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Białystok, May 2018

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### REFERENDA ON PROBLEMATIC ISSUES AND THEIR IMPACT ON POLITICAL SYSTEM

The journal “Białostockie Studia Prawnicze” [Białystok Legal Studies] (<http://bsp.uwb.edu.pl/en/about-the-journal-2/>) – BSP - published by the Faculty of Law, University of Białystok, Poland is pleased to announce a call for papers for the upcoming volume dedicated to direct democracy, e.g. referendum, people’s initiative, in global and regional contexts.

#### Topics of interest

The upcoming volume of BSP (no. 1/ 2019) will be devoted to the referenda on problematic issues. The referenda on social controversial issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage, divorce, and affirmative actions have been carried out in some European countries (Ireland, Italy, Malta, Croatia) and provided an impetus to the topic selection for the volume.

In the Republic of Ireland referendum on divorce was held twice: in 1976 (people voted against legalization of divorce) and in 1995. Irish referenda on abortion were held three times: in 1983, 1992 and 2018. In Italy in 1974, a record of 87% turnout occurred in voting on the repeal of the law on divorce. In 1981 in Italy two referenda were carried out regarding the law legalizing abortion.

In Malta the referendum on divorce was held in 2011. Malta was the only European country and one of three (together with the Philippines and the Vatican City) legal orders banning the divorce left in the world not to allow divorce.

In December 2013 Croatian citizens voted in the referendum and rejected legalization of same-sex marriages by approving constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. In 2015 Slovakian citizens made the same decision.

In addition to the European examples, American cases may constitute a major focus of study on the presented topic. E.G. the first one regards same-sex marriages and the second one – affirmative action. Both problems are uniquely important and represent changes in the dynamics of social awareness in two different states: a West coast California, commonly known as a state with stable liberal society and the very first state in the USA to adopt a ballot-initiative process in 1911, and Michigan – a Midwestern, traditionally democratic but recently becoming more conservative state which is currently the heart of the affirmative action battlefield

Therefore, in the present call for papers, the BSP asks for high quality multidisciplinary contributions analysing, in particular, the following:

- What is the role of referendum in problematic issues? E.g. does more liberal response lead to more liberal attitude of society?
- Do the referenda actually solve the controversial social dilemmas?
- Which factors influence the vox populi?

- What are the results of referenda? Do they impact on political and legal system?
- What is the role of mass media in the framing of the controversial dilemmas?

The journal is unable to remunerate the authors due to its limited financial resources. However, we strongly believe that the scientific and academic outcomes will provide professional satisfaction and interesting exchange to all of the people involved.

### Timeline

- **30 October 2018** deadline for the final submission
- **30 November 2018** notification of acceptance after double blind peer-review process
- **31 December 2018** deadline for submission of a camera-ready version
- **ca. February 2019** volume ready

### Information for the Authors

- Submissions will normally be between 2,800 – 4,200 words, including footnotes and bibliography, although papers of a higher word length may also be submitted subject to negotiation with the Editors.
- Author's name should appear centered under the title. Author should enclose the following information:
  - name and last name,
  - degree, academic title, place of affiliation,
  - short bio not exceeding four sentences,
  - exact correspondence address, phone number and email.
- The papers should contain abstract (up to 200 words) and 3-6 keywords.
- The final submissions will be evaluated through a double blind peer review by appointed peer reviewers.
- Submissions should be made in British English and sent to: [ekuzelewska@gmail.com](mailto:ekuzelewska@gmail.com)
- Questions, if any, should be mailed to: [ekuzelewska@gmail.com](mailto:ekuzelewska@gmail.com)
- Editorial requirements for the Authors available at: <http://bsp.uwb.edu.pl/en/for-authors/>

I hope you will find this project interesting and inspiring.

*Elżbieta Kuzelewska*, Editor-in-Chief and the Theme Editor