

The Institutionalization of Political Parties in Canada and Israel: Cohesion, Discipline and Personalization

Academic workshop hosted by the Halbert Center of Canadian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 12-15, 2011

List of workshop participants

Participants from Canada:

Professor Mildred A. Schwartz, (Emerita), University of Calgary, Carleton University,
University of Illinois, New York University.

Professor Ken Carty, University of British Columbia

Professor William Cross, Carleton University

Professor Stuart Soroka, McGill University

Professor John Courtney, (Emeritus), University of Saskatchewan.

Professor Csaba Nikolenyi, Concordia University (Leader)

Participants from Israel:

Ms. Meital Balmas (PhD candidate), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Ms. Reut Itzkovitch Malka (PhD candidate), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Ms. Odelia Oshri (PhD candidate), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Ms. Janet Takens, (PhD candidate), VU University Amsterdam, visiting scholar at the
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Mr. Assaf Shapira (PhD candidate), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Professor Reuven Hazan, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Professor Gideon Rahat, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Professor Tamir Sheafer, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dr. Shaul Shenhav, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Leader)

Abstract

The scholarly literature has assumed that the problem of party system institutionalization is particular to new democracies (Mainwaring 1999; Mainwaring and Scully 1995). In established democracies, on the other hand, the sheer longevity of party competition seems to imply that the parties and party competition are well institutionalized. This workshop challenges this assumption. The participants examine the institutionalization of political parties in Canada and Israel, through the analytic lens of cohesion, discipline and personalization. There is evidence from both countries suggesting that party institutionalization may be under more stress than conventionally assumed. For example, Canadian parties seem to be evolving into stratarchical franchise operations (Carty 2004, 2002) and their ability to involve voters and party members is weak (Cross and Young 2004). Furthermore, the increase in constituency influence on the behavior of Canadian members of parliament points to the growing importance of cultivating personal as opposed party reputation (Soroka, Penner and Blidook 2009). Similar trends towards personalization have been also observed in the Knesset (Shenhav and Sheafer 2008; Rahat and Sheafer 2007). Also the organizational cohesion of Israeli parties has been particularly challenged by the adoption of participatory and competitive candidate selection processes (Hazan and Rahat 2010; Hazan 2003; Rahat and Hazan 2008, 2001).

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Programme

Sunday, June 12, 2011

Conference starts in the evening

Dinner and a Preliminary orientation, Professor Csaba Nikolenyi and Dr. Shaul Shenhav, Maersdorf

Monday, June 13, 2011

Breakfast for the Canadian group, Maersdorf

10:00-10:30 Greetings:

Professor Mario Sznajder, Head of the Department of Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem –***approval required***

Professor Nachman Ben-Yehuda, Director of the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem - ***approval required***

10:30-12:30 - Session One: "Party Institutionalization, Cohesion and Personalization"

Professor Csaba Nikolenyi (Concordia University), "Regulating the Cohesion of Political Parties: A Comparative Perspective"

Professor Gideon Rahat (Hebrew University) and Mr. Assaf Shapira (Hebrew University), "Cohesion and Personalization of Israeli Politics".

Professor Ken Carty (University of British Columbia) "Brokerage Politics Ended? Canadian Parties in the New Century".

Lunch at Maersdorf

14:00-16:00 - Session Two: "Parties on the Ground: The Changing Nature of Party Organization "

Professor Mildred Schwartz (New York University), "The Sociology of Party Organization in Canada".

Professor William Cross (Carleton University), "Models of Candidate and Leadership Selection in Canadian Political Parties".

Professor John Courtney "The institutionalization of the Canadian Party System".

Dinner at one of the restaurants recommended by the Halbert Center

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Breakfast for the Canadian group, Maersdorf

10:00-12:30 - Session Three "Parties in the Electorate and Parliament"

Professor Tamir Sheafer (Hebrew University) and Ms. Meital Balmas (Hebrew University), "Political Personalization in the International Media Arena".

Professor Csaba Nikolenyi (Concordia University) and Dr. Shaul Shenhav (Hebrew University) Anti-Defection Legislation in Israel.

Professor Stuart Soroka (McGill University), "Personalization and Cohesion: Evidence from Canadian Parliamentary Debates in the House of Commons".

Janet Takens, Anita van Hoof, and Jan Kleinnijenhuis (VU University Amsterdam), "Personalization in the Media, Personalization in Voting Behavior?: The effect of Personalized News on the Strength of the Effect of Voters' party Leader Evaluations on the Vote".

Lunch at the Knesset Cafeteria

Organized Tour in the Knesset

17:00-19:30 Special event at the Knesset hosted by The Knesset Research and Information “Party Cohesion in the Era of Personalization”

Dr. Shirley Avrami. Director of Research and Information Center at Knesset, opening words, ***approval required***.

Professor Mimi Ajzenstadt, The Halbert Center for Canadian Studies, opening words.

Professor Csaba Nikolenyi (Concordia University) and Dr. Shaul Shenhav (Hebrew University), Introduction.

Professor Ken Carty (University of British Columbia) “Lessons of the Franchise Party Model”.

Professor Reuven Hazan (Hebrew University) and Ms. Reut Itzkovitch Malka (Hebrew University), "Party Cohesion versus Personal Accountability: How Israeli MPs Perceive their Representative Role".

(Short Break)

Professor William Cross (Carleton University), “Leadership Selection in Canadian Political Parties”.

Professor Gideon Rahat and Professor Tamir Sheafer (Hebrew University), “Getting Personal: Personalization in the Israeli political system: Empirical Findings and Practical Implications”.

(Closing Discussion)

Dinner at one of the restaurants recommended by Halbert

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Morning: Business meeting (alternative June 14 after dinner):

Ms. Odelia Oshri, future planning - possible opportunities for publication.

Wednesday, June 15-16, 2011

The Beauty of Israel: daily tours for the Canadian group (organized by Csaba Nikolenyi)