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## **Political organization in multi-level settings : Mexican and Latin American parties and party systems after decentralization**

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## *Stellingen*

### **behorende bij het proefschrift 'Political Organization in Multi-level Settings: Mexican and Latin American Parties and Party Systems after Decentralization' van Imke Harbers**

- 1) Where governance is decentralized, the territorial dimension of political conflict is likely to be visible in two spheres of political organization: at the party system level and at the level of party organizations.
- 2) Decentralized governance encourages the formation of distinct subnational party systems, and the dynamics of these systems are likely to spill over and affect competition for national-level political offices, leading to a regionalization of vote patterns.
- 3) In decentralized polities, the availability of political and financial resources at the subnational level promotes the autonomy of party subunits, and thus undermines the organizational cohesion of political parties.
- 4) In order to account for the depth and scope of decentralized governance across contemporary Latin America structure- and agency-based explanations need to be combined.
- 5) Comparativists have tended to view politics through the lens of the nation-state. In light of current processes of decentralization and globalization, one of the key challenges is to incorporate different levels of governance and the way they interact with one another into our concepts and theories.
- 6) The persistence of authoritarian enclaves within formally democratic states demonstrates that measuring democracy as a national-level variable can be highly problematic.
- 7) A high level of public funding for political parties does not necessarily lead to better representation.
- 8) The ban on negative campaigning Mexico introduced with its most recent electoral reform not only fails to improve the quality of political information available to citizens, it also hampers debate by limiting free speech.
- 9) Jesús Silva Herzog's observation still holds true today: Politics continues to be the easiest and most profitable profession in Mexico.
- 10) Knowledge is a fine thing, and mother Eve thought so; but she smarted so severely for hers, that most of her daughters have been afraid of it since. (Abigail Adams)
- 11) A person's intelligence is directly reflected by the number of conflicting points of view he can entertain simultaneously on the same topic. (Abigail Adams)