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Summaries in English

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Inhoud:

- Inleiding
- Over Wegen
- De weg van het Kontinu-Onderzoek
- Problemen bij de statistische analyse van longitudinale enquêtegegevens
- Enkele politieke houdings- en gedragsvariabelen in longitudinaal perspectief
- Kennis van de regeringssamenstelling
- Partij-identificatie: robuustheid in de tijd en gevoeligheid voor vraagformulering
- Belangrijkheid van politieke problemen
- Links en Rechts in de zeventiger jaren
- Algemene Conclusies
- Bibliografie van publikaties op basis van het Kontinu-Onderzoek

Inlichtingen bij: Werkgroep Kontinu-Onderzoek (t.a.v. C. van der Eijk), p/a Instituut voor Wetenschap der Politiek, Herengracht 528, 1017 CC Amsterdam.

Summaries**Economics and Politics in the Welfare State**

by P. J. Uitermark

In this article positive economic science is compared with positive political theory. The axiomatic theory of consistent choice and its astonishing ability to master theoretically the problem of price formation (= efficient allocation) and of general economic equilibrium and welfare, which finds its counterpart in the axiomatic theory of electoral behaviour, is distinguished from the more mundane field of the theory of the firm and more specifically the so-called theory of 'industrial organization', in which theory and empirical testing of hypotheses are being merged to a fuller extent, though it leaves us with a less impressive formal structure.

It is suggested that theories of political phenomena (behaviour of voters, political entrepreneurs, and bureaucrats) can profit more from economic theories of monopolistic competition and of oligopoly than from the economic model of perfect competition with its implications for Pareto-optimality. The use of this model in the analysis of two-party systems is criticized and the conclusions are still more pertinent in the case of multiparty systems. As is the case in positive science generally the touchstone to be used here also is the effort to produce hypotheses and predictions that can be falsified. All this serves to cure positive political theory from a mistaken sense of empirical content and to prevent it to be contaminated with prejudiced prescriptions for political life. On a more general level this task should be left to political philosophy.

In addition to the contribution to be gained from economic science as already described, due attention is given to the time honoured so-called Mises-Lange debate on the possibility of a (socialist) economy to function as a co-ordinator of decisions upon the use of scarce resources as compared with allocation via markets, and the issue of the role of the state as a central authority which is at stake here. On theoretical economic grounds the issue remains undecided; economic science cannot prescribe the proper role of the state in this respect, though it certainly can contribute to investigate and understand actual behaviour.

In connection with this, attention is also drawn to the process and meaning of law making, the intended effects of laws and their compatibility with one another and consequently the need for scientific and parliamentary scrutinizing of their implementation in a democratic state bedeviled by pressure group phenomena (corporatism). Academic opinion leaders are invited to live up to their scientific standards and their vocation in order to clarify the many issues of a crumbling welfare state which screams for proper analysis (and remedies) and not for propaganda.

Further explorations in defining violence, peace and war

by Henk W. Houweling and Jan G. Siccama

Several decades ago Quincy Wright and Lewis Richardson, two of the founders of empirically-oriented peace research, already objected to the definition of peace as the negation of violence. However, since that time, problems of terminology and classification which should be solved in order to attain meaningful definitions of the central concepts of peace and violence, have not enjoyed much popularity.

What could in fact be observed is on the one hand a growth of the number of quantitative investigations into the causes of violence, in which definitions of single concepts are hastily followed by the statement of operational criteria. On the other hand, and partly as a protest against this rough form of empiricism, Galtung's attempt to redefine the concepts of violence and peace, has been described as a major conceptual innovation, although it does not meet the objection made by Wright and Richardson.

The present authors consider conceptual ambiguity a serious impediment to the progress of peace research. In section 1 they explain the theory of definition with special reference to the concepts of violence and peace. In section 2 Galtung's conceptual innovation is criticized. Galtung's system of definition is regarded as inconsistent and incomplete. Finally, in section 3 the authors discuss some pitfalls in the conceptual foundation of quantitative research into the causes of war.

Physical planning at the local level in Belgium

by H. Wuyls

In this article the author analyses the phenomenon of physical planning at the level of the township in Belgium. In the study 1,445 townships are included and the period of research is 1946-1970. He tries to find out the relation between seven independent variables and two dependent variables. The dependent variables are the number of townships with particular plans and the number of plans in these townships.

The independent variables are: province and linguistic region, population size and area, population growth, population density, socio-economic status, economic activity and political control of the township.

The analysis is based upon percentages and correlation coefficients and the results show clearly the relation between each variable and the phenomenon of particular planning in Belgium.

Medewerkers aan dit nummer

Mr. P. W. C. Akkermans is als wetenschappelijk medewerker verbonden aan de Vakgroep Staatsrecht van de Juridische Faculteit van de Erasmus Universiteit te Rotterdam.

Drs. A. van den Berg studeerde politicologie aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam en bereidt thans aan McGill University zijn proefschrift voor.

Drs. G. de Bruin is als wetenschappelijk medewerker verbonden aan het Instituut voor Geschiedenis van de Rijksuniversiteit te Utrecht.

Drs. G. P. de Bruin is als wetenschappelijk medewerker werkzaam bij de Vakgroep Methoden en Technieken van de Subfaculteit Politicologie van de Universiteit van Amsterdam.

Drs. C. van der Eijk is als wetenschappelijk medewerker werkzaam bij de Vakgroep Methoden en Technieken van de Subfaculteit Politicologie van de Universiteit van Amsterdam.

Norman Furniss is Associate Professor of Political Science and West-European Studies aan de Universiteit van Indiana.

Drs. H. W. Houweling is als wetenschappelijk medewerker verbonden aan het Instituut voor Wetenschap der Politiek van de Universiteit van Amsterdam.

Dr. C. P. Middendorp is als wetenschappelijk medewerker verbonden aan de Vakgroep Bestuurs- en Politieke Sociologie/Politicologie van de Erasmus Universiteit te Rotterdam.

Drs. J. G. Siccama is als wetenschappelijk medewerker verbonden aan het NIVV te Den Haag.

Prof. dr. M. P. C. M. van Schendelen is verbonden aan de Vakgroep Bestuurs- en Politieke Sociologie van de Erasmus Universiteit te Rotterdam.

Prof. dr. F. N. Stokman is als hoogleraar werkzaam in de Vakgroep Methoden en Technieken i.o. van het Sociologisch Instituut, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

Drs. Ed. van Thijn studeerde politieke en sociale wetenschappen aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam en is sinds geruime tijd lid van de Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal.

Drs. P. J. Uitermark studeerde economie aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam en doceerde aldaar in de FSW-A en de Economische Faculteit. Sinds 1976 is hij Hoofd van de Directie Mededinging en Fusies van het Ministerie van Economische Zaken.

Dr. H. Wuyls is werkzaam aan de Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven (België).