

# Abstracts

**Leif Lewin**

*Economic Man, Political Man*

An explanation to political action is suggested on the three levels, where the self-interest hypothesis of the public choice school does not get support in empirical studies. The little extra a voter gets in his pocket-book if a certain party comes to power, seems to be of less importance to him than the loss of welfare he thinks everyone would suffer if, in his opinion, an ideologically unacceptable or incompetent government was formed. As important as it may be for a politician to be reelected, he generally hesitates to risk upsetting the stability of the economy by trying to create a political business cycle. The advantages a bureaucrat might possibly achieve if his own field of activity were to expand are nevertheless assessed by most administrators as less valuable than the satisfaction of being in the inner circle of power and implementing the public policy.

**Søren Winter og Poul Erik Mouritzen**

*Are Voters Naive?*

The article focuses on to basic, competing assumptions in political science, i.e. the assumption that voters' behaviour is based on egoist motives and the assumption of voters pursuing altruistic motives. Predictions based on these competing assumptions are analysed on data from a citizen survey in a large Danish city. The analysis demonstrates that self-interest is very important for the formation of attitudes towards public spending and users' fees, and most likely more important than ideological or cultural factors related to "way of life" conditions such as attitudinal differences according to generation or gender.

**Jørgen Goul Andersen**

*Self-interested vs. sociotropic citizens*

The article examines competing propositions of sociotropic vs. self-interested citizens on the basis of a large number of indicators on the voters' orientations towards national economic problems. It then proceeds to examine the influence of egoistic vs. sociotropic factors (national economic interests, distributional equity) upon voters' attitudes toward concrete economic plans and taxation policy. It is concluded that even within these fields, the influence of self-interests are far less pronounced than usually implied in public debates although less negligible than suggested by some studies of economic voting behaviour.

**Peter Nannestad and Martin Paldam**

*The Relation Between the Economy, the Economy of the individual Households and the Support for the Government*

A key result in the individual-level analysis of the relationship between economic conditions and support of the government is the Kinder and Kiewiet result. What counts is how the macroeconomy develops. The design of Kinder and Kiewiet and others is critically reviewed. The Markus-study is replicated on Danish data. Finally, the Markus' model is expanded to cover unemployment. The results are the reverse of Markus': In Denmark the egotropic variable is much better than the sociotropic one in explaining government support.

## **Knud Erik Jørgensen**

### *Europe: Back to the Future?*

What role do international institutions play in Europe after the Cold war. Do they mirror or mould the international system? Expectations as well as predictions about the new Europe have proved to be rather diverging. The intricate relation between theory and images of international relations is considered as among the decisive reasons. Three theoretical perspectives on international relations, based on Martin Wight's famous distinction, are presented and contrasted with experiences drawn from the first years after the Cold War. Furthermore, the role of European institutions in a specific policy-area, that is, in Western European *Ostpolitik* is discussed. Finally, the merit of the controversy about the role of institutions is viewed as the disquieting highlights of one-sidedness and other weaknesses of predominant paradigms.