## Government and Opposition in the Argentine Congress, 1989-2007: Understanding Inter-Party Dynamics through Roll Call Vote Analysis

Mark P. Jones, Wonjae Hwang, and Juan Pablo Micozzi

**Abstract:** This article employs roll call vote data and Bayesian ideal point estimation to examine inter-party dynamics in the Argentine Chamber of Deputies between 1989 and 2007. It highlights the presence in the Argentine Congress of a strong government vs. opposition dimension as well as identifies the relative position on this dimension, vis-à-vis the governing party, of the most prominent non-governing parties. Special attention is paid to the evolution of inter-party legislative dynamics during Argentina's brief experience with coalition government (1999-2001) and to party behavior in the Chamber during the final two years of President Néstor Kirchner's term in office (2005-07).

■ Manuscript received July 15, 2008; accepted October 4, 2008

Keywords: Argentina, legislatures, political parties

**Mark P. Jones:** Professor, Department of Political Science, Rice University, Houston, Texas, USA. Dr. Jones's research interests lie in the comparative study of political institutions, with recent publications appearing in the *American Journal* of *Political Science, Comparative Political Studies*, and *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. E-mail: <mpjones@rice.edu>

Wonjae Hwang: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. Dr. Hwang's research focuses on globalization, international conflict, and legislative behavior. He has published in the *American Journal of Journal of Political Science*, the *Journal of Politics*, and several edited volumes.

E-mail: <whwang@utk.edu>

Juan Pablo Micozzi: Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, Rice University, Houston, Texas, USA. Mr. Micozzi's work has appeared in the *Journal of Politics* as well as several edited volumes. Starting in the fall of 2009, he will be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of New Mexico. E-mail: <jmicozzi@rice.edu>