Session 10

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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 More recent findings
- **6** Additional readings
- **6** References

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

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  - Question: who votes for new parties and why?

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The changing role of class: "Explaining Workers' Support for Right-Wing Populist Parties in Western Europe" (Oesch, 2008)

- The puzzle:
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- Therefore, Research Quesion: why workers are more likely than any other class (with exceptions) to vote for RPPs?

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

### H1. Economic anxieties

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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: which are these parties in each country?
- QUESTION: what do you think of this case selection strategy?

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

### **Data and models**

• ESS 02/03

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Proportion of RPP supporters by class and country

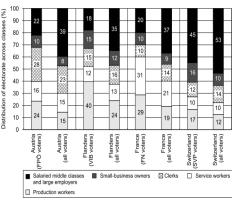


FIGURE 2. Class Composition of the Right-Wing Populist Parties' Electorate

Figure 1: Figure 2 in Oesch (2008)

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  - "First, the thesis of a proletarianization of the right-wing populist parties' electorate clearly seems correct for the five countries on which this study focuses"
  - "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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  - "It is noteworthy that these determinants of RPP support do not entirely pick up the class effect." What does this mean?
  - Conclusion: "voters' attitudes make a much bigger explanatory contribution than their socio-demographic characteristics"

• Cross-country differences:

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  - 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**

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 "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

#### References I

- Cavaille, C., & Marshall, J. (2019). Education and anti–immigration attitudes: Evidence from compulsory schooling reforms across Western Europe. *American Political Science Review*, 113(1), 254–263.
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