

Determinants and Consequences of Constituency Service in Europe

Friday 14 June 2019

Venue: Tampere University, City centre campus, Pinni A building, room A3111

Conveners: Corentin Poyet (Tampere University) and Mihail Chiru (UC Louvain)

Starting in the 2000s, the European scholarship on legislators' personal vote seeking efforts and constituency service in particular has expanded considerably, following research agendas developed by scholars of the United-States Congress and state legislatures. In the context of the decline of parties as the main vehicles of interest aggregation and substantive representation in Europe, the importance of dyadic linkages between citizens and Members of Parliaments (MPs) is growing. Constituency service has become a key aspect of accountability not only as a means through which the MPs communicate to constituents about their work but also as a dimension on which citizens evaluate their representatives.

The conference takes stock of the research of scholars working on constituency service in their respective country in order to facilitate the development of a more robust and up-to-date body of knowledge on the topic. The workshop is organized around seven cases studies covering a large spectrum of institutional designs, geographical areas and MPs practices.

9.30	Welcome Corentin Poyet / Mihail Chiru
10.00	Session 1
10.00	Zsófia Papp: Does congruence matter? The electoral reward of agricultural representation in urban and rural areas
10.45	Lieven De Winter (skype): The vanishing case work of Belgian MPs: myth or reality?
11.15	Coffee break
11.45	Session 2
11.45	David Arter: "When your worst opponents are MPs in your own party in your own district": Intra-party competition and the personal vote in a non-transferable preferential electoral system
12.30	Lunch break

13.45	Session 3
13.45	Anne-Sophie Behm: MEPs and their linkage to the ground – exploring the MEPs’ territorial focus in parliament
14.30	Mihail Chiru: Changing MPs’ Behavior through Institutional Engineering? Constituency Questions Under Two Electoral Systems
15.15	Coffee break
15.30	Session 4
15.30	Corentin Poyet: The “incomplete” constituency service cycle: incentives to offer constituency service and French citizens’ expectations on MPs work
16.15	Resul Umit: Parliamentary Communication Allowances: Good for Nothing
17.00	Closing remarks Mihail Chiru / Corentin Poyet

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