Welfare Regimes and Support for Redistribution in Europe

Replication study

Sofia Jesus 19327602
Quantitative Methods II

Plan:

- Introduction to the original study

- Methodology and analysis

- Examples of plots of the study

- Original contribution

- Analysis of results

- Conclusion

"Great news from the science journal. They want us to rethink our methodology, but they love our results."

Replication study

This work replicates the article:

"Welfare Regimes and Support for Income Redistribution in Europe" by Ales Kudrnac and Ivan Petrusek, published in Public Opinion Quarterly (2022) Vol 86 No 4, 968–996.
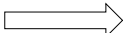
Abstract (excerpt)

"Income redistribution and changes in redistributive policies are highly contested issues that often have a bearing on societal debate and electoral competition. Using European Social Survey data, we trace trends in public attitudes toward income redistribution in 18 European countries from 2002 to 2019, a time period which included the Great Recession, the 2015 migrant crisis, and an increase in income inequality. Although attitudes toward income redistribution were relatively stable, trends presented by countries grouped by welfare regime display considerable variation both among countries and among welfare Regimes."
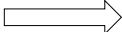
Methodology and Analysis

The study distinguishes several regime typologies.

By categorizing countries into these regime types, the authors tests the "**regime hypothesis**,"

which posits an association between redistributive policies and public welfare attitudes.

Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland $\Longrightarrow$ Conservative regime

Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden $\Longrightarrow$ Social-democratic regime

The United Kingdom and Ireland $\Longrightarrow$ Liberal regime

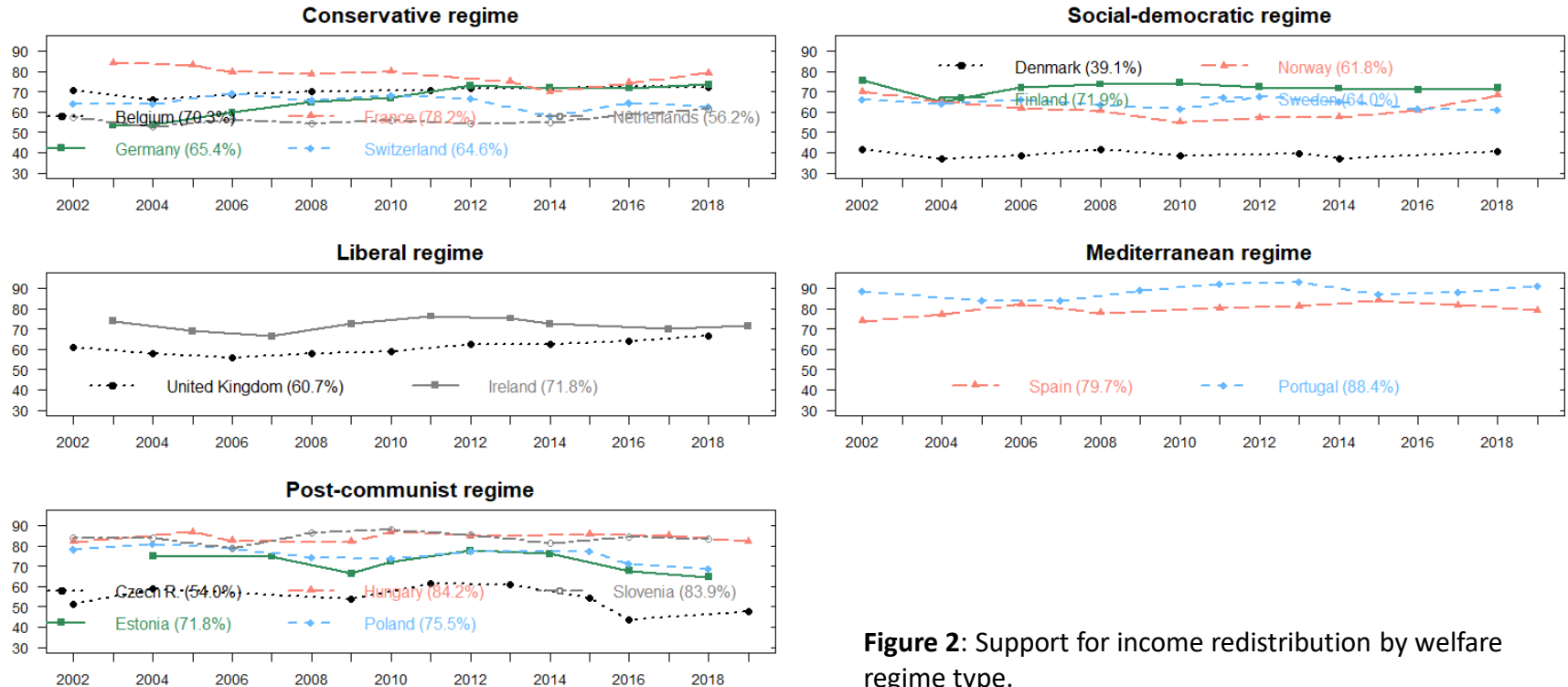Spain and Portugal $\Longrightarrow$ Mediterranean regime

The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia $\Longrightarrow$ Post-communist regime

Examples of outputs of the study
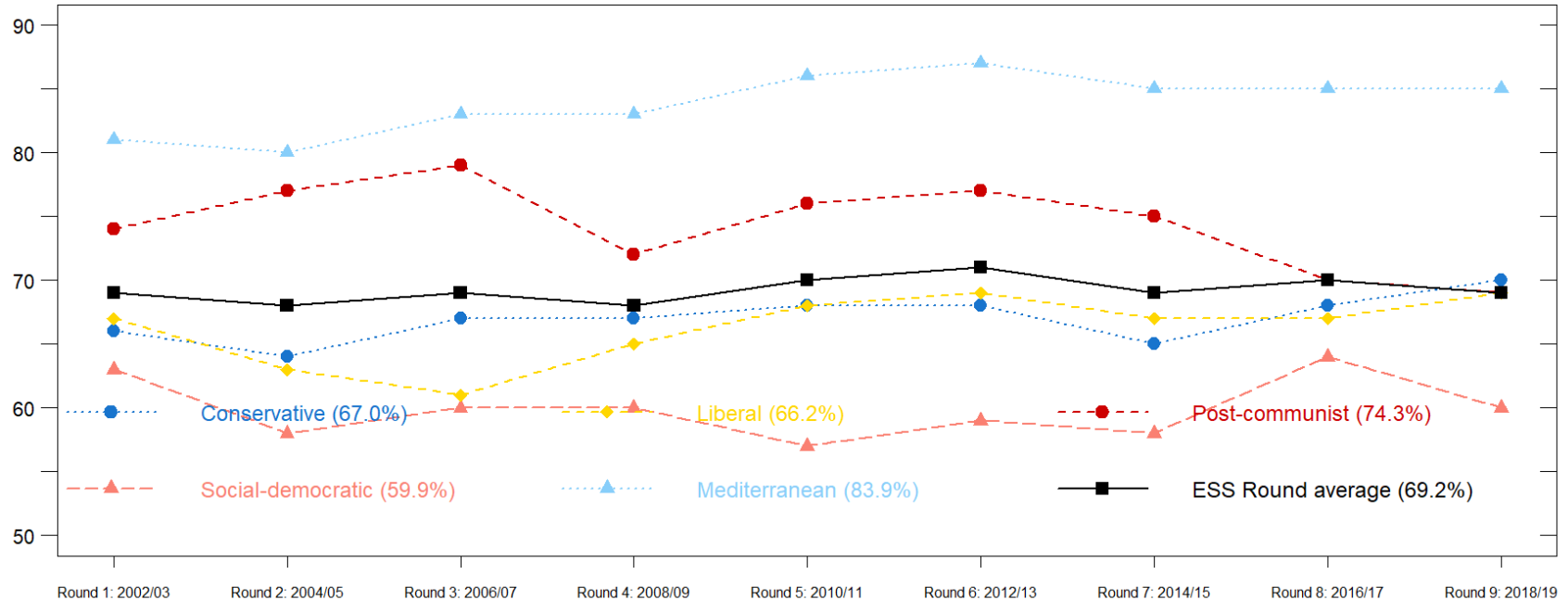
Figure 1: Average support for income redistribution by welfare regime.

Examples of outputs of the study

Figure 2: Support for income redistribution by welfare regime type.

Original Contribution

This paper's contribution to this study is to employ inferential statistics to explore the patterns in support for redistribution in Europe.

The **main question** to be answered with this analysis is:

How does the classification of countries into welfare regimes compared to individual country characteristics influence the understanding of support for redistribution policies across the years?

Data preparation	→	Data analysis	→	Analysis of results
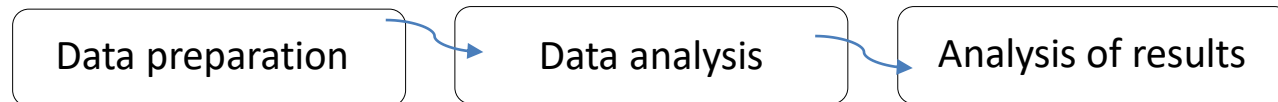
Original Contribution

For most regimes, the log-odds are positive, except for the regime type "Social Democratic", the log-odds of supporting redistribution are on average 0.15621 units lower compared to the reference category, suggesting that individuals in "Social Democratic" countries are significantly less likely to support redistribution compared to the reference category.

There is strong evidence to reject the null hypothesis, which postulates that there is no effect of the regime type on support for redistribution.

These results are consistent with the observable trends found by the authors.

Table 1: Regressing Support for redistribution on regime type

	Dependent variable:
	gincdif_dummy
regimeLiberal	0.079***
	(0.017)
regimeMediterranean	1.365***
	(0.027)
regimePost_Communist	0.481***
	(0.015)
regimeSocial_Democratic	−0.156***
	(0.015)
Constant	1.403***
	(0.010)
Observations	238,408
Log Likelihood	−104,651.800
Akaike Inf. Crit.	209,313.600
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Original Contribution

In this next step, it was deemed necessary to compare the previous model, where countries are grouped by regime, with a model that does not group countries by regime.

If the regime hypothesis were true, then grouping countries by regime type should work better than the individual countries model.

Based on the residual deviance and AIC, **the model in Table 2 that assesses the effect of each country on support for redistribution performs better** in explaining the variance in the data compared to the model with the regime variable, contrarily to the regime hypothesis.

Table 2: Regressing support for redistribution on individual countries

	Dependent variable: gincdif_dummy		Dependent variable: gincdif_dummy
cntryCzechia	−0.543*** (0.029)		
cntryGermany	−0.085*** (0.028)	cntryUnited Kingdom	−0.280*** (0.029)
cntryDenmark	−1.435*** (0.030)	cntryHungary	1.587*** (0.048)
cntryEstonia	0.498*** (0.035)	cntryIreland	0.272*** (0.031)
cntrySpain	0.942*** (0.037)	cntryNetherlands	−0.598*** (0.029)
cntryFinland	0.460*** (0.033)	cntryNorway	−0.201*** (0.032)
cntryFrance	0.422*** (0.033)	cntryPoland	0.364*** (0.033)
cntryUnited Kingdom	−0.280*** (0.029)	cntryPortugal	1.749*** (0.049)
cntryHungary	1.587*** (0.048)	cntrySweden	0.219*** (0.033)
cntryIreland	0.272*** (0.031)	cntrySlovenia	1.126*** (0.044)
cntryNetherlands	−0.598*** (0.029)		
cntryNorway	−0.201*** (0.032)		

Observations	238,408
Log Likelihood	−99,711.070
Akaike Inf. Crit.	8 199,456.100

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Measuring the dispersion within regime type

In order to better understand the heterogeneity of attitudes towards redistribution within different political regimes, the standard deviations for each regime group are examined.

A **larger standard deviation** indicates **greater dispersion** of values around the mean.

Table 3: Standard Deviation of Support for Redistribution by Regime

Regime	Standard Deviation
Conservative	0.398
Liberal	0.388
Mediterranean	0.236
Post-Communist	0.338
Social-Democratic	0.416

Regression model with covariates

Finally, a last model was constructed with the covariates **year** and **social spending**.

This regression is consistent with the authors' observation according to which:

- attitudes towards redistribution **have remained stable** across time

- **social spending** is another important factor in explaining support for redistribution

Table 4: Regressing support for redistribution on regime, year and social spending

	Dependent variable:
	gincdif_dummy
regimeLiberal	0.076***
	(0.003)
regimeMediterranean	0.165***
	(0.003)
regimePost_Communist	0.115***
	(0.002)
regimeSocial_Democratic	−0.013***
	(0.002)
year	0.0002
	(0.0002)
socialspending	0.010***
	(0.0002)
Constant	0.150
	(0.302)
Observations	238,408
R^2	0.029
Adjusted R^2	0.029
Residual Std. Error	0.367 (df = 238401)
F Statistic	1,198.727*** (df = 6; 238401)
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Conclusion

The findings revealed that regime type has a significant effect on the likelihood of supporting redistribution, even after controlling for country-specific characteristics and social spending levels.

These results are consistent with expectations and contribute to supporting the claims made by the authors of the original paper.

As the results from this paper suggest, **there is considerable variation between countries and most importantly within regime types** and these trends are stable across time. Even though regime types are well fitted to explain variation in support for redistribution, **this classification does not improve fit comparative to a country-level approach**.

This variation does not offer support for the regime hypothesis and emphasizes the need for further examination of European patterns in support for redistribution and the factors behind it.

Thank You