

Jørgen Elklit***The Decline of Membership in Danish political Parties. Some Possible Causes***

The article has three aims: (1) to describe how membership in Danish political parties has declined since the late 1940s and to discuss possible causes of this decline, (2) to discuss the relative value of structural explanations and explanations using a rational actor-perspective, and (3) to discuss new approaches to the study of party membership decline.

The dramatic membership decline (see figure 1) is explained structurally by (1) changing social and economic structures, (2) changes in the media structure, and (3) electoral volatility. The rational actor-perspective is drawn into the analysis by using Richard Katz' concept of the «economy» of party membership (Katz, 1990). One of the conclusions is that the two perspectives supplement each other well, thereby producing a richer and more coherent explanation of party membership decline than would have been the case if either of them had been used exclusively.

Hanne Foss Hansen***Programme Evaluation: Science or Politics?******– Illustrated by an Analysis of the Evaluation of the Danish Research and Development Programm within Biotechnology***

In the 1980's targetted research programmes have become an important tool in Danish research policy. Built-in the programme thinking is the idea of programme evaluation. Based on evaluation theory, the article discusses different models for programme evaluation. By analysing a recently accomplished evaluation, the evaluation of the Danish research and development programme within biotechnology, the article shows, that complex evaluation tasks demand application of several theoretical perspectives. It is also shown how evaluation in practice is both a scientific and a political activity.