

PUBLIC LECTURE EVALUATION

Masaryk University

Faculty	Faculty of Social Studies
Procedure field	Political Science
Applicant	doc. Mgr. et Mgr. Vlastimil Havlík, Ph.D.
Lecture date	21 st October 2024, 2 p.m.
Lecture topic	Anti-partyism in the Czech Republic: Do political parties work and why don't we like them?
Persons present (number)	18
Designated evaluators (board members)	prof. PhDr. Lubomír Kopeček, Ph.D. prof. PhDr. Jan Holzer, Ph.D. prof. PhDr. Michal Kubát, Ph.D.

Vlastimil Havlík's lecture began by outlining the theoretical background, i.e. the idea of democracy based on political parties, the current decline of political parties and their rejection by the public. In the context of the debate on the decline of political parties, he analysed the role of populism and technocratism as phenomena opposed to the idea of party democracy. Havlík then presented main factors favourable for anti-party stances in the Czech context: the rapid decline in electoral turnout after the opposition agreement (2002), the continuous decline in party membership, increasing voter volatility (especially) in the 2010 and 2013 elections, and a rather decreasing trend in party identification after 2002. Further, he presented the basic communication narratives of Andrej Babiš's populist ANO, which target anti-party attitudes, e.g. the moral dichotomy between (party) politics and the sphere of "hard work". In the concluding remarks, he summarized the answers to the research questions.

The lecture offered an understandable explanation of the topic, well backed up by data. Didactically, the lecture was well managed, supported by illustrative graphs and tables which added to its clarity.

In the final part of his lecture, Vlastimil Havlík answered a number of questions, such as: why the technocracy is less debated than populism, about the (possible) effect of internal democratization of political parties against the decline of parties, about trust to Czech parties (why the consequences of distrust did not manifest themselves earlier), about the crises of parties as institutions, about changes of form of party membership.

Conclusion

The lecture delivered by Vlastimil Havlík, entitled *Anti-partyism in the Czech Republic: Do political parties work and why don't we like them?* and delivered as part of the professor

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appointment procedure, **demonstrated** sufficient scholarly qualifications and pedagogical capabilities expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of political science.

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