Being on the Losing Side and Commitment to Democratic Principles: Experimental Evidence from New Democracies

Hector Bahamonde ¹ Inga Saikkonen ² Mart Trasberg ³

Authors in alphabetical order. All contributed equally to this project.

¹University of Turku, Finland

²Åbo Akademi, Finland

³Monterrey Tec, Mexico

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Motivation

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Political Psychology

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Argument

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Candidates that **look like** and actually **are** wealthy (poor) will do better (worse) in elections.

- We follow a "least-likely case design" (Levy 2008). Finland has been consistently considered as:
 - A 'democratic' (Polity-V).
 - An 'economic egalitarian' (Waltl 2022).
 - A 'gender egalitarian.'
 - A 'social-mobility prone' country (Erola 2009).
- Thus, it should be hard to find any correlation between class-congruent use of status symbols and voting.

...and yet, we do.

Case

```
Y_i = \text{Votes}_i \sim \text{Poisson}
\log(\text{Votes}_i) = \beta_1 \text{Occupation-Appearance Congruence}_i \times \text{Social Class}_i + \beta_2 \text{Age}_i + \gamma_1 \text{Party}_i + \gamma_2 \text{City}_i + \Theta_i
```

- In Θ we also control for: Attractiveness_i, Masculinity_i and Femininity_i.
- Full, but also partition the data (male & female).
- We focus on the **marginal effects** of the interaction term.

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At a Glance

Main Results

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Wrapping Up

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Empirics

Discussion

Main Takeaways

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Wrapping Up

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Discussion

Thank you



to check updates on this project.

Summary Stats

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