elections is the cause of this hindrance. My paper examines Japanese party politics from a comparative perspective and exhibits evidence that the barriers to reform also grew out of the local level.

KIKKAWA Takeo, Significance and Outlook of Complex Renaissance in Japan

The purpose of this paper is to make clear the significance and outlook of the so-called "Complex Renaissance" in Japan. Research Association of Refinery Integration for Group-Operation (RING), established in 2000, has promoted the first step program (RING I) in 2000-2002 and the second step (RING II) in 2003-2005, and started the third step (RING III). This paper analyzes the contents and problems of RING III developing in Kashima, Chiba, and Mizushima Complex.

In complex renaissance, not only integration of refinery and chemical equipments, but also refinery-refinery integration or chemical-chemical integration plays an important role. In addition, it is possible that equipments integration evolves into companies integration. Complex renaissance has a great significance making the international competitiveness of the Japanese petroleum and chemical industries stronger.

KAKU Shun, Reexamining the Idea of Community in Regionalism : A View from R. M. Maclver's Theory

In the current movement of regionalism, one easily notices a frequent use of the word "community". Despite flourishing political discourse upon community, theoretical attempts to examine the notion of community in regionalism appear to have been limited in scope and number.

In this article the author tries to establish a consistent view about community within regionalism and beyond, applying to the movement of regionalism Robert M. MacIver's pluralistic, multilayered conception of community. Three formal regimes of regionalism, the European Union, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, are together examined and compared, based on this view. As a conclusion implications for the prospects of social development in regionalism will be drawn thereof.