

**Application form for research topics
in the field of social sciences
for candidates to the Doctoral School
in the academic year 2025/2026**

Proposed subject matter of a doctorate
Political Competition in the Polish Political System: Conditions, Process, and Political Consequences
Scientific discipline
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Proposed doctoral thesis supervisor
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Brief description of the research topics with an indication of the scientific issues (max. 350 words)
<p>The conflict between PO and PiS has dominated public discourse and largely captured the attention of the mass media, consequently influencing public opinion and political attitudes of citizens. In the context of parliamentary elections since at least 2007 in Poland, the subject of analysis has been the contemporary electoral competition, which on one hand reflects socio-demographic divisions among voters, and on the other hand reflects interparty relations and connections within the political system. The specificity of the electoral competition is undoubtedly influenced by the generational change among Polish voters, alongside the process of implementing new communication and technological solutions in political struggle.</p> <p>Particular phenomena, processes, and challenges deserve attention, shaping contemporary democracy and currently influencing political life in Poland, such as "mediatization" and "cartelization" of politics. The marginalization of the left-wing political scene, initiated in 2005, and the failed coalition between PO and PiS are not insignificant in shaping the party system in Poland. The essence of the problem concerns transformations within the party system in Poland, originating from the electoral struggle in 2005, with its climax during the 2007 election campaign. The previous political rivalry, based on stabilized relations between the "post-August" camp and the "post-communist" camp, began to lose significance. An important issue in this work is the question of the further scenario of political events and the continued dualistic model of political rivalry between PO and PiS.</p> <p>Contemporary events and their consequences for political life in Poland have sparked many controversies in the academic community. Numerous voices in the ongoing discussion in scientific journals indicate that some issues regarding contemporary political competition remain an intriguing and inspiring area for research. There are differences in approaches, leading to divergent diagnoses and conclusions regarding contemporary socio-political events. A significant gap in cognitive terms is observed especially in the case of changes occurring in the structure of party electorates, which consequently determine the identity of political formations. The change in the character of political party organizations and the way electoral campaigns are conducted, as well as the contemporary nature of electoral competition, still constitute unexplored areas within political science.</p>

Justification of the purposefulness of taking up the research topics (max. 150 words)
<p>Research updates are still required regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relationship between socio-demographic divisions among party electorates and emerging ideological divisions among the main political rivals. Every political event requires determining whether the division into "liberal" and "social" Poland is a real division rooted in social structure or merely a component of political discourse. Is a new division based on socio-economic issues emerging in Polish political life, marginalizing the significance of historical divisions? • Determining the role of mass media and social media in election campaigns. Do they act as catalysts that amplify certain phenomena and events in political competition, or are they merely objective conveyors of political information? • Identifying which nationwide actions and events carried out by campaign headquarters during the election campaign had a decisive influence on shaping political support. • Do security issues (military and non-military) constitute a strong determining factor in the political scene? • What is the place and role of political ideologies in contemporary political competition? • Explaining the essence and causes of electoral alliances and emerging political conflicts. • The political scene is highly polarized; therefore, do the identities of Polish parties formulate as a result of mutual conflict? • Is the division between left and right in the context of contemporary electoral competition losing its descriptive role, thus failing to explain the dynamics of the Polish political scene? • To what extent has the division between post-Solidarity forces dominated political life? Does it find reflection in the structure of party electorates, both in terms of socio-demographics and geography? • The marginalization of the left-wing political scene is the result of an evolutionary process occurring in ideological-programmatic, leadership, and electorate structure. • An intriguing phenomenon in Polish politics is the position of radical groups.
Proposed topics of doctoral theses within the proposed research subject matter (up to 3 topics)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Between conservatism, liberalism, and socialism: New socio-political divisions in the realm of political competition in Poland. 2. Dimensions of mediatisation and digitisation in the process of political communication during election campaigns. 3. Political rivalry between PO and PiS: Conditions, process, and political consequences.
The sources of financing of the research topics (the subject matter of currently implemented research grants financed from external sources or as part of subsidies)
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Confirmation of the possibility of ensuring access to scientific apparatus and software necessary for the realization of the proposed research topics
FULLY
If the answer is PARTIALLY or NONE please indicate a type of missing scientific apparatus and/or software and the sources of financing an access to them
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List of the supervisor's scientific achievements in the field of indicated scientific problems
A list of up to 5 major supervisor's publications related to the proposed research topics, published in journals indexed in the Web of Science or Scopus for the period of the last 3 years (taking into account the IF Impact Factor and the MNiSW score)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. M. Górka, <i>PO-PiS-owa demokracja. Rywalizacja partyjna w latach 2005-2015</i>, Koszalin 2017. 2. M. Górka, <i>Sekurytyzacja współczesnej polityki (cyber)bezpieczeństwa. Zarys problemu</i>, Koszalin 2021.

<p>3. M. Górka, <i>The „meme” as an example of carnivalized internet communication</i>, “E- Politikon”, nr 9, 2014 r.</p> <p>4. M. Górka, <i>Cybertools of political competition in the U.S. presidential campaign of 2016</i>, „Polish Political Science Yearbook”, 2018, s. 628-641, (ISSN 0208-7375)</p> <p>5. M. Górka, <i>Zjawisko cyberpopulizmu na przykładzie twittera Donalda Trumpa podczas kampanii prezydenckiej w 2016 roku</i>, „e-Politikon”, 2017, nr 24, s.112- 134.</p> <p>6. M. Górka, <i>Political image of Geert Wilders: Analysis of populist message on social media platform X</i>. Horyzonty Polityki, 2024, 15(52).</p>
A list of research grants financed by the National Science Centre, the National Centre of Research and Development and the European Research Council for the period of the last 5 years
Collaboration within the international project titled "Visegrad Group and Central European Cooperation" No. 61450025, funded by the International Visegrad Fund. The collaboration (as the implementing entity), carried out between 2015-2018, focused on the analysis of cyber security strategies of V4 countries, which was published in the monograph "Security, Foreign and European Policy of the Visegrad Group," edited by L. Cabada and Š. Waisová, Prague 2018.
A list of research services provided for industry related to the proposed research topics for the period of the last 5 years
Expertise for the Implementation Organization Enterprise "AYA" Ltd. in the area of effective educational initiatives addressing cyber threats among school youth. My contribution to the creation of this scientific expertise involved leading the expert team and developing the results.