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# Electoral Processes and Debates in Peru: the CIES experience

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## Overview

- CIES is a leading academic institution made up of 48 universities and research centers all over Peru.
- Our project “Elections Peru: Centering the electoral debate” began in 2005.
- CIES has organized 13 electoral debates (national and regional), some of them with the National Electoral Board.
- Technical Debates between political party teams were launched for the first time in Peruvian electoral history.
- CIES has published 54 policy papers and roadmaps for better policies.
- CIES has inspired and advised election projects in five Latin American countries: Ecuador , Argentina , Colombia , Paraguay and Honduras.
- Currently CIES is organizing the Peru 2016 Elections Project.



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## PERUVIAN POLITICAL CONTEXT



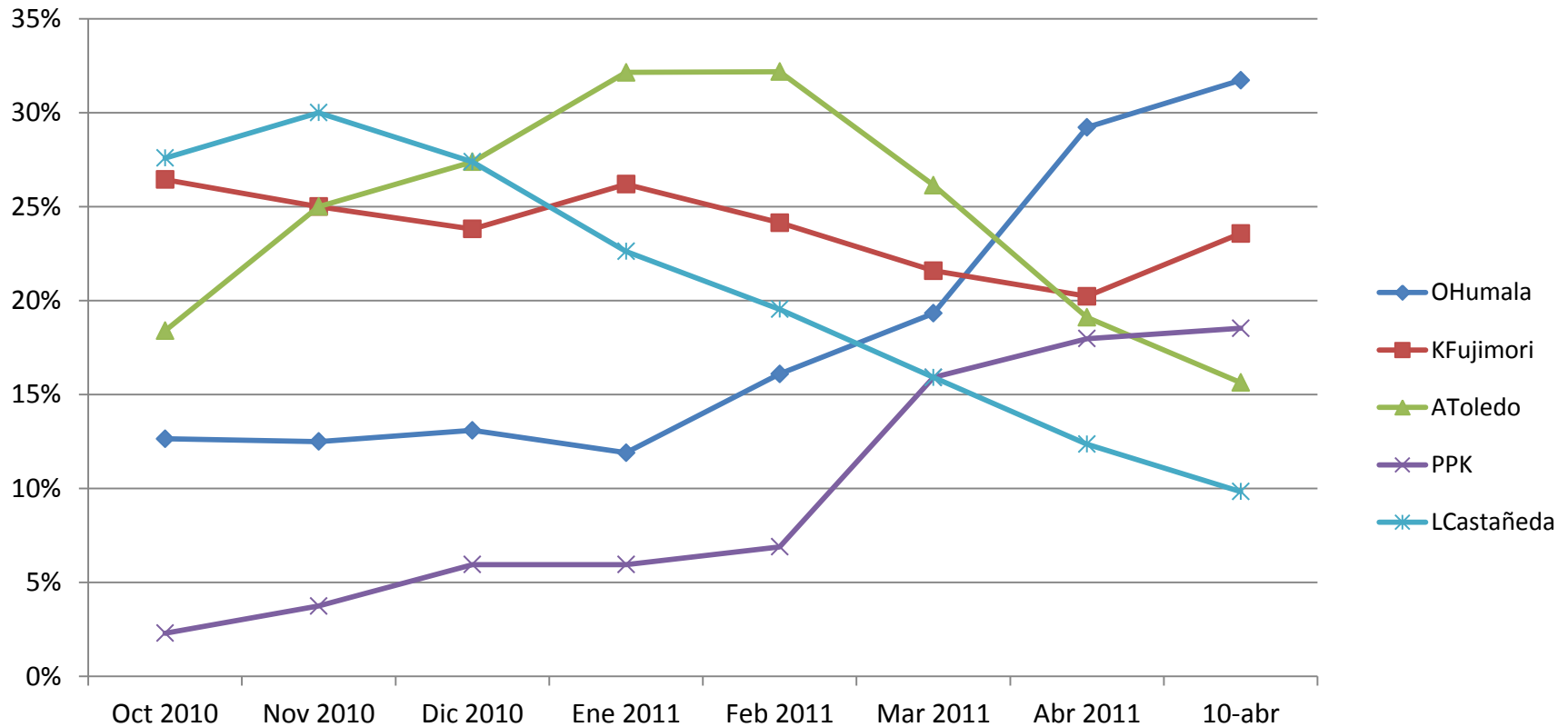
## Electoral processes in Peru

- Weakening of the political party system.
- Paternalistic leadership and rise of populist practices.
- Political campaigns based on personal attacks (not programmatic debates).
- Political process based too much in scandals on the media.
- Bottle necks for mainstream → political polarization.
- Citizens unaware of political parties technical proposals .



# Presidential Elections 2011

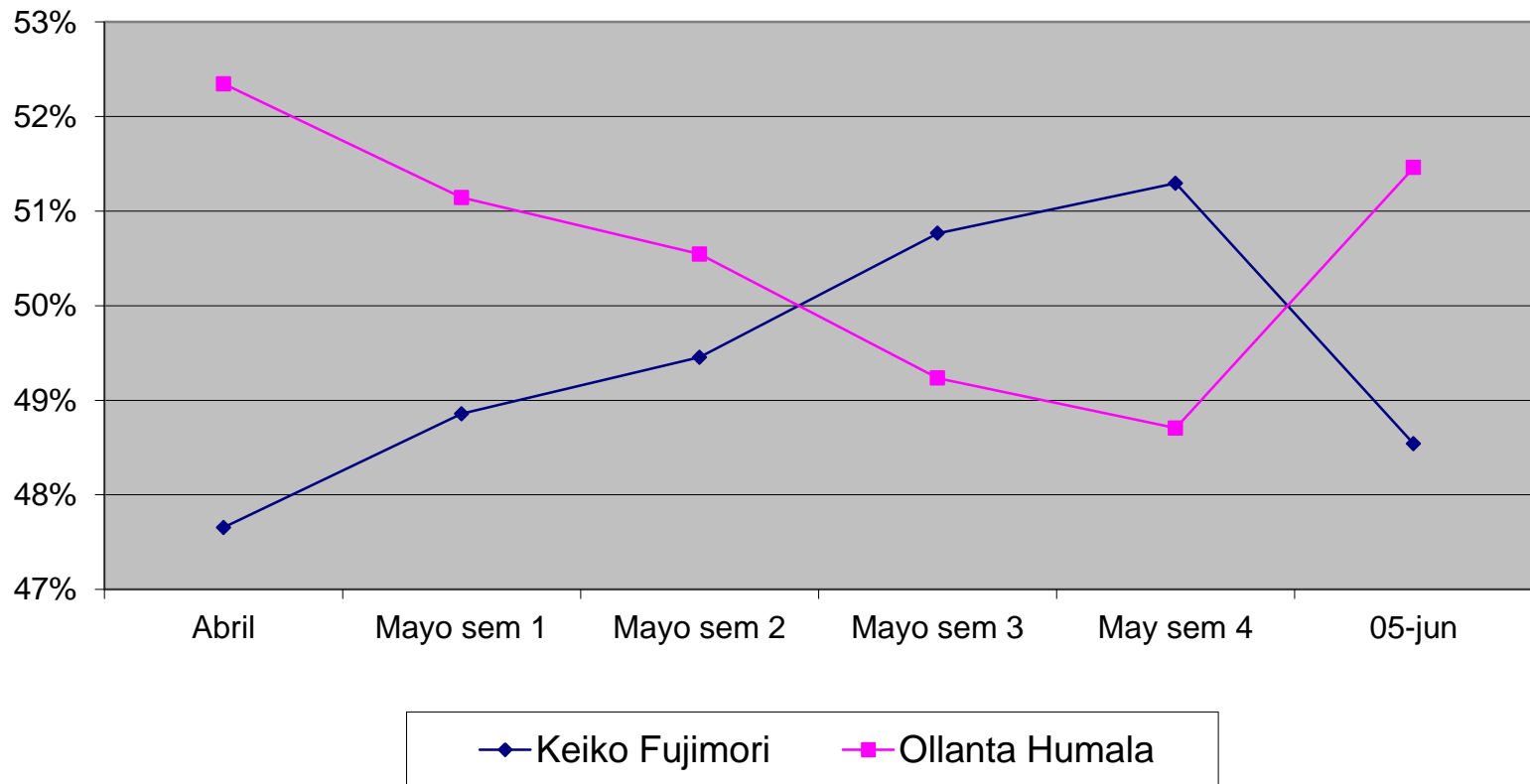
Top 5 candidates: Political pools (first round)





## Presidential Elections 2011

Two finalist: Political pools and end result (second round)





## Congressional seats obtained by the governing party

GOVERNMENT	% of government party in Congress seats	% in following Congress period
Fernando Belaunde (Acción Popular 1980-1985)	49	7
Alan García (Partido Aprista Peruano 1985-1990)	56	28
Alberto Fujimori (Fujimorismo 1990-2000)	40	3
Alejandro Toledo (Perú Posible 2001-2006)	38	2
Alan García (Partido Aprista Peruano 2006-2011)	30	3
Ollanta Humala (Partido Nacionalista Peruano 2011-2016)	36	?



## Electoral processes as an opportunity

### Electoral processes

#### OPPORTUNITY

- Strengthening public policy debate.
- Strengthening cooperation among academia, politicians, international donors and the media.
- Contributions for the new elected government.

### Rol of universities and research centers

- Generate evidence to inform the debate on public policy proposals.
- Input for the design of programmatic proposals.
- Translate complex ideas for the media and civil society.
- Strengthen the link between academia, international cooperation, political parties and the media.
- Generate opportunities for dialogue among stakeholders.



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## **ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY CIES**

## CIES Elections Project



- Regional Elections 2014
- General Elections 2011
- Regional Elections 2007
- General Elections 2006





## Project Objectives

1

Strengthen the role of political parties or movements as actors representing social sectors and proposing government programs.

2

Promote socio political dialogue and raise the level of electoral debate, strengthening the programmatic discussion of policy proposals.

3

Inform new governments with public policy papers aimed at improving national and regional management.

## Stages of the Project



1) Policy papers



2) Parties  
committee of  
governmental  
plans

4) Presidential  
and Technical  
debates



3) Dissemination





## Meetings with political parties and the National Electoral Board





**Presidential Debate  
2006  
Second round**



## Presidential Debate 2011- First round

## Presidential Debate 2011- Second round





**Programmatic  
Debate -  
Presidential  
Elections 2011  
(Second round)**



## Regional Elections 2014

- Support the National Electoral Board in organizing workshops and debates with candidates in Lima and regions.
- Technical assistance to elected regional governments.



Technical Debate – City Hall of Lima



Municipal Debate – City Hall of Lima



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## IMPACT OF DEBATES



## Project outcomes

### With the State

- Agreement with National Electoral Board.
- Legitimate public recognition and advocacy capacity of CIES.
- Programmatic debate.
- Roadmap for elected government.

### With Political Parties

- Interest for Policy Documents.
- Trust within government plan committees.
- Mediator capacity between contenders.
- Links with political parties.
- Relationship with newly elected governments.

### With donors and partners

- Minimized duplication of projects.
- Gathered proposals at a single window.
- Allowed funding and donors coordination.
- Provided inputs for journalists and media.
- Strengthened cooperation among academia, politicians, international donors and the media.

International



Replicated and advised the project in other Latin American countries.

## Impact of political debates

### Why are debates important?

- Debates have sometimes impacted electoral results.
- Debates foster informed vote of the citizens.
- Debates strengthen democratic governance.





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**MANY THANKS**