Spatial voting models. The theory in Polish reality

The article dwells on the so-called spatial voting models, suggested by the political sciences world-wide and on attempts to present the result of their application, in terms of description and explanation, to the reality of elections in Poland and decisions aimed at supporting specific political parties. Two theories, in their three variants, are analysed: the proximity voting theory, in versions suggested several decades ago by Anthony Downs, Steven Matthews, and that by George Rabinowitz and Stuart E. Macdonald. The results obtained indicate that one can hardly come to the unambiguous conclusion that one of the models is superior to the another. The authors have, rather, revealed that, to a significant degree, they are complementary. Bearing in mind that the models fit the electoral behaviour of 2007 better, there is a temptation to suggest that the Polish elector and the Polish political parties, that is, the political demand and supply, work hand-in-hand. Such a thesis would, however, overstretch the evidence. The number of elections analysed is not large enough and does not provide grounds for a conclusion that this is an established trend. The article concludes with remarks on the future directions of the quest in this field.