

The Polish executive: social background, careers and resources of its members

A contribution to the sociology of the Polish field of power (1988-2020)

Since the year 1989, which marked the end of the Polish People's Republic (*Polska Rzeczpospolita Ludowa*, PRL) and the beginning of the Third Republic, Poland has had 18 governments. If some Polish ministers' names are well known (Bronisław Geremek, Leszek Balcerowicz, Jarosław i Lech Kaczyński), we do not know much about them as a social group, i.e. as members of the Polish elite.

This research project aims at seeking answers to the following questions: who are the members of the Polish government? What is their social, educational and political background? How can we characterize political careers in Poland? To what extent is the Polish elite divided into competing groups, who can rely on diversified social resources (economic capital, cultural capital, social capital, bureaucratic capital, political capital)? Are there some circulations of people between one field or sector to another (for example, from the political field to the field of business), within a wider field of power?

On the basis of a sociological approach of the Polish executive, this project aims at studying the social production and reproduction of political elites, their circulation within the field power and, *in fine*, the autonomy of the political field in Poland. This research project will use statistical methods (prosopography) as well as biographical interviews to produce original data on Polish ministers' background.

This project's results will impact on the development of research in Poland. First, it will contribute to the diffusion of French style political sociology, drawing on the works of Pierre Bourdieu. Secondly, it will popularize methodological tools that are rarely used by Polish social scientists. Finally, it will contribute to an interdisciplinary dialogue, in particular with Polish sociologists, political scientists and historians.