

GRITIM-UPF Research in Progress Session

Tuesday, November 17st, 2015

12.00-14.00

Room 20.237

1. Political parties and immigrant associations: Alliances in the presence of politicized immigration conflicts at the local level A comparative study

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Abstract

The present PhD thesis studies the formation of alliances between political parties and immigrant associations in the presence of politicized immigration conflicts (PICs) at the local level. With this objective in mind, I introduce the importance of alliances between particular actors in the immigration literature following the political opportunity structure (POS) approach. To do so, I develop, in three articles, a comparative cases-study research based on qualitative methodology (desk research and semi-structured interviews). I analyze the emergence of alliances in three cases of PICs: the anti-Romanian-Roma campaign in the city of Badalona, the burka ban in public buildings in the city of Lleida and the banning of undocumented immigrants from the local census in the city of Vic, all three in Catalonia, Spain. The results show that alliances between political parties and immigrant associations are: first, connected to the mobilization of resources; second, the outcome of different patterns of mobilization determined by the political parties responsible for politicizing; third, strongly shaped by the political environment where political parties are key actors and finally, the result of power structures that immigrants face in cities of immigration.

2. Minority Nations, Political Parties and Immigration

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Abstract

The thesis is a compilation of three articles that explore the relationship between immigration and minority nations. It focuses on Stateless Nationalist and Regionalist Parties (SNRP) through the lens of the centre periphery cleavage. Overall, the articles make contributions towards the research question how do the main dimensions of the centre-periphery cleavage (identity, territory and economy) reflect on the SNRPs' discourses on immigration? Each article explores one of the dimensions of the centre periphery cleavage. They analyse how identity, territorial distribution of powers and the economic context appear in the SNRPs' official discourse on immigration. Paired comparisons of different SNRPs in different contexts (Catalonia, Quebec and Scotland) are carried out using qualitative content analysis of manifestos, parliamentary debates and other party documents. The thesis provides, among other contributions, a deeper understanding of SNRPs discourses on immigration and how centre-periphery relations interfere in its construction.