



Filipa Raimundo (ICS-ULisboa), Ekaterina Gorbunova (IPRI – NOVA FCSH e ICS-ULisboa), Cláudia Almeida (CEI-IUL) | Revisiting Portuguese transitional legacies: analyzing levels of congruence between public attitudes and party stances

The 2008 financial crisis led to the revisiting of the once dominant – and in some cases largely uncontested - narratives of the democratic transition in Southern European democracies. In Portugal, the transition reappeared both in social movements' slogans and in elite discourses. From 2009 to 2015, social movements mobilized a positive image of the transition during protests against austerity measures (Baumgarten 2013; Fernandes, 2017). These attitudes towards the transition were proved to be important factors of other political attitudes and behavior (Sanches and Gorbunova, 2016; Lobo 2016). After 2015, in face of the unique parliamentary agreements signed between the three major left wing parties, part of the political elite talked about the overcoming of the legacies of the transition, while others talked about the perils of the new 'PREC' (Fernandes, 2016, Raimundo and Almeida, forthcoming). In this context, it has become apparent that the legacies of the transition do play a role in Portuguese politics. But what legacies are these? Do citizens and elites share the same views on the transition? Can differences be explained by ideological cleavages/orientation, or by the structure of political competition (electoral winners vs. losers, mainstream vs extreme parties)? The analysis of the Portuguese case has two major aims. First, we aim to identify the transitional legacies that political parties deal with in parliament, and their willingness to confront them, as well as to characterize citizen attitudes towards the transition and its legacies. Second, we will analyze how such political will and public attitudes are distributed among different political parties and ideologies. We rely on data collected in the framework of the "40 years of the 25th of April" survey conducted by the ICS Democracy Barometer in 2014, and on a unique dataset on legislative initiatives from 1976 to 2016. The chapter applies a mixed-method approach to characterize and explain citizen and elite attitudes towards the Portuguese democratic transition to assess their level of congruence.