

ANALYTICAL SUMMARY

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THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN LATIN AMERICA

América Latina Hoy, 38, december 2004, pp. 17-55

This article addresses through comparative analysis the stages of the ordinary legislative process in eighteen Latin American countries. Through a study of the national Constitutions and internal regulations, it aims to track for the different cases, the variety of forms of presentation, debate and approval of laws in the region.

Key words: Legislative Power, legislative procedures, political negotiation, Parliament.

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SUB-STATE INTERESTS IN BI-CAMERAL LEGISLATURES: INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION
IN DECENTRALISED GOVERNMENT

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The aim of this article is to study the role of the second chamber in the vertical coordination of interests between national and subnational levels. Firstly, we specify the legislative governance variables which must be analyzed in bicameral countries in order to measure incentives and restrictions to strengthen vertical inter-institutional coordination, deepening political decentralization. Secondly, these variables –symmetry, congruence and political particularism– are broken down and ranked to be tested empirically in the nine bicameral countries existing in Latin America. Finally, with the results obtained, we are in a position to develop a bicameralism index that measures the role of second chambers as the institutional space where subnational interests are taken into the national Legislative body, encouraging vertical relations among institutions.

Key words: bicameralism, political decentralization, electoral system, political parties, political particularism.

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DIFFERENT CHAMBERS, SAME PARTIES: POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE BI-CAMERAL SYSTEMS OF LATIN AMERICA

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The article argues that the presence of political parties as privileged structures of representation in polyarchical regimes and of control of the internal organisation of the Legislative branch, can generate certain limitations on the mutual control and division of powers implicit in bi-cameral systems. The article compares and analyses degrees of difference and similarity in the party composition of the different chambers in Latin American political systems.

Key words: bicameralism, Senate, Congress, political parties, Latin America.

NOLTE, Detlef

ATTITUDES ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES AND THE IDEOLOGICAL PROFILE OF SENATORS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE

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The article compares the ideological self-placement on a left-right dimension of the senators of four South American countries –Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay– and their opinions about different socio-economic issues. We compare the attitudes of the legislative élites (including the Lower House) with the results of public opinion surveys.

Key words: Senate, Argentine, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, left, right.

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THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE PARLIAMENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA: FOUR CASES IN COMPARATIVE LIGHT

América Latina Hoy, 38, december 2004, pp. 125-139

This article explores the patterns of institutional performance of the Legislative and Executive branches in four Central American countries searching for explanatory

sources in the constitutional and procedural design. The article explores in a comparative fashion which are the varying scenarios explaining the Executive dominance of the legislative agenda, and puts it in relation to the degree of interests' aggregation in the legislative decisional process. Finally, the article proposes a combined analysis of both formal and informal rules, or which are the incentives of actors to use discretionary spaces, endogenous to the decisional structure and to the historical patterns of behaviour of the political actors.

Key words: Parliament, constitutional design, procedural design, performance.

D'ALVA KINZO, Maria; MARTINS JR., José Paulo and BORIN, Ivan
 PATTERNS OF ELECTORAL COMPETITION FOR THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
 IN BRAZIL (1994-2002)
 América Latina Hoy, 38, december 2004, pp. 143-162

The current article presents an analysis of the patterns of electoral competition to the Chamber of Deputies in Brazil. Electoral rules have a significant impact on political competition and on the configuration and workings of the political system in general. This study considers not only the impact of the system of open list proportional representation, but also at the combination of this method with the possibility of parties forming electoral alliances.

Key words: electoral competition, Chamber of Deputies, electoral rules, political system.

D'ADAMO, Orlando and GARCÍA BEAUDOUX, Virginia
 ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS AND THEIR EFFECT ON VOTING.
 A STUDY OF THE 2003 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN ARGENTINA
 América Latina Hoy, 38, december 2004, pp. 163-179

This paper aims to explore empirically the potential influence presidential electoral campaigns may exert on the process of voting decision making. Four dimensions of this problem are analysed: 1. the communicational resources of a campaign that result most effective, 2. if the voters perceive the differential media exposure received by each of the candidates, 3. in case they do, if that perception has an impact on the positive image of the candidates and 4. the capacity of campaigns to operate changes on the voting decision. The obtained data indicate that in the memory they build of campaigns, the

subjects recognize the predominance of television messages, perceive the differential media exposure of candidates, that this perception does not necessarily mean they have a positive image of those who received more media exposure, and that they point out the potential of the campaign to change their initial voting decision.

Key words: electoral campaign, voting decision making, campaign communicational resources, candidate media exposure, americanization hypothesis.