

Publication

The winners of legislative mandate: An analysis of postparliamentary career positions in Germany and the Netherlands

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 4596651

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Year 2020

Year: comment in press

Title The winners of legislative mandate: An analysis of postparliamentary career positions in Germany and the Netherlands

Journal European Journal of Political Research

Volume 60

Number 1

Pages / Article-Number 25-45

Keywords career, gender, legislator, profession, post-parliamentary career, Germany, the Netherlands
Little is known about the careers of parliamentarians after they leave parliament. We analyse the post-parliamentary careers of German and Dutch parliamentarians over the last 20 years and document the presence of a persistent and substantial gender gap. This gap exists regardless of party, country or political position and persists even when the status of the preparliamentary profession and achievement within parliament are controlled for. Aside from demonstrating our findings, we offer new insights into possible explanations for the dynamics behind them. Additionally, we show that parliament only serves as a stepping stone for a more successful career for a relatively small share of politicians: only 32 per cent of MPs obtain more attractive positions in the public or private sector after their legislative service.

Publisher Wiley

ISSN/ISBN 0304-4130 ; 1475-6765

edoc-URL <https://edoc.unibas.ch/76218/>

Full Text on edoc Available;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1111/1475-6765.12385

ISI-Number 000562291000001

Document type (ISI) Article