

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

The articles approved in this issue of the Political Connection Review – the Political Science Postgraduate Program’s Review of the Federal University of Piauí – are part of the dossier Institutions and Political Behavior. The current issue aims to survey the established social structures and the procedures, necessities, reactions and responses from the individuals and social groups in face of these institutions.

The study of the institutions and the political behavior has grown in the last decades, chiefly when the neoinstitutionalists pointed out the role of these institutions for the behavior of political actors. Looking through this logic, one starts from the assumption that they affect the relationship of individuals and social groups that constitute a society, i.e., those who matter in the procedures, stimuli, demands and sentiment, and that define the behavior of social actors in their relationships with others, as they are mediated by an institutional structure that demarcates actions and social interests.

When the focus is the analysis of the political behavior, the literature has faced the relationship between power and the action of social actors. This power is usually examined as a potential for implanting some agenda. Politics is understood, thus, as an action to influence the practices that lead to public businesses, i.e., to affect results.

Through this logic, the researches on political behavior have sought to listen to the numerous effects of the action of social actors in face of human stimuli and needs, including their consequences on the institutions.

Thus, one of the key concerns in this issue of Political Connection Review is to seek to understand how institutions and political behavior interact with each other, influencing the State and its relationship with society. The “natural” struggle for power occurring everyday within the institutions and the power is approached in an eclectic manner by the professors and researchers from institutions of different Brazilian and foreign universities.

The first article of the Political Connection Review is a comparative analysis of the chief productions within the agenda of neoinstitutional research in Political Science. **Flávio da Cunha Rezende** eloquently demonstrates the chief aspects of this theory, showing explanations that seek the fundamentals of the institutions' changes in diverse contexts, situations or circumstances. He makes an explanatory typology of the analytical challenges to be faced, aiming at the increase of the theoretical capacities of neoinstitutional currents to explain the changes in institutions.

The article of **Taeko Hiroi** studies the relationship between electoral systems and legislative improbity, focusing the analysis on the individual vote, the dimension of the electoral district and the post-electoral accountability. The investigations on the theme emphasize the elector's individual accountability, calling attention to the current thesis in the literature that the electoral systems of individual and direct vote promote the good performance on the part of the politicians and repress deviant behaviors by enabling electors to identify, to monitor and to hold responsible the politicians whom they voted. It also points out another theoretical current which defends that widespread electoral districts assure the availability of good politicians and electoral competition capable of reducing their prevarication. In these terms, Hiroi examines the relationship between electoral systems and political behavior at the Brazilian Congress.

Márcia Miranda Soares and Aline Burni investigate the link established between federative dimension and electoral behavior. From the specialized literature, they indicate how federative arrangements may determine the electoral disputes and influence the definition of vote. By focusing the analysis on the Brazilian reality, the authors call attention to the national federative structure, supported on three autonomous levels of electoral competition: Federal Government, states and municipalities, for positions in the Legislative and the Executive. The ordering would allow the political parties to be organized into different jurisdiction areas, in addition to keeping bonds between them and the vote decision process. In face of this theoretical contribution, they analyze the impact of the national and state elections on the municipal ones of 26 Brazilian capitals, from 1994 to 2008.

Márcio Rodrigo de Araújo Souza and Monique Menezes focus their analysis on the experience of participative planning in the state of Piauí. The study starts from two premises: the first defends that the dependence of Piauí on resources from the Federal Government would leave little room for formulating specific public policies, complicating the accomplishment of priority policies regarded by the civil society. The second affirms that, even with the formal participation of society in the executive scope, it is observed that there is a lack of planning from the state government to accommodate the population's demands.

The text of **Luiz Fernando Vieira Vasconcellos de Miranda** discusses the relationship between corruption and accountability. The article seeks to demonstrate that there is a direct relationship between political transparency and the elector's positive or negative evaluation. Thereby, the more a government informs society of its actions, the larger will be the electors' capacity to evaluate the efficacy and the possibility of inhibiting abuses on the part of the political class. As regards the reliability of the electors on the politicians, the author seeks to show that it is related to the need for someone to be held accountable, that is, the existence of accountability.

This issue of *Political Connection Review* is completed with the book reviews written by **Leandro Molhano Ribeiro** and **Cláudio André de Souza**. Ribeiro summarizes the work "The impact of parties: politics and policies in democratic capitalist states", edited by Francis G. Castles, and Souza rates the book "Os sentidos do Lulismo: reforma gradual e pacto conservador" [The senses of Lulism: gradual reform and conservative pact], written by André Singer.

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