

## ABSTRACTS

JOY LANGSTON, *Political Institutions and Political Career Patterns in Mexico.*

Patterns of political careers can tell much about the structure of power within a political system; yet we know little of political ambition and career patterns in democratic Mexico. This paper uses a unique data-set of prior and future posts of over 1400 federal deputies from three plural legislatures (from the 57<sup>th</sup> to the 59<sup>th</sup>) to understand how the end of the PRI's electoral hegemony and Mexico's institutional context affect the decisions that party politicians make about their political careers in a democratic context. The work finds that many members of the former opposition parties have moved away from party posts into government and elected positions. Furthermore, the state political arena has become extremely important for all politicians, even those from the Executive's party.

Key words: **legislative recruitment, Congress, political ambition.**

GUADALUPE PACHECO MÉNDEZ, *The PRI Presidential Campaign in 2006.*

Since 2000 the PRI has sought to establish damage-control mechanisms for the controversy surrounding its elections for national leader and presidential candidate. In 2005 the party became enmeshed in a conflictive internal process in which PRI governors played a key role, deepening the divisions. As a result, during the first half of 2006, Roberto Madrazo's presidential campaign was plagued with numerous internal difficulties which turned out to be instrumental in his election defeat. The course of his campaign was hampered by those internal divisions and conversely, the campaign itself had repercussions within the party that influenced its stakeholders' strategic calculations, either individually or in their alliances, and disrupted connections among the grass roots.

Key words: **PRI, Madrazo, PRI leader, presidential candidate, campaign, governor.**

DAVID ARELLANO GAULT AND WALTER LEPORE, *Transparency Reforms: Making Organizational Transparency Endogenous: Mexico's Case.*

Transparency reforms have become a recurrent feature of democratic political systems, but their implementation in public institutions still stands as an awkward challenge to surmount. In theory, the New Economic Institutionalism (NEI) suggests the need to create exogenous incentives and negative and positive stimuli affecting structures, processes, norms and organizational arrangements with the aim of redirecting individual and collective behavior towards transparency. Institutional incentives, however, have their own difficulties and tend to wear out, making them limited organizational-change tools. This work is focused on 16 Mexican public organizations in conjunction with other factors –organizational and behavioral– which have a bearing on the coordination of an organizational-transparency policy.

Key words: **transparency, organizations, exogenous incentives, NEI.**

MARTA TAWIL KURI, *The Will for Power in Times of Unipolarity: The Case of Syria (1996-2006).*

By analyzing Syria's behavior between 1996 and 2006, the author seeks to understand how the will for power manifests itself and fluctuates, and what factors nourish it. Dividing the period into cycles shows the way in which Syria reformulates and adapts its power by distributing its resources differently. Thus, two dimensions of its foreign-policy are analyzed simultaneously: strategic-military and subjective. The Syrian case shows that traditional instruments of power retain their importance but the scope of their use is restricted, while new features in the social and non-material sphere (associated with political discourse, images, symbols) increasingly serve Damascus to influence audiences locally and abroad, as well as in negotiations. Analyzing the oscillations and motivations in Syria's will for power helps us realize and understand the gap between the means at this Arab country's disposal and its strategic ambitions.

Key words: **Syria, foreign policy, power, mid-level power, perceptions.**

HENIO HOYO PROHUBER, *When Ideas Become Useful Beliefs: Nationalism as a Political Instrument*.

“Nation” and “nationalism” are terms in constant use in both academic literature and political discourse, even though their definition is extremely vague. Hence, the debate on the nature and characteristics of nations and types of nationalism continue to the present day. The author suggests that nationalism’s importance and continuance can be explained by distilling three traditions of political thinking –realism, romanticism and messianism– along with notions of sovereignty of the people. As a result, nationalism becomes an extremely useful and adaptable political instrument that a great many political actors can use to gain support and legitimacy in pursuing their objectives and interests.

Key words: **nationalism, realism, romanticism, messianism, political instruments.**

JOSÉ CARLOS G. AGUIAR, *New Unlawful Acts in the Global Order: Piracy and the Staging of the Rule of Law in Mexico*.

President Vicente Fox introduced a series of measures against production and sale of material contravening copyright laws, the so-called “war against piracy.” This program stems from the legal structures promoted by global neo-liberalism and makes police action target popular markets and street trading. Fox thus opened a new cycle of confrontations between authorities and informal dealers in Mexico. This process is visible in San Juan de Dios market in Guadalajara, where pirate products are distributed. The first-hand evidence collected in this market leads to an analysis of piracy raids and their implications for the Rule of Law in the Mexico of the democratic transition.

Key words: **copyright, piracy, popular markets, police, neo-liberalism, Mexico.**