

João Cancela & Benny Geys, “Explaining Voter Turnout: A Meta-Analysis of National and Subnational Elections”, *Electoral Studies*, March 2016.

- **Abstract**

Research about voter turnout has expanded rapidly in recent years. This article takes stock of this development by extending the meta-analysis of Geys (2006) in two main ways. First, we add 102 studies published between 2002 and 2015 to the initial sample of 83 studies. Overall, we document only minor changes to the original inferences. Second, since different processes might conceivably play at different levels of government, we exploit the larger sample to separately analyse the determinants of voter turnout in national versus subnational elections. We find that campaign expenditures, election closeness and registration requirements have more explanatory power in national elections, whereas population size and composition, concurrent elections, and the electoral system play a more important role for explaining turnout in subnational elections.

Pedro Miguel Alegria Silveira, “To be or not to be a politician: profile and governmental career of Portuguese junior ministers”, *Revista Española de Ciencia Política*, 40, marzo 2016.

- **Abstract**

This paper analyses the socio-political profile and the governmental career of the junior ministers who held office in Portugal between 1976 and 2011, putting the focus on the differentiation between individuals with and without prior political experience. Contrary to what is indicated in the literature, the results of this investigation reveal that most of these individuals are politically inexperienced and have a short and occasional governmental career.

Pedro T. Magalhães, “A Contingent Affinity: Max Weber, Carl Schmitt, and the Challenge of Modern Politics”, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 77 (2), April 2016.

- **Abstract**

The thesis that the theory of charismatic-plebiscitary democracy developed by the liberal Max Weber in the wake of the Weimar Republic was developed to its ultimate consequences by the anti-liberal Carl Schmitt in the final crisis of the first German democratic experience has been hotly debated since it was first advanced in the late 1950s. This paper proposes a fresh look at the controversy. By comparing both authors’ concepts of politics in their relation to the problem of modernity, it argues that the Weber-Schmitt affinity is neither a groundless legend nor a case of necessary continuity. Given the intrinsic tensions of Weber’s concept of politics and of his narrative of modern rationalization and secularization, as opposed to the relative internal coherence of Schmitt’s assertion of “the political” against modern liberal politics, the paper contends that the relationship between the two authors should be understood in terms of a contingent affinity.