

Populist Euroscepticism in Poland – defining the main research areas.

Dr Natasza Styczyńska

Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University



POPREBEL

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Euroscepticism in Poland after 2004

- 91% of Poles in favour of Polish membership in the EU (CBOS 2019)
- 7% opposing it (22% of younger generation)

But...

- Membership taken for granted
- Euroscepticism present, but not prominent
- Identity/Value based Euroscepticism
- EU as a danger to the national economy/ sovereignty
- Criticism towards organisation of the EU / democratic deficit

Defining main research areas

POPULISM

- binary world-view : pure people vs corrupted elite
- "populism always involves a critique of the establishment and an adulation of the common people,, (Mudde and Kaltwasser)
- In CEE predominantly right wing

EUROSCEPTICISMS

- Euroscepticism is generally associated with opposition to the EU and with critique of the European integration process
- Kopecky & Mudde classification
- Policy & Identity based (Riishoj)

Milestone: 2015 parliamentary election

Source: Państwowa Komisja Wyborcza

Political party	Results of relevant parties. Eurosceptics/Eurorejects in bold
Civic Platform (Platforma Obywatelska)	24.09 %
Polish Peasant Party (Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe)	5.13 %
Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość)	37.58 %
Kukiz'15	8.81 %
Modern (Nowoczesna)	7,60 %

Research framework

Research aim:

- Analyse to what extent the Eurosceptic utilize the anti-elitist populist rhetoric (*pure people vs corrupted elite*) is Polish Populism always anti-European? Are all Eurosceptic actors using populist narrative?
- Analyse the changing visions of Europe and European integration in Polish political discourse, and the role and usage of EU crises (Refugee crisis, Brexit) in strengthening of anti-elitist Euroscepticism

Research material:

1. Party programmes and stenographic records of Parliamentary Commission on the EU matters, party manifestos and party on line appearance
2. Interviews with experts, members of Parliamentary Commission on the EU matters, MEPs

Time frame: 2015 - 2020

Post 2015 new era of Polish Populist Euroscepticism?

- Populist (anti-elitist) narrative (us vs them) moved to mainstream
 - Nativist attitude (refugee crises bringing 'downfall of Europe') combined with Populism
 - Strong criticism of multiculturalism and Western European multi-ethnic societies
 - Significant role of religion
- 'Good change' policy – towards less integrated Europe:
- Utilitarian approach – EU is good as long as it gives economic profits
 - Anti-Western but not anti-European rhetoric (Poland as a last frontier/ Easter Europe as a bulwark of Christianity and true European values)
 - Less political cooperation, more in the region: Bucarest 9, Visegrad 4, 3 seas initiative but also 17+1