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Autor: Brendan Boyd and Barry Atkin.

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Correo electrónico: revpar@ola.org

Teléfono: (416) 325-3505

ABSTRACT:

Has the role and the work of public servants become politicized? Noting the greater frequency at which public servants are losing their anonymity and seemingly being pressured to support – rather than simply implement – politicians’ priorities, the authors review more than a century’s worth of debates of full parliament to determine whether there is evidence of outright politicization of the public service and whether such politicization (if present) has occurred more regularly over time. The authors conclude that public servants are rarely mentioned in full parliamentary debates and have only become a partisan issue within these debates on two occasions. The authors found that contrary to their expectations, parliamentarians belonging to the gobelonging to parties elsewhere on the political spectrum.

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