

Lehrstuhl Politik und Verwaltung Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Prof. Dr. Michael W. Bauer



Newsletter No. 1 | November 2010

Contents

Editorial	1
Staff	2
Publications	2
Lines of Research	5
Upcoming Events / Call for Papers	6
Contact	7

EDITORIAL

Dear friends, colleagues, students and alumnae!

It is now one year that I joined the Institute of Social Science of the Humboldt-University Berlin. The institute is one of the biggest social science faculties in Germany and covers practically the whole range of the core topics of political science and sociology. A radiant spirit of openness and excellence prevails and my wonderful colleagues integrated me quickly. In addition, it has been a particular pleasure to come to the Humboldt-University as I was offered the chair of “public administration” at which I myself graduated in 1996. However, after my venerated predecessor Hellmut Wollmann left at the beginning of this decade, the chair had been vacant and practically non-existent for several years. Hence, during the first year nearly everything had to be installed (from fax machine to office chairs) and new routines had to be developed which kept Regine Mellin, Christian Adam, Philipp Studinger and myself quite busy. After Michaël Tatham and Jörn Ege recently joined, I can proudly say the chair is now operational.

With respect to its profile, the chair covers issues of comparative public administration and policy-analysis with a strong EU multilevel focus. Projects about European regions’ relations with the supranational level, about the European Commission and about management change in international bureaucracies are ongoing, while new ones about “inter-executive conflict” in the implementation of European programmes and about the determinants and consequences of the structural autonomy of international administrations are in the making.

In order to stay in contact and to provide some basic information about the activities of the chair, I will circulate such a brief newsletter about once a year. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my team if we can be of any help or if there is anything you want to bring to our attention. I hope this Newsletter will prove to be a useful tool.

Best Wishes

Michael W. Bauer, November 2010

STAFF

Dr. Michaël Tatham (Assistant Professor): *After Michaël completed his Ph.D. at the European University Institute in Florence, he joined the chair as Assistant Professor. He is a specialist in European policy-analysis with a background in quantitative comparative methods. Moreover, he is already a widely cited expert in territorial and regional politics in Europe.*

Jörn Ege (Researcher): *Jörn joined the chair September 1st 2010 after he completed his Master's at the University of Konstanz. He specialises in the political control of international bureaucracies and will re-inforce the chair's comparative public administration expertise.*

Philipp Studinger (Researcher): *Philipp graduated from the University of Konstanz and focuses in his research on subnational mobilization in the context of European integration. He joined the DFG project Subnational Governance Preferences in 2007 and worked intensively on a survey of regional elites about competence allocation in the EU multilevel system.*

Christian Adam (Researcher): *Christian studied at the University of Konstanz, London School of Economics and Political Sciences and graduated from St. Gallen University. He joined the EU Annulment project in 2009.*

Finally, the research team is supported by **Regine Mellin** (Secretariat), **Stefan Becker** (Student assistant) and **Timm Graßmann** (Student assistant).

PUBLICATIONS

Bauer, Michael W., 2010: L'acceptation du changement au sein de la Commission européenne, in: *Revue Française d'Administration Publique*, no. 133, 81–98.

The paper tackles the question how civil servants of the European Commission relate to the recent management modernization (Kinnock Reform). Competing theoretical approaches (utility maximization, socialization, ideology) are used to develop empirical hypotheses about the relationship between officials and their acceptance of or their opposition to the reform. The hypotheses are tested on recent survey data by applying a simple regression model. There is evidence that – unless they fear negative effects on their career – Commission officials accept the administrative reform rather well. With respect to recent organizational change, the Commission appears to have entered into an age of normalization with regards to internal administrative modernization.

Bauer, Michael W./Heisserer, Barbara, 2010: Die Reform der Europäischen Kommission - Modernisierungskonzepte aus vier Jahrzehnten im Vergleich, in: *integration. Vierteljahresschrift des Instituts für Europäische Politik in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Arbeitskreis Europäische Integration*, 33. Jahrgang, Nr. 1, 21-35.

The European Commission's administration was subject to an overhauling reform between 2000 and 2004. Until today the so called Kinnock-reform is controversial. Depending on one's point of view, the reform is considered a necessary modernisation for the organisation's efficient workings,

or regarded as a source of a growing need for internal coordination and an increasing bureaucratisation forcing the Commission to veer away from its 'mission' of European integration. The Kinnock-reform certainly was the most comprehensive, far-reaching management reform in the history of the European Commission. Contrary to a common perception, it definitely was not the first one. In the past four decades three other, more or less successful reform initiatives can be identified. This article reviews these four reform initiatives and compares them systematically. In so doing, the Kinnock-reform is put in a historical context. Furthermore crucial influencing factors, which contribute to successfully realising an administrative reform in a supranational context, can be identified.

Bauer, Michael W./Hartlapp, Miriam, 2010: Much ado about money and how to spend it! Analysing 40 years of annulment cases against the EU Commission, in: *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 49, No. 2, 202-222.

This article analyses four decades of annulment cases against the European Commission brought before the European Court of Justice by dissatisfied Member States. Annulment cases are interpreted as incidents of a struggle between Member State governments and the Commission about policy decisions. Studying annulment cases for the first time in comparative perspective, three important patterns of variation are identified: with respect to the evolution of annulment cases over time, as regards the Member States as plaintiffs and in view of policy fields. Subsequently the data are interpreted on the basis of structure, agency and policy field specific explanatory mechanisms. Leaving the aggregate level, the two policy areas that account for more than 80 per cent of annulments are analysed: EU agriculture and competition policy. In the vast majority of cases, the dominant rationale behind annulments is not national objections to the supranational exercise of delegated powers per se or in specific policies (as most structural theories would expect) but to the way the Commission uses these competences to restrict how national governments may allocate European or national funding.

Sturm, Roland/Bauer, Michael W., 2010: Governance und Regionen – die theoretische Debatte, in: Sturm, Roland/Dieringer, Jürgen (Hrsg): *Regional Governance in EU-Staaten*, Opladen: Verlag Barbara Budrich, 11-34.

Bauer, Michael W., 2009: Impact of Administrative Reform of the European Commission: Results from a Survey of Heads of Unit in Policy-Making Directorates, in: *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, Vol. 75, No. 3, 459-472.

The Kinnock reform has changed the European Commission. This article discusses the link between reform effects and policy output. A survey of more than 100 heads of unit (HoU) of policy-making Directorates-General serves as the empirical basis. It is concluded that the recent reform of the Commission does indeed comprehensively redefine the role of the HoU. Their resource base to focus on policy drafting has been hugely reduced. Negative consequences for the organization's potential to deliver policy draft of high quality are therefore very likely.

Bauer, Michael W./Pitschel, Diana, 2009: Subnational Governance Approaches on the Rise—Reviewing a Decade of Eastern European Regionalisation Research, in: *Regional & Federal Studies*, Vol. 19, No. 3, 327-347.

This article reviews the past decade of decentralization and regionalization research on the new Eastern European member states of the EU (EU-10). We classify the existing literature according to focus of analysis, explanatory programme and methodological preferences, and propose a distinction between three different research agendas: system transformation, EU conditionality and subnational governance. We argue that with respect to the EU-10, scholarly interest in the perspectives of state transformation and conditionality is waning. By contrast, the subnational governance approach is growing in relevance because it represents the cornerstone of a multi-level

governance perspective that is able to integrate what have up to now been separate debates about regionalism in Eastern and Western Europe.

Bauer, Michael W./Knill, Christoph/Tosun, Jale, 2009: Neglected Faces of Europeanization: The Differential Impact of the EU on the Dismantling and Expansion of Domestic Policies, in: Public Administration, Vol. 87, No. 3, 519-537.

The objective of this article is to clarify the extent and the conditions under which the European Union (EU) induces changes in the policy arrangements of its member states. For an accurate measurement of our dependent variable, we distinguish between EU-induced policy expansion and EU-induced policy dismantling. We argue that the extent to which European requirements lead to an expansion or dismantling of national policy arrangements is crucially affected by the respective governance logic underlying the regulatory activities at the European level, that is: (1) compliance with EU rules; (2) competition between national administrative systems to achieve EU requirements; and (3) communication between regulatory agents across national levels arranged in an EU legal or institutional framework. To illustrate our theoretical argument, we develop hypotheses on the likelihood and direction of national policy change under these three modes of governance, in addition, providing empirical examples from different policy areas.

Bauer, Michael W./Pitschel, Diana, 2009: Regionalisierung und Dezentralisierung in Mittel- und Osteuropa 1997-2007, in: Politische Vierteljahresschrift, 50. Jahrgang, Heft 1, 130-154.

The review essay takes stock of the last decade of decentralisation and regionalisation research in Central and South Eastern Europe. Classifying the existing scholarship with regard to its focus of analysis, its explanatory programme, and methodological predilections, we suggest to distinguish three different agendas: system transformation, EU conditionality and subnational governance. We argue that scholarly interest in regionalisation and decentralisation issues from the perspective of state transformation or Europeanisation is vanishing. Instead, we witness the emergence of a subnational governance approach which is rooted in comparative politics and policy analysis. The debate about decentralisation and regionalisation in CEEC is thus in a process of "normalising" and converging with the Western European subnational political discourse.

Tatham, Michaël, 2010: With or Without You? Revisiting territorial state-bypassing in EU interest representation, in: Journal of European Public Policy, Vol. 17, No. 1, 76-99.

Both the number and the powers of sub-state entities in the European Union (EU) have grown. These sub-state entities represent their European interests using both intra- and extra-state channels. The increasing use of the latter has encouraged scholarly literature to focus on the emerging 'paradiplomacy' of these entities. Sub-state paradiplomacy, however, can be both conducted in tandem with its member state or bypassing it. This article seeks to better understand such patterns of interaction between state and sub-state interest representation. Using original survey data, it tests five different hypotheses about the determinants of state bypassing and non-bypassing. It argues that devolution of powers and party politics are relevant factors explaining the frequency of bypassing and co-operative interest representation. Other factors, including size, financial resources and length of exposure to the integration process do not seem to play a role.

Tatham, Michaël, 2010: The evolution of the UK political system in the first decade of the new millennium: comparative and temporal perspectives, in: Tournier-Sol, Karine (ed.): Le Royaume-Uni dans le monde depuis 2001, Revue Babel, n°21, 217-253.

This chapter seeks to evaluate the extent to which the UK political system has evolved since the double turning point of 1997 and 2001. Labour, under Blair and Brown, has ruled Britain for longer than any non-Conservative government in the past 100 years. An obvious research question is then to ask what the legacy of New Labour to the British political system is – beyond its domestic policy legacies or its Foreign Policy record. This analysis takes both stock of, and issue with, the literature addressing the question of the evolution of the UK political system. It takes stock by building on the theoretical foundations and findings of previous work. It takes issue by highlighting areas of further change or of disagreement. The first part of the article spells out a general but parsimonious definition of a political system and applies it to the UK. The second part identifies areas of continuity throughout the period under study, while the third part details seven areas of moderate to strong change. The article concludes with the necessary re-definition – and to some extent, indeed, re-invention – of the Westminster Model.

Please also visit the Chair's Working Paper Series:

<http://www.social-science.hu-berlin.de/lehrbereiche/politikundverwaltung/wps>

LINES OF RESEARCH

Some of the ongoing projects draw to a close; new ones are in the pipeline. For more information on each project, please visit the chair's homepage: <http://www.social-science.hu-berlin.de/lehrbereiche/politikundverwaltung/forschung>

European Regional Elites / Subnational Governance Preferences: Diana Pitschel handed in her Ph.D. and left the project to become head of office of a Member of the Bundestag. Philipp Studinger and I advanced the second wave of our regional elite survey. Interviews of 2500 regional top-administrators and politicians are scheduled for the coming month. First results are hopefully due end of 2011.

The European Commission Survey Project: This project conducted together with Hussein Kassim, Liesbet Hooghe, John Peterson, Andrew Thompson and Renaud Dehousse enters its final phase. 'The European Commission of the 21st Century: Views from the Inside', which is one of the largest and most representative surveys of Commission officials ever carried out by independent researchers; and a structured programme of interviews. The dataset thereby created provides primary source material for an original and detailed analysis of the Commission as a twenty-first century administration. First results have been presented in September 2010 at the British academy.

'The Commission of the 21st Century has produced the largest and richest data set on attitudes of Commission officials ever uncovered. The project's findings will help us make the Commission a more efficient and effective administration that better serves European citizens. I am also proud of the fact that we have actively assisted an independent and purely scientific study without fear of the results and with a genuine desire to learn more about the overall feelings and motivation of the people that work for this unique organisation'. José Manuel Durão Barroso, January 2010

Policy Dismantling - CONSENSUS: This FP7 funded project – conducted together with Christoph Knill, Andrew Jordan, Christoffer Green-Pedersen, Christina Schneider, Jacint Jordana and Adrienne Héritier - aims to improve our

understanding of trade-offs and synergies between economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainable development. We are now in the concluding phase, working intensively on the publications. One assembles case studies about policy dismantling.

EU Annulment Politics: Developed together with Miriam Hartlapp, WZB, this project attempts to explain rising conflict between national and the supranational executives with respect to implementation of EU programs. The indicator is "EU annulment" cases from national governments against the European Commission brought before the European Court of Justice.

International Public Administration: At the beginning of the 21st century, bureaucracy has obviously become a defining feature of the international system. International organizations and their administrative bases appear to play an ever greater role in domestic and international policy-making. Finally, the chair will focus on international public bureaucracies, how they are distinct from national administrations, how they change and what is their influence on policy-making.

UPCOMING EVENTS / CALL FOR PAPERS

Workshop on Public Administration in the Multilevel System (23-24 June 2011, Humboldt-University Berlin):

The chair organises this workshop in cooperation with the EGPA PSG XIV Multilevel Administration as well as CEPAM (Centre of Excellence for the Study of Public Administration and Management, University of Konstanz).

The workshop invites papers from both theoretical and empirical perspectives of all related political science sub-disciplines. Comparative research is welcome. Young scholars, in particular, are invited to actively participate. **If you wish to present a paper, please send a 1-2 page abstract of your envisioned presentation to the organizer by 15 February 2011 (mw.bauer@sowi.hu-berlin.de).**

More information on the workshop and the Call for Papers will soon be available online: <http://www.sowi.hu-berlin.de/lehrbereiche/politikundverwaltung/workshop2011>

CONTACT

Prof. Michael W. Bauer
Lehrstuhl Politik und Verwaltung
Institut für Sozialwissenschaften
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Unter den Linden 6 - D-10099 Berlin
Telefon +49 30 2093 4239 / 4269
Telefax +49 30 2093 4492

Email: mw.bauer@sowi.hu-berlin.de

Webpage: <http://www.sowi.huberlin.de/lehrbereiche/politikundverwaltung/>

*If you wish to unsubscribe from our newsletter,
please send an email to regine.mellin@rz.hu-berlin.de with the subject "unsubscribe".*