

Salvage

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Trends in the data

What's the grand picture?

Turnout has been declining for decades. Starting in 1970, participation in general elections decreased from an average 88.30 per cent to 71.55 per cent in 2011. The figure above shows the development for all democracies in the data. With the exceptions of Belgium and Denmark turnout has declined across the board although differences in speed, magnitude, and monotonicity of the decline are apparent.

Importantly, trends that parallel turnout plague Tillman's two key predictors: the formation of pre-electoral coalitions and their voting percentage. The figure below shows Z-standardized versions of the fixed-effect transformed response and its two key predictors. Although developments may not always align to 100 percent, e.g., Italy, cases like Germany, the Netherlands, Greece or Denmark make the potential for confounding trends in Tillman's analysis abundantly clear.



Figure 1: Trends in Turnout

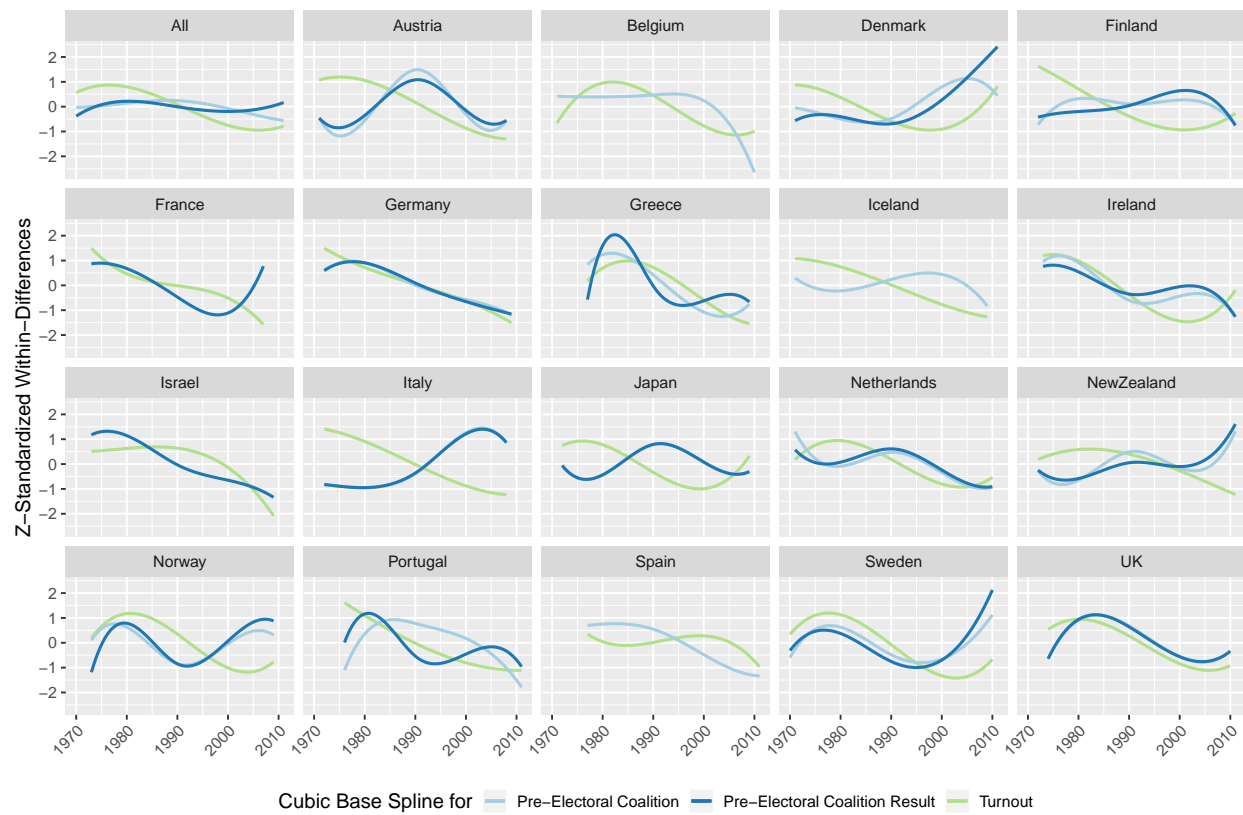


Figure 2: Shared Trends in Treatment and Response

What do the detrended results look like?

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
PEC	0.002 (0.006)			
PEC > 20%		0.016** (0.007)		
Vote PEC			0.027** (0.013)	
Small PEC				-0.014 (0.008)
Large PEC				0.012 (0.006)
Parties	-0.001 (0.003)	-0.001 (0.003)	-0.001 (0.003)	0.000 (0.003)
Disproportionality	0.000 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.000 (0.001)
PR	0.053* (0.023)	0.060** (0.021)	0.066** (0.022)	0.058* (0.022)
Plurality	-0.011 (0.031)	-0.015 (0.029)	-0.016 (0.027)	-0.015 (0.029)
Closeness	-0.001 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)
Economic Growth	0.001 (0.001)	0.000 (0.001)	0.000 (0.001)	0.000 (0.001)
Income	0.004 (0.001)	0.005 (0.001)	0.005 (0.001)	0.005* (0.001)
Spline 1	0.035 (0.032)	0.029 (0.032)	0.021 (0.033)	0.021 (0.029)
Spline 2	-0.021 (0.017)	-0.021 (0.016)	-0.023 (0.018)	-0.016 (0.018)
Spline 3	-0.099*** (0.028)	-0.101*** (0.029)	-0.108*** (0.029)	-0.111*** (0.026)
Spline 4	-0.066*** (0.017)	-0.066*** (0.017)	-0.078*** (0.019)	-0.076*** (0.016)
PR \times Disproprtionality	-0.009*** (0.003)	-0.009*** (0.003)	-0.009*** (0.003)	-0.009*** (0.003)
Plurality \times Closeness	0.000 (0.002)	0.000 (0.002)	0.000 (0.001)	0.001 (0.002)
R ²	0.562	0.578	0.586	0.584
Adj. R ²	0.490	0.509	0.516	0.513
Num. obs.	226	226	222	226

*** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$

Table 1: Statistical models