

New Political Divisions in Spanish Politics?

Among political scientists there is little doubt about the existence of a left-right and a centre-periphery political dimensions structuring Spanish party system. However, the high fragmentation of the last electoral results (December 2015 and June 2016), the emergence of new political actors who entered new issues in electoral campaigns and Parliament, and moreover, the failure of the Spanish political parties in the attempt to form a stable government, suggest that the party-positions on the dimensions articulating the political space (and thus, the lines that define the likelihood for the coalition formation) might be changing. Through a descriptive analysis of the party-positioning in the divides of the Spanish party system, the main goal of this research is to ascertain what divisions are preventing the coalition formation. To this purpose, the research includes the study of the traditional left-right and centre-periphery dimensions and an additional divide related with populism, to ascertain whether a new populist dimension exist. The relevance of this piece of research is three-fold. First, it will be a contribution to the open debate about whether additional dimensions exist in the Spanish political space, and if so, what is their nature. Next, yet these techniques have not been directly applied to the study of populism. Then, the research will shed light to the recent stalemate in forming a new government.

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