

Preface and Acknowledgements

This book is about electoral control in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and was produced by the Electoral Control project. The Electoral Control project was based on the research grant, “Who Wins and Who Loses in the Parliamentary Elections? From Formal Theory to Empirical Analysis,” funded by Poland’s National Science Centre (Sonata Bis decision number 2012/05/E/HS6/03556) from 2013 to 2016. The Principle Investigator of this project was Joshua Kjerulf Dubrow, Associate Professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology (IFiS), Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) and administrator at Cross-national Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training program (CONSIRT. osu.edu) of The Ohio State University (OSU) and PAN.

The Electoral Control project built an international multi-disciplinary scientific team focused on the collection and use of data on parliamentarians and candidates in CEE to address critical issues in representation, accountability and political inequality. To that end, this project produced the East European Parliamentarian and Candidate dataset (EAST PaC), composed of the candidates who stood for national parliamentary elections in Ukraine, Poland, and Hungary from the first post-Communist election to the most recent and who are matched over successive elections. In addition to bringing the project team together to various events held in Warsaw and in scientific venues elsewhere, Poland’s National Science Centre funded EAST PaC data collection and this book. We are grateful for their support.

We are also grateful for the support of IFiS PAN and the Graduate School for Social Research (GSSR) for the events held under the banner of this project. We also thank CONSIRT which provided

organizational support for the administration of this grant and the project as a whole. Kazimierz M. Słomczyński, Director of CONSIRT, Professor of Sociology at IFiS PAN and Professor Emeritus of OSU's Department of Sociology, was a key figure, both intellectually and administratively, for this project. We thank Goldie Shabad, Professor Emeritus of OSU's Department of Political Science, and Jakub Zieliński, former Professor at OSU's Department of Political Science and now at the Boston Consulting Group, for their intellectual contributions to this grant project. We are thankful for the intellectual support of the Institute of Political Studies at PAN, especially Mikołaj Cześnik and Michał Kotnarowski. We thank Irina Tomescu-Dubrow, Associate Professor at IFiS PAN and Projects Manager at CONSIRT, for her administrative and intellectual guidance. We are thankful to Ola Wójcicka, Ewa Dworniak, and Grażyna Drążyk for their administrative assistance, and to John Fells for proofreading the text. We thank Ireneusz Sadowski for his assistance in analyzing EAST PaC data.

The Electoral Control project brought together young and established scholars in sociology, political science, and area studies to form a multi-disciplinary scientific research team. The core of this team was Mihail Chiru, Tomek Kołodziej, Sheri Kunovich, Justyna Nyckowiak, Zsófia Papp, Nataliia Pohorila, Zbigniew Sawiński and Peter Tunkis. We were fortunate to work with such a talented group of scholars. We were also fortunate to have the enthusiastic participation of excellent PhD students at GSSR, including Kateryna Gryniuk, Anna Kurowicka, Sanjaya Chaudhary Mahato, Nika Palaguta, Marcin Ślarzyński, Anastas Vangeli, and Olga Zelinska. We thank the many attendees and presenters at our events, including Amy Alexander, Tiffany Barnes, Catherine Bolzendahl, Nazar Boyko, Henryk Domański, Gábor Molnár, Iulian Stanescu, and Claudiu Tufis. We are also thankful to Karim Khan and Melanie Hughes for their assistance to the project.

We dedicate this book to Bohdan Solchanyk, a university lecturer in Lviv and a member of the team that collected the 2006–2012 EAST PaC data in Ukraine, who died on February 20, 2014 during a protest at Kyiv Maidan. He was 28 years old. According to an article about him in *The New York Times*, Bohdan was “killed by a bullet ... in Kiev in the carnage on and around Independence Square.” Bohdan was a doctoral student at GSSR, and an historian and sociologist. We celebrate his life and we mourn his loss.