An empirical study of the European Commission interest group density and diversity across policy domains

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American University March 2014.
Density and Diversity across Policy domains.

• Explosion of research over the past 20 years system density. —Elite Pluralism.
  – Informational approaches particularly useful
  – Different institutions demand different types information provided by different interests groups (Bouwen 2002)

• But also see density and diversity variation at EU sub-system.
  – Greater demand of information greater supply of interests (Coen 2007/13).
    – To remain legitimate the Commission must balance
      - Output legitimacy: quality of policy (technical information)
      - Input legitimacy: consensus over policy (political information)

Fn. Characteristics of different policy domains [Age, Staff Size, Distributive/Regulatory, MS involvement] dictate the type of legitimacy and therefore the interest group clusters.
Conclusions/ Further Research

• Empirical evidence of diversity of the interest group population across policy domains and variables that affect it.

• Chameleon pluralism & the flexibility it offers defines much better interest representation model for the EU sub-system level.

• To what extent do results & theory apply across:
  – institutions at the EU level?
  – across levels?