Milestone Six

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Contents

1 Extension 1

A Appendix of Graphics 2

Table 2 2
Figure 1 3
Figure 3 4

1 Extension

Why Friends and Neighbors? Explaining the Electoral Appeal of Local Roots by Rosie Campbell, Philip Cowley, Nick Vivyan, and Markus Wagner in the *The Journal of Politics* aims to answer the driving question of, "Why do politicians with strong local roots receive more electoral support?" by running and analyzing two separate studies. The first study uses a "paired profiles factorial vignette design" by asking subjects to rate hypothetical members of Parliament on a scale from 1 to 10. The hypothetical members have varying levels of local roots as well as varying levels of "behavioral localism"—their track record of constituency service and if they act more so as a trustee or delegate. The analysis which is largely visualized in figure 1 consists of both the raw difference in ratings between varying levels of local roots and across levels of behavioral localism. It then uses models to predict the effect of having local roots which can be seen on display in my "beautiful graphic" In the second study, subjects again considered hypothetical members of Parliament with varying levels of local roots as compared to varying levels of behavioral localism mainly in the first study. In this case, the subjects also received information on their political preferences and partisan loyalties. The first study depicted that the additional information swayed rankings, but local roots still seemed to have an association no matter what. The second study agreed with these results stating that, "even if voters are provided with a rich array of information about politicians' behavior and ideological positioning, the effect of local roots remained positive and notable." The remainder of the article discusses the nuances of these results within the frame of the driving question. It also attempts to contextualize these findings with the broader literature of the effects off in-group/out-group dynamics in the context of localism.

500 words about your proposed extension. You do not have to have done the extension yet. (That comes next week.) But it is time to start thinking about what your contribution to human knowledge will be. You seek admission to the School of Athens. What do you have to offer us?

All analysis for this paper is available in my Github repository for this milestone is in the footnote below. [1]

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[1] https://github.com/SamuelLowry/gov1006-milestone-6.git

A Appendix of Graphics

I was able to replicate table 2, figure 1, and figure 3. I was unable to replicate table 1 and figure 2 because they were not data related. They were merely visualizations displaying content about methods and experimental design. Table 1 depicts written descriptions of the hypothetical members of parliament present to subject. Figure 2 depicts a screenshot of the survery.

Table 2

% Table created by stargazer v.5.2.2 by Marek Hlavac, Harvard University. E-mail: hlavac at fas.harvard.edu
% Date and time: Fri, Apr 03, 2020 - 22:09:40

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Intercept	-0.412^{***}	-0.661^{***}	-0.412^{***}	-0.664^{***}
	(0.057)	(0.128)	(0.057)	(0.125)
Local roots	0.755^{***}	0.759^{***}	0.755^{***}	0.758^{***}
	(0.080)	(0.080)	(0.080)	(0.080)
Behavioral localism information	0.683^{***}	0.691^{***}		
	(0.078)	(0.079)		
Behavioral localism: High (vs. no info)			1.395^{***}	1.402^{***}
			(0.098)	(0.098)
Behavioral localism: Low (vs. no info)			-0.007	-0.0002
			(0.085)	(0.086)
Local roots X Behavioral info.	-0.253^{**}	-0.257^{**}		
	(0.110)	(0.110)		
Local roots X High behavioral localism			-0.311^{**}	-0.311^{**}
			(0.140)	(0.139)
Local roots X Low behavioral localism			-0.233^{*}	-0.238^{**}
			(0.119)	(0.119)
Controls for voter characteristics?	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	5,203	5,203	5,203	5,203
R^2	0.036	0.046	0.107	0.116
Adjusted R^2	0.036	0.044	0.106	0.114
Note:				$^{*}p<0.1$; $^{**}p<0.05$; $^{***}p<0.01$

Figure 1

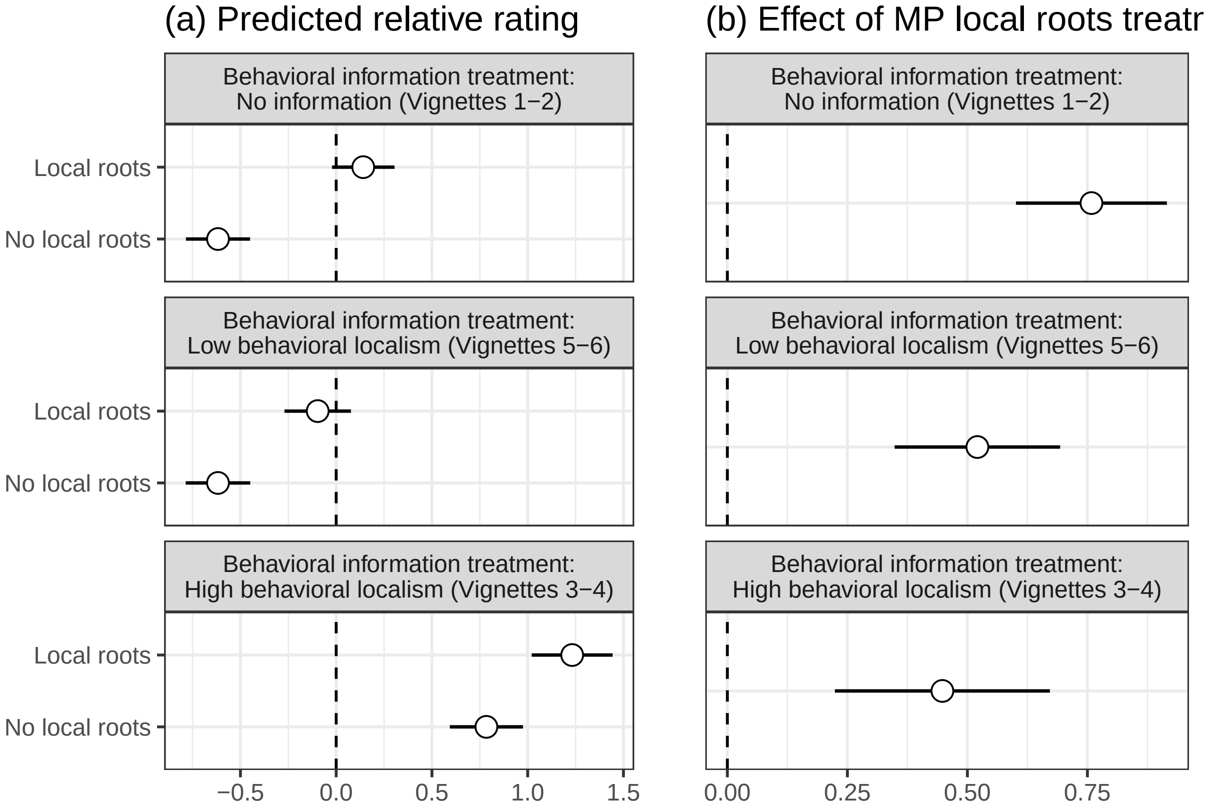
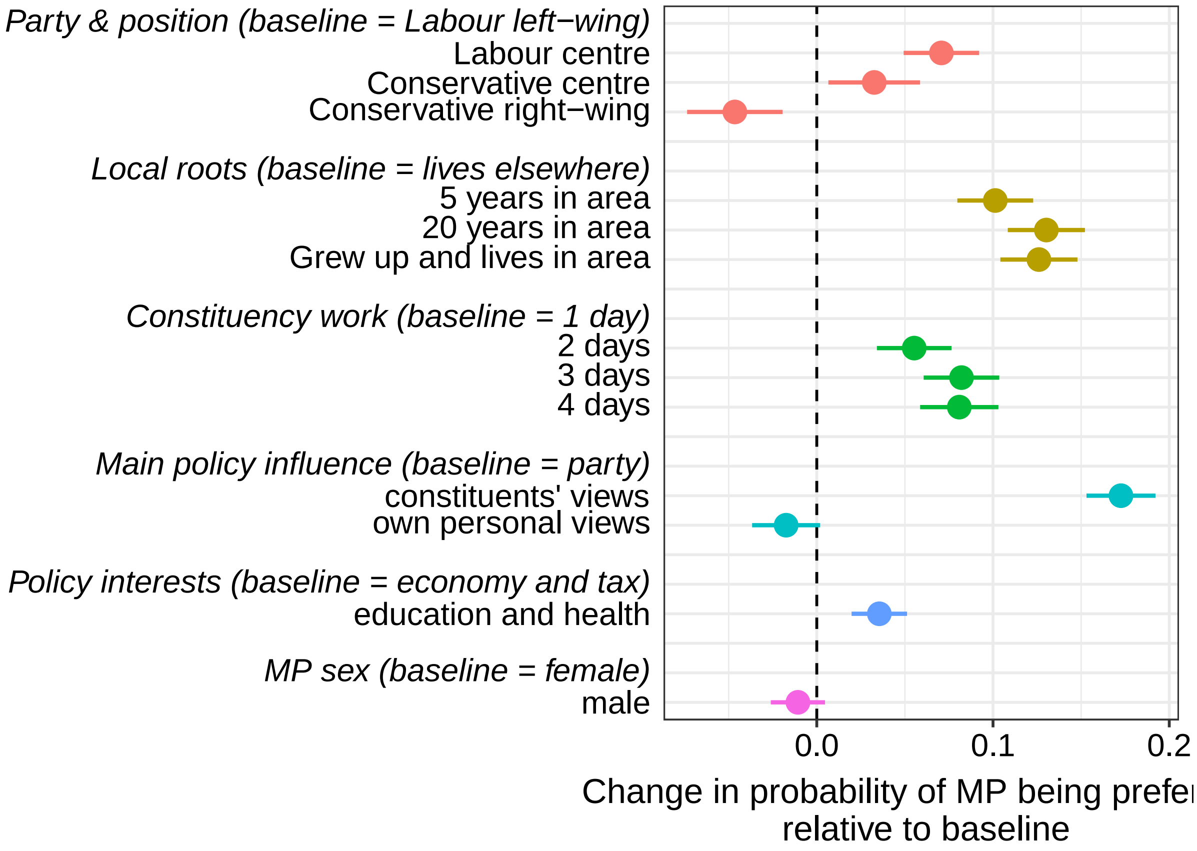

(a) Predicted relative rating
(b) Effect of MP local roots treatr
Behavioral information treatment:
No information (Vignettes 1−2)
Behavioral information treatment:
Low behavioral localism (Vignettes 5−6)
Behavioral information treatment:
High behavioral localism (Vignettes 3−4)
Local roots
No local roots
−0.5
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
0.00
0.25
0.50
0.75

Figure 3


Party & position (baseline = Labour left−wing)
Labour centre
Conservative centre
Conservative right−wing
Local roots (baseline = lives elsewhere)
5 years in area
20 years in area
Grew up and lives in area
Constituency work (baseline = 1 day)
2 days
3 days
4 days
Main policy influence (baseline = party)
constituents' views
own personal views
Policy interests (baseline = economy and tax)
education and health
MP sex (baseline = female)
male
0.0
0.1
0.2
Change in probability of MP being prefe
relative to baseline