Two faces of power. Cohesion and diversification in government elites. A study of two executives in Spain

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What is it about?

Study of the internal relational structure of two democratic governments in its initial configuration after general elections
A theoretic perspective of the constitution of a government

Democratic domination

Reflexive political action

Accumulation of resources of power

Influential and power groups

Internal cohesion

Pareto, Mosca, Michels, Wright Mills, Domhoff

Coleman
Resources of power

- Internal cohesion
- Connection government-power groups
- Network of relations between government members and ghost actors (Latent Power Structure)
How?

Population: two governments; president, vicepresident, ministers and deputy ministers

Relationships in five relational dimensions: former governments, parliaments, political parties, enterprises and bureaucracy corps

Links to the Latent Power Structure (LPS): group of ex ministers and other high ranking officials (ghost actors)

- Combination of the five relational dimensions: study of a multidimensional network
- Study of the Latent Power Structure (LPS)
- Analysis of networks of groups and places
2012 Multidimensional network
2004 Multidimensional network
What is a place?

A place can be defined as a subset of organizations which contain, at least, an element in all of them.

Places are understood as intersections of organizations that contain one or more individuals.

It is an effective tool for simplifying social structure as a network of social positions.
P58. Fátima Báñez
- Parliament with Aznar
- Parliament with Rajoy

P58. Tomás Burgos
- Parliament with Aznar
- Parliament with Rajoy
Economy minister Luis de Guindos
- Former PP governments
- Financial, energy, media enterprises, etc.
– Bureaucrat (State Economist)
P. 14 Economy minister
Pedro Solbes
- Economy minister
  1993-96
- European Comission
- Bureaucrat
(State Economist)
Similarities

- Similar procedure of power accumulation (far from a random one)
- Political core (Executives, Parliament, Party)
- Grade centrality and rank related (multidimensional power)
- Different factions related with the core
- Relevance of regional power (regions in which the party governs)
- Importance of bureaucratic power (corps)
- The more diversified, the more integrated
Differences

2012 network (Popular Party) doubles 2004 network’s cohesion (density, node degree, number of relationships); higher level of renovation in PSOE’s elite

PP network integrates several business factions; PSOE counts on trade unions

PP, State Lawyers vs. PSOE, University Professors

PP’s most central actors have joined more power institutions than PSOE’s