

UNIwersYTET ŁÓDZKI
WYDZIAŁ STUDIÓW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH
I POLITOLOGICZNYCH

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Mieszane systemy wyborcze (Mixed Member Proportional)
i ich wpływ na reprezentatywność parlamentu:
na przykładzie Niemiec, Nowej Zelandii i Lesotho
Mixed Electoral Systems (Mixed Member Proportional)
and Their Impact on Representativeness of Parliament:
on the Example of Germany, New Zealand and Lesotho

In contemporary democracies citizens choose their representatives, who are supposed to present their electors' views in the parliament, therefore it is of great importance that in diverse societies a composition of parliament reflects a wide spectrum of views. Electoral systems play a crucial role in allocating assembly seats and their shape has a direct and significant impact on who gains power. It is a binder that links the preferences of citizens with composition of the parliament.

This dissertation seeks to investigate the effects generated by the Mixed Member Proportional system in the context of representativeness of the parliament, to detect the similarities and differences in the mechanical effects produced by individual variants of the MMP system and to assess electoral system changes introduced across analysed countries.

The analysis includes:

- 8 elections in Germany conducted in the years 1990-2017,
- 8 elections in New Zealand conducted in the years 1996-2017,
- 5 elections in Lesotho conducted in the years 2002-2017.

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The dissertation is organised into four chapters: first one is a presentation of current state of the field of electoral systems research. Chapter II contains data and methods used in the research. A comparative analysis of three different variations of the MMP system has been included in chapter III. Chapter IV is a presentation of research results.

The research data in this dissertation is drawn from four main sources: New Zealand Electoral Commission, the Federal Returning Officer, Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho and African Elections Database.

The findings show a couple of common features of all three analysed variants of the MMP system (regardless of the degree of democratic consolidation). These are: a similar (low) degree of disproportionality, a comparable shape of party overrepresentation, a negligible impact on the concentration of the party system and a similar level of malapportionment.

All aforementioned features should be considered as advantages in the context of electoral rivalry. Nonetheless, it has to be outlined that the MMP system adopted in a country with low degree of democratic consolidation (Lesotho) showed vulnerability to manipulation, which had a damaging impact on quality of electoral rivalry. However, the results suggest that the effort to eliminate such cases in the future, made by Lesotho's legislator, resulted in positive effect on quality of democracy in this country.

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