Discussion Note: Wang & Sun

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2025 APSA CGOT

13 September 2025

Overview

Similarities

▫ Study Taiwanese legislators in the same institutional context

▫ Emphasize strategic political behavior

▫ rational choice → motivation → reelected

Differences

- Sun:
  ▫ Top-down perspective

- Wang:
  ▫ Bottom-up perspective

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  ▫ 2018 fieldwork, Legislators' participation in constituents' private events

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  ▫ Voters' status needs → Invitation to legislators → Performative responsiveness → Social status enhancement → Political support reciprocity

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  - Electoral competition pressure → Emotional rhetoric strategy

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  - Voters' status needs → Invitation to legislators → Performative responsiveness → Social status enhancement → Political support reciprocity
  - Voters' impression → Performative response

Wang's Performative Responsiveness

Strengths

▫ Expanding Clientelism Research: Extends from political (e.g., distributive/pork) benefits to symbolic representation/benefits
▫ Applies Goffman's "front stage/back stage" concepts to analyze how politicians strategically perform intimate relationships
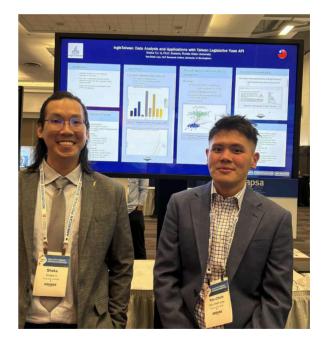
Conceptualization Comments

▫ The operationalization of "performative responsiveness" remains unclear
→ Some Latin American /African politics literature or pork barrel behavior literature might help you with theoretical construction
▫ Theoretical Dialogue to Grandstanding Literature (Slapin et al., 2018; Park, 2023; Lewallen & Park, 2024)
→ Extraposition taking → Attention seeking

Wang's Performative Responsiveness

Future Work: Apply your theory to more empirical analysis

Sun's Strategic Use of Emotions

Strength

▫ Utilizes fine-tuned models for sentiment analysis ≅ *Electoral Systems & Geographically Targeted Questions* **(Liao & Tang, working paper)**

▫ Contribution: stronghold measurement for SMD

Comments

- Dialogue with Grandstanding Literature (similar to Wang's paper):

- Merge H1 + H2: Consider developing conditional hypotheses extending to:
  ▫ go more beyond: intraparty competition
  ▫ Municipality homogeneity's effects (industry composition, education levels, Liao and Tang 2025)

- Fine-tuning Performance: Google BERT or Taiwan's models?
  ▫ → Human Validation: Recommend random sampling of 5% for manual verification

- Sentiment Detection Refinement: Consider fine-tuning specifically for negative language + hate speech detection (Wang & Day 2022)
  ▫ → extension toward populism speech?

Thank You