Preregistration:

1. Have any data been collected for this study already?

We will use the French ParlaMint 2.0 corpus and extract our sample from Sketch Engine with a semi-automatic approach (CQL and manual filtering). We have already extracted a sample of all 1,193 "se faire" constructions in the corpus found via the following CQL expression:

([lemma="se"] [lemma="faire"] []{0,3} [tag="V.N.\*"] | [lemma="je"] []{0,3} [lemma="me"] [lemma="faire"] []{0,3} [tag="V.N.\*"] | [lemma="tu"] []{0,3} [lemma="te"] [lemma="faire"] []{0,3} [tag="V.N.\*"] | [lemma="vous"] [tag!="Fc"]{0,3} [lemma="vous"] [lemma="faire"] []{0,3} [tag="V.N.\*"] | [lemma="nous"] [tag!="Fc"]{0,3} [lemma="nous"] [lemma="faire"] []{0,3} [tag="V.N.\*"])

We have also already manually filtered the extracted constructions. After excluding all constructions that are not “se faire” + Inf constructions and constructions that do not meet our criteria (see 3)), our sample comprises XXX occurences.

1. What’s the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

What factors influence the “se faire” vs. “être” passive alternation in spoken French (specifically: parliamentary debates)? In other words: what factors influence speakers’ choice between the “se faire” and the “être” passive construction? We operationalize this as the probability that the “se faire” passive construction is used.

1. Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

The dependent variable is the type of passive construction (“se faire”/“être”). It can take the values: 0 = “être” construction and 1 = “se faire” construction.

We only included “se faire” constructions that have a passive (and not an exclusively causative) reading, i.e. constructions that can be paraphrased as “être” passive without becoming ungrammatical or fundamentally altering their meaning. This is our main criterion. We have defined the following additional criteria, which follow from our main criterion:

* The verb is a transitive verb (the direct object of the active sentence is the subject of the passive sentence).
* The “se faire” construction is not a fixed idiomatic expression with a figurative meaning. We especially excluded constructions classified as "idiomes lexicalisés" (lexicalized idioms) according to Raineri (2010: 163). These constructions neither carry a true causative nor passive meaning and cannot occur with a complément d’agent: *se faire entendre, se faire sentir, se faire attendre, se faire désirer* (Raineri 2010: 164).
* We exclude “être” constructions/paraphrases that are essentially adjectival constructions (e.g. *elle est connu*).
* Complément d’agent only with *par* and not with *de ?*

To ensure consistency and practicality, we decided to include or exclude verbs on the basis of their lemma, rather than on individual occurrences. After manually evaluating all constructions, the lemmas that we excluded from our sample are: “entendre”, “sentir”, “ressentir”, “attendre”, “désirer”, “voir”, “connaître”, “passer (pour)”, “mousser”

* exclusion of imperative (1 case)

1. How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

* This is a corpus study, so there will be no participants but rather texts.
* Factors for the logistic regression:
  + Subject
    - Animacy (inanimate/animate)
    - Person ()
    - Number (singular/plural)
    - Gender ()
  + Verb
    - TAM
      * Tense: Past, present, future OR past/ non-past (Hundt et al. 2023: 95)
      * Aspect (simple, perfect, progressive) OR progressive/non-progressive
      * Mood (indicative/ non-indicative) (non-indicative = subjunctive, conditional, imperative)
    - Modal verb construction (no/yes)
    - Main verb semantic group (clusters): (e.g. dynamic/stative, cognition, movement, perception, telic/atelic…)
    - Adversativity of the verb (non-adversative/adversative) or (positive/ neutral/ negative)
  + Complément d’agent (absent/present) (if enough occurrences in data)
  + Negation (present/absent) (if enough occurrences for negated constructions in the data)
  + Social gender of speaker? (male/female), inferred from first names
* Interactions tested:
  + Animacy of subject and Complément d‘agent: if the subject is inanimate, it more likely requires an external agent to clarify who/ what performs the action; conversely if the subject is animate, such an external agent is less needed.   
    🡪 être passives may be more common with inanimate subjects when a complement d’agent is present. Se faire passive tends to favour animate subjects without a Complément d’agent.
  + Animacy and verb clusters: not all verbs can occur with animate subjects (Which ones?)
  + subject animacy and verb adversativity: Negative consequences of actions, expressed by adversative verbs, may affect animate subjects more than inanimate subjects   
    🡪 Adversative verbs strengthen the preference for se faire passives whenthe subject is animate.

1. Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

* We will use a mixed-effects logistic regression model. The model will calculate the probability that a given construction is realized with „se faire“.
* The predictor variables will be normalized (log of the odds)
* Random effects (to avoid individual effects):
  + lemma of the verb
  + speaker (from the metadata)
* p-value 0.05
* First, we will build a maximal model that includes all the factors, interactions and random effects described in 4). For this, the glmer( ) function in R will be used.

passive\_variant ~ subj\_animacy + subj\_person + subj\_number + subj\_gender + tense + cluster + adversativity + complement + subj\_animacy: adversativity +cluster: tense + subj\_animacy: agent\_pp … + (1| lemma) + (1|speaker)

If there are any, we will then remove insignificant interactions to improve R2. Then, we will manually remove variables one by one to find the model with highest R2 (i.e. the model that explains most of the variance).

The significant factors and interactions will be visualised and analysed in terms of our research question (see 2)).

1. Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

* If feature turns out to be irrelevant or there’s not enough data for each of the levels: merge or drop?
* If we come across constructions which are erroneously included because they slipped past our manual filtering, these will be excluded.

1. How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size?

The sample size will be determined by the amount of “se faire” passive constructions, which are very few in proportion to the “être” passive constructions. We have extracted all “se faire” passive constructions present in the corpus (see 1)) and filtered them manually to exclude false positives: After this, we ended up with xxx constructions, and this amount will be matched by the être constructions.

We will select an equal number of occurrences of the “être” passive by making a list of the lemmas and using this list to take a random sample of “être” constructions with the same lemmas. If there are not enough occurrences of these lemmas in the “être” passive constructions in the corpus, we will take a random sample of “être” passive constructions. The exact sampling process is explained in 8).

1. Anything else you would like to pre-register?

As the data are very unbalanced, we plan to take some steps to minimise bias and ensure reproducibility.

After extracting the se faire constructions we will make a list of all lemmas found in the “se faire” constructions. For the être passive constructions, we will search constructions using a CQL expression in SketchEngine. We will then filter the concordances using the list of lemmas we have previously collected from the “se faire” constructions. All filtered instances will be downloaded and stored in a .csv file. For reproducibility, we will then set a seed and use this to randomly sample the data. The seed will be determined by the lottery numbers on Saturday, 8th March 2025 as provided on the Website <https://www.lotto.de/lotto-6aus49/lottozahlen> using the function set.seed() in R. Using this, we will take a random sample from the concordance lines that is equal in size to the manually filtered amount of se faire constructions (i.e. xxx)

Both of us will annotate all constructions manually for features listed in 4). The Inter-Annotator-Agreement will be calculated.