

Factors of change I: demand-side explanations

Session 10

Álvaro Canalejo-Molero

University of Lucerne

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- ① Explaining party system change: demand vs. supply factors
- ② Factors of change I: demand-side explanations
- ③ The changing role of class: “Explaining Workers’ Support for Right-Wing Populist Parties in Western Europe” (Oesch, 2008)
- ④ References

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 - Or try to adequate empirical patterns to the existent theories (e.g., cleavage theory)

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- From analyses at the **aggregate**-level (country, party-system or election level) to analyses at the **party and voter** (i.e., individual) levels

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 - Question: who votes for new parties and why?

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 - **Class cleavage traditionally explained vote for left/right parties:** the sociological premise is that **low-income voters should support parties that proposes a stronger intervention of the state on the economy to minimize risk exposure**
- Therefore, **Research Question**: **why workers are more likely than any other class (with exceptions) to vote for RPPs?**

Hypotheses

- Emerging theses to explain **why workers would shift from socialist and communist parties:**
 - H1. Economic anxieties
 - H2. Cultural threat
 - H3. Social alienation/political dissatisfaction

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- **QUESTION:** how is the second hypothesis different from the first one?

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- **QUESTION:** why should workers be more likely to hold this kind of opinions?

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- **QUESTION:** what do the author mean by intermediary networks?

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- **QUESTION:** what do you think of this case selection strategy?

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- **QUESTION:** does this definition coincide with the Mudde's definition?

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Empirical evidence

- Proportion of RPP supporters by class and country

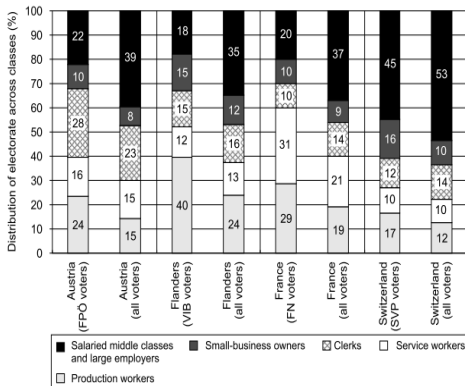


FIGURE 2. *Class Composition of the Right-Wing Populist Parties' Electorate*

Figure 1: Figure 2 in Oesch (2008)

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 - ② “Second, alongside the two little-privileged classes of production and service workers, a third category is over-represented among RPP followers, namely, small-business owners”
 - ③ “Third, two categories show very little sympathy for RPPs in all five countries. This applies to the traditional bourgeoisie (comprising large employers and self-employed professionals) and, above all, sociocultural professionals and semi-professionals”

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 - Conclusion: “voters’ attitudes make a much bigger explanatory contribution than their socio-demographic characteristics”

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 - ② Belgium, France and Norway

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Recent findings

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 - ① Preserve classes: sociocultural professionals for the left and large employers and managers for the centre-right
 - ② Contested strongholds: small business owners for the centre-right and the PRR and working-class for the left and the PRR
- Conclusion: “Old patterns are structured by an economic conflict: Production workers vote for the left and small business owners for the centre-right based on their economic attitudes. In contrast, new patterns are linked to the rise of the radical right and structured by a cultural conflict”

Additional readings

- “The Paradox of Well-being: Do Unfavorable Socioeconomic and Sociocultural Contexts Deepen or Dampen Radical Left and Right Voting Among the Less Well-Off?” ([Rooduijn & Burgoon, 2018](#))

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- “Education and Anti-Immigration Attitudes: Evidence from Compulsory Schooling Reforms across Western Europe” ([Cavaille & Marshall, 2019](#))

References

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