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Title: „European public sphere through policies. Between direct parliamentary involvement in European matters, medial political discourse and text mining.”

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Abstract:

Europe needs its public sphere not only for further integration, but also to avoid disintegration in the European Union. This matter is essential particularly in times of economic and refugee crisis, because in such times the differences between the member states are exceptionally visible and they influence the whole European integration process. But it is not a trivial question, where and how the European public sphere can be localized. The focus of the following analysis is on national parliaments and the media, because both of them are according to Jürgen Habermas the most important “organs of the public sphere”.

The statements of the national parliaments due to the proposals of the European Commission (so called „*early warning system*“) will be analyzed in the following. The idea is to compare three discursively different parliaments, namely the German Bundestag, the Polish Sejm and the French Assemblée Nationale. The study compares two policy-fields with diametral different level of activity of the parliaments in European matters. One parliamentary statement will be explored due to the European economic and monetary policy. Moreover, two parliamentary statements will be analyzed in the field of the European labour and social policy due to the right to strike and the collective redress mechanism. Furthermore, the medial political discourse of the largest and publicly available newspapers in the three member states will be explored according to the parliamentary statements. The research question in this context is: To what extent there is a relation between the medial political discourse and statements of the national parliaments in European matters and what meaning has this relation for the European public sphere? The main argument is that there is in fact a relation between the medial political discourse and statements of the national parliaments in European matters and that this relation is a basis for the emergence of the European public sphere. This relation results out of the frames in the parliamentary and medial discourse.

In methodological view this analysis will make use of the co-occurrence-method in the context of specific keywords. This step will be expanded by qualitative text analytical approach. The occurrence of the keywords and their interpretation in context of the appearing frames will not be limited by constructed criteria. They will be rather contextualized by the parliamentary statement. The emergence of the European public sphere out of those frames will be measured according to specific criteria. The interpretation of the „frames“ is based on intuition, experience, statistical knowledge, and theoretical reflection.