

Domination or Possibility?

“Power” in ex-parliamentarians’ oral history interviews

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Researchers of power have traditionally debated on the definitions of power to enable further empirical studies. This article, instead, asks how political actors – namely veteran MPs in their interviews – themselves speak about “power”, and as which kind of instrument of political action “power” functions. Do veteran MPs perceive power as domination, as the power of command, as an aspect of joint action, or as possibility or creation of political space of action (*Spielraum*)? The key result is the ambiguity of power: it can be both a tool of resistance and a tool of characterizing one’s own action in the parliament. The article combines methods of conceptual history and digital data mining in the qualitative analysis of a considerably big corpus of data.

Keywords: power, executive power, possibility, influence, authority

From Environmental Protection to Climate Politics

Dynamics of the Parole on Environmental Politics in the Finnish Parliament 1960–2020

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In this article we analyse how concepts and terminologies related to environmental politics used in plenary debates of the Finnish Parliament (*eduskunta*) have changed between 1960 and 2020. Our primary material consists of digitised plenary session minutes of the Finnish *eduskunta*. In the analysis we combine computational methods like text mining and exploratory data analysis with traditional qualitative analysis. The results evidence that parliamentary debates on environmental issues have significantly changed as regards both intensity and amount, but also concerning the content. The intensity and volume of these debates have increased steadily. However, a time series analysis evidences a strong variation in intensity, thus reflecting differences in the room of manoeuvring for environmental debates over time. As regards the content, the main change is illustrated by the transition from a nature-centric parole towards climate change driven rhetoric. Especially in the 21st century concepts related to climate change have become central meta-concepts. According to our interpretation, this change evidences the mainstreaming of climate change driven public discourses during the past two decades. Parliamentary debates for their part reflect this change: current debates on climate change are a meta-discussion, a discursive umbrella, under which politicians debate on environmental protection, preservation of biodiversity, as well as on concrete measures to control the global warming.

Keywords: environment, climate change, Finnish Parliament, parliamentary speech, text mining, computational social sciences, data science