

PAGE PROOF INSTRUCTIONS AND QUERIES

Journal title: East European Politics and Societies and Cultures

Article Number: 567328

Greetings, and thank you for publishing with SAGE Publications. We have prepared this page proof for your review.

Please respond to each of the below queries by digitally marking this PDF and sending the marked PDF back.

Please use only the icons shown below for your mark-up, and do **not** use “sticky notes” or other “pop-up” comments.

Please use:  Please do NOT use: 

Help with Digital Mark-up

1. Do you have Adobe Reader? Quick, safe, free download is available at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
2. To access the recommended tools, please click “Comment” in upper right of Adobe Reader, then “Drawing Markups.”
3. Using tools other than those recommended may cause data loss.
4. Some mark-up examples are shown below.

are These proofs ~~is~~ an opportunity to correct any errors that may have been introduced during the [delete] the production process not an opportunity for rewriting. Your article has been peer reviewed and accepted, so any substantial rewriting will need to be approved by the journal editor, delaying publication [italics] significantly. In addition to requiring journal editor approval, a fee may be charged for extensive rewriting not due to SAGE error or request.

b

Please note that sending corrections in any form other than the marked-up PDF can significantly delay the processing of your corrections.

Please assist us by clarifying the following queries:

No	Query
1	Please confirm that all author information, including names, affiliations, sequence, and contact details, is correct: Kevin Deegan-Krause
2	Please review the entire document for typographical errors, mathematical errors, and any other necessary corrections; check headings, tables, and figures.
3	Please confirm you have reviewed this proof to your satisfaction and understand this is your final opportunity for review prior to publication.
4	Please provide a short, 2- to 3-sentence bio.

Special Section: Political Parties in Eastern Europe

Kevin Deegan-Krause
Wayne State University [AQ: 1][AQ: 2][AQ: 3]

Keywords: *political parties; issue dimensions; volatility; European Union; Governance*

The writer William Gibson once noted that “The future is already here. It just isn’t evenly distributed.” Those who approach Eastern European politics expecting to find the last century will stumble over shards of the next decade. Doctrinaire communist parties coexist with the electoral projects of well-financed celebrities. Developments that surprise Western Europeans—from the Five Star Movement to UKIP to the Sweden Democrats—are old news to Eastern Europeans, for whom mushrooming new parties and the alignment of redistributionist sentiments with social conservatism are nothing new. These same juxtapositions that sustain our fascination with Eastern European politics also make its study relevant across the globe.

In this respect at least, Eastern Europe is very much situated in the present day. Political science in and about the region has become fully integrated into the field’s major empirical and theoretical efforts. Politics in Eastern Europe is exceptionally well studied and well surveyed. Scholars of the region’s politics make valuable contributions to the core work of political science, and findings from Eastern Europe help to shape debate about politics across the globe. This special section features three studies that look across Eastern Europe and use new data and methods to make broad comparisons within the region and across regional boundaries, particularly with Western Europe.

Stephen Whitefield and Richard Rohrschneider use surveys of party experts to determine where parties stand on issues and how much emphasis parties place on key issues. On the specific question of European integration, they show that both Eastern and Western Europe exhibit patterns of high salience among nationalist and communist parties at the anti-EU extreme and social democrat and liberal parties at the pro-EU extreme.

Jan Rovny’s article also uses expert surveys to chart party positions on key issue dimensions and identify relationships among dimensions. He finds solid evidence to support broad intraregional and cross-regional patterns of dimensions but contends

that any broader frameworks must take into account additional specific factors including religiosity, denomination, and the size and origin of ethnic minority groups.

Kevin Deegan-Krause and Tim Haughton measure the weighted age of political party systems and the distribution patterns of old and young parties. They find well-established parties existing alongside temporal subsystems in which new parties give way to newer parties with even shorter life-expectancies. Nor is the East alone in these patterns, as Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, and Belgium amply demonstrate.

Herbert Kitchelt's invited response elaborates on the specific claims of these three articles and sets them within a framework of multidimensional political alignments and volatile party institutions within the context of its reciprocal relationship with economic processes and its impact of party system changes on the overall stability and quality of democratic governments.

As part of the preparation of this section, the participants also engaged in thorough discussion of main outstanding disagreements and research opportunities in the study of Eastern European political parties. Although there is unfortunately no room for including this discussion in the print edition of this section, we encourage readers to read the online transcript of that discussion hosted by the School for Slavonic and Eastern European Studies Research Blog, <http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/2015/01/19/all-tomorrows-parties-the-future/>. The discussion also includes data from a recent survey of political party scholars who study East Europe and the rest of the world about the issues they find most important and the questions that they seek to answers. We also encourage scholars to continue this discussion about the future direction of party research in Eastern Europe in a new online venue, the "Why We Study Parties" group on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/954074487955168/>)

Finally, a word of thanks. This special section would not have been possible without the gracious assistance of Krzysztof Jasiewicz and Wendy Bracewell at *EEPS* or the 2014 "Whither Eastern Europe" workshop sponsored by *EEPS*, the American Council of Learned Societies and the University of Florida, cosponsored by the Center for European Studies and the Department of Political Science of the University of Florida and organized by the university's Miriam and Raymond Ehrlich Chair of Political Science, Michael Bernhard (who also inspired our own online efforts with his excellent Facebook group, "Why We Study Eastern Europe"). Other articles from the workshop will appear as a special issue of *EEPS* in May 2015.

[AQ: 4]