

Place of Residence and Political Attitudes in Democracies Worldwide

Point-Based Outline

Jennifer Lin

Transitions to Democracy

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1 Point-Based Outline

1. Introduction to the Paper: The Intersection between Place of Residence and Political Attitudes¹
 - (a) The Big Picture: The United States and the 2016 Election: Rural voters have helped the Republican secure their victory and these voters are core to Trump's base (?). Can we observe these effects elsewhere?
 - (b) Guiding Question: Does place of residence influence political attitudes and ideology? How do certain factors of the regime, including its age and electoral formula, influence these results?
 - (c) Brief summary of key conclusions from Literature Review and Data Analysis
 - i. Place of residence matters for voters' political ideology but it varies depending on the regime electoral conditions where the voter cast their ballot.
 - ii. In more developed and longstanding democracies, place differences are more pronounced than democracies in earlier stages of development.
2. Literature Review
 - (a) Analysis of the Rural Consciousness in the United States and around the world with considerations of the country's political culture.

¹The materials used in this research project can all be found in this Git Repository <https://github.com/lin-jennifer/CompRuralPolitics.git> Which also includes the backstage files used to generate this document along with the Annotated Bibliography and detailed breakdown of analysis results

- i. In ? and ?, evidence suggests that living in a rural town versus an urban city would lead people to vote more Republican in elections.
 - ii. Furthermore, in ?, the same pattern is visible in Canadian Federal Elections when suburban and rural residents are more likely to vote for the conservative wing rather than the New Democratic Party, which is favored by those who reside in urban areas.
 - (b) Discern what the literature has to say about the ties between rurality and political attitudes - people who live in rural areas tend to be more religious and more conservative on social issues. However, they can also be liberal when it comes to the economy since that is where their own economic interests lie.
 - i. ? argues that people who live in rural/suburbia tend to not mingle with other people as much, so they are less likely to be influenced by appeals to diversity and view the world based on their faith. These patterns are observed in the US and in Canada.
 - (c) Overview of the elections that are considered in the CSES, including countries reported, actors involved and other key characteristics of the elections across the board.
 - i. Graph showing the distribution of levels of democracies represented by the CSES Module 4 - the majority of the states here are democracies. While they vary in their level of democracy, most guarantee basic freedoms to its people and hold elections
 - ii. Graph displaying voter turnout as a function of the registered voters AND voting age population.
 - iii. Graph displaying voter turnout percentage based on place of residence characteristics by country
3. Research Design: Methods and Variables
- (a) Data: CSES Module 4 <http://www.cses.org/datacenter/module4/module4.htm>
 - (b) Cases: The cases that are considered in this study are based on those available in the CSES dataset.²
 - (c) Methodology: See Section 2 for detailed breakdown
4. Results: Broken down by Regression Model
- (a) Regression: Across all polities: Place on ideology - The results suggest that there is a difference between place of residence and ideology of voters. Compared to rural voters, small village and suburban residents are significantly

²The CSES provides a brief synopsis of the elections that were used for the data collection here" http://www.cses.org/datacenter/module4/data/cses4_codebook_part5_election_summaries.txt.

more likely to see themselves as more liberal, but this cannot be said about urban residents

- (b) Regression: Interaction of place of residence and level of democracy on ideology - effects of place of residence at every level of democracy - The effect of place is more pronounced with lower levels of democracy. As democracies get more free (up to 10), the place of residence is not dependent on democracy, but may be on some other factors.
- (c) Regression: By electoral formula - regress place of residence on ideology
 - i. In Majoritarian elections, place matters. As people live in more urban places, they are more likely to be more liberal than rural residents. While the R^2 is 1%, the significance suggests that place matters but ideology may be governed more by other factors in countries with this type of electoral formula
 - ii. In PR elections, place is not as significant. This may be due to the nature of the electoral system itself. When all voices get some form of representation in proportion to the percentage of votes, it may be enough to mitigate any possible polarization resulting from competitions for representation in government.
 - iii. In Mixed systems, place only matters when you live in an urban city. In this system, living in a large city actually makes people more conservative, which is different from the pattern we see from before.
- (d) Regression: Interaction of place of residence and age of regime on ideology - effects of place on each increasing year of the regime
 - i. More of the older regimes are at the highest levels of democracy. As the regime gets older, the democracy becomes freer
 - ii. The effect of place will be more pronounced when the regime gets older than 100 years. When the regime is relatively young, nearing its foundation, there is a difference between place of residence and its effect on ideology. As the regime stabilizes and nears 100 years, place does not matter so much on the ideology than when the regime gets over 100 years. At that point, place begins to matter again as a predictor of ideology, and drastically more so than the foundation of the current regime.
- (e) Regression: Consideration of place of residence, level of democracy, regime electoral formula, and age of regime on political ideology - When we control for regime variables such as level of democracy, regime electoral formula, and age of regime, we see that small towns and suburban area voters are significantly more likely to self identify as more liberal, but this is not the case for urban center voters.
- (f) Regression: Place of Residence on Liberalism scale - how place influences vision on issues

5. Conclusion: Place of residence matters, but there is still a lot of noise in the model.
 - (a) When regressed on itself with regime variables, rural residents are significantly more conservative than urban residents - Yet, these points of conservatism are relatively small.
 - (b) Directions for future research
 - i. Consider any other possible variables that influence the interaction since research in American politics concludes that there are other factors such as education and income that matter in the relationship observed (?)
 - (c) Limitations of Present study
 - i. Data on transitioning regimes were not available for the CSES and there are not data points available for authoritarian regimes. This may be due to data collection limitations for those regimes.
 - ii. Each of the countries represented here are relatively liberal democracies, though there are some outliers in the mix.
 - iii. Urban residents are slightly more over-represented than rural residents in the sample.

2 Breakdown of Methodology

1. Variables: The following variables were integrated into the analysis³:
 - (a) D1004 Election
 - (b) D1006 Polity Identifier
 - (c) D1008 Election year
 - (d) D1010.1 Weights Sample
 - (e) D1010.2 Weights Demographic
 - (f) D1010.3 Weights Political
 - (g) D1015 Election Type
 - (h) D2031 Urban/Rural place of Residence
 - (i) D3014 Self Ideology
 - (j) D5051.1 Democracy to Autocracy scale at the time of the election
 - (k) D5052 Age of Current Regime
 - (l) D5054 Type of Executive
 - (m) D5056 Number of Months since last presidential election

³The Codebook used as a reference to determine which variables to use is located here: http://www.cses.org/datacenter/module4/data/cses4_codebook_part2_variables.txt

- (n) D5058 Electoral Formula
2. Generate alternative measure of ideology based on views of social and economic issues
 - (a) Recode the following variables on a scale of 0 = conservative and 1 = liberal with all other points scaled in between. Generates a 9-point scale on liberal views titled liberalism⁴
 - i. D3001 Public Expenditure - Should the government spend more on health, education, unemployment benefits, defense, old age pensions, business and industry, police, welfare benefits
 - ii. D3004 Income Inequality - Should the government do more to curtail the effects of income inequality
 3. Researcher recode of data: Missing data identified in the codebook as (99 = MISSING) or some other value that reflects that the respondent does not know the response to the question is replaced with a "." to represent missing data
 4. Analysis: Stata 15.1 was used to analyze the results
 5. Independent Variables:
 - (a) Place of Residence - Treated as a categorical variable
 - (b) Regime Age - Treated as a continuous variable
 - (c) Level of Democracy - Treated as a categorical variable
 - (d) Electoral Formula - Treated as a categorical variable
 6. Dependent Variable:
 - (a) Self Ideology - An individual's self placement on the ideological scale with 00 being most left and 10 being most right
 - (b) Liberalism - One's stance on the social issues
 7. Models
 - (a) Model 1 – Place of Residence on self-identified ideology
 - (b) Model 2 – Place of Residence on objective liberalism scale

⁴The determination for conservatism and liberalism is based on visions on spending where liberals will be more likely to approve government expenditures and support government social services to people in lieu of the more conservative vision of small government and government staying out of people's lives