

Comments on Kjøller, Levinsen, Sørensen, and Hjorth: “The Effects of Electing Working Class Candidates”

Jonathan Homola

Department of Political Science
UCLA
homola@ucla.edu

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Contributions and strengths

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- ▶ Descriptive → substantive representation
- ▶ Working class representation
- ▶ Methodological innovation
 - ▶ Causal identification (soon!)
 - ▶ Data collection
 - ▶ Analysis

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 - ▶ Close election design based on candidate characteristics

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Motivation

Place in literature

- ▶ “Existing work only focused on LR” → but also specific issues
- ▶ “We extend this [politics of preference] logic beyond policy preference to issue agendas” → but gender and politics literature does this too
- ▶ See also Velimsky et al. (West European Politics), Barnes et al. (CUP)
- ▶ ⇒ Stronger focus on empirical novelty, causality, PCRD

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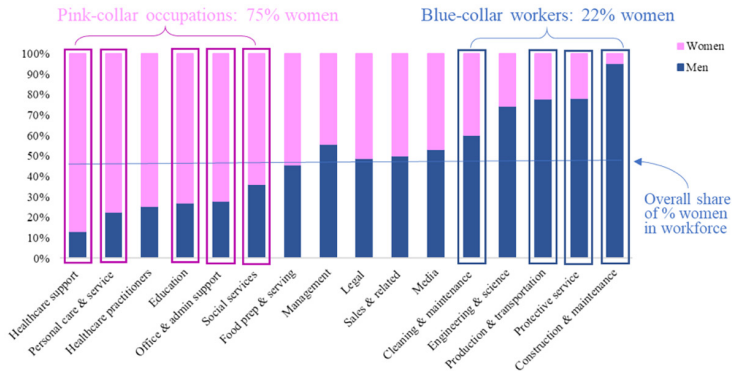
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Complexity

- ▶ Motivation much less clear
- ▶ What kind of representation is this? Symbolic? (Crisp et al. 2018, BJPS)
- ▶ Does not really seem to fit the rest of the paper
- ▶ ⇒ Drop and make more space for causal analysis?

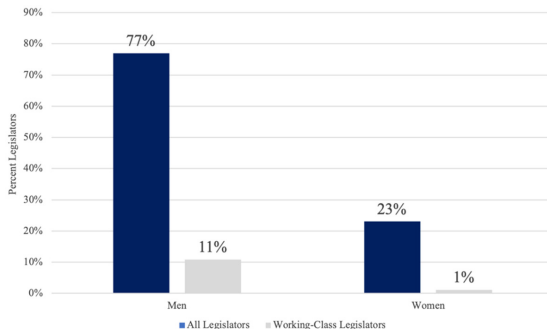
Theory – pink collar jobs

- Barnes et al. (2021, LSQ) argue that a focus on blue collar jobs tends to overlook women in pink collar jobs (low-status, dominated by women)



Theory

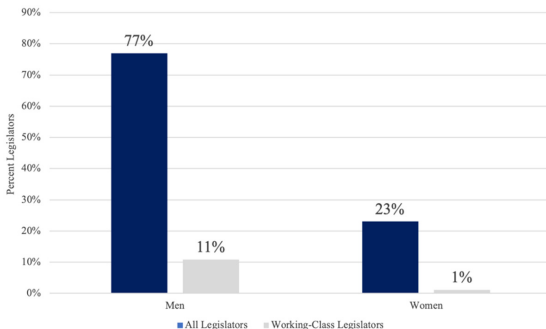
Literature on pink collar jobs



- ▶ What is the share of working class politicians among women vs men in the sample?

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Literature on pink collar jobs



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Congruence hypothesis

- ▶ “Congruence between issue attention and voter issue agendas is greater for worker MPs.”
- ▶ Between worker MPs and ALL voters?
- ▶ Analysis suggests yes, but why?

Data and analysis (temporary while we wait for PCRD)

If you keep complexity analysis

- ▶ Want to know more about the *Korpus 90* – could workers actually use rare words?
- ▶ Perhaps worthwhile to *also* look at (old school) FRE approach (word/sentence length)?

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Outcome variables

- ▶ Provide more context: is a 0.5 complexity difference, 0.0005 issue attention, 0.02 congruence difference substantively interesting?
- ▶ Congruence analysis: are voter preferences measured in a pooled way across 50 years? Appendix C shows LOTS of over time variation
 - ▶ Appendix F shows outcomes by year, but still unclear how voter prefs are measured

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Congruence analysis

- ▶ Most trends (and levels) for voter issue salience look fairly similar – should we be concerned? (Soroka/Wlezien 2008)
- ▶ Trends and levels for MP speech topics vary much more – what are the correlations for both measures?
- ▶ Does it make sense to compare one speech (presumably often on one topic) to vector of all 14 dimensions/preferences? Could you also analyze this at the MP(-legislative period) level and pool all speeches?

Minor comments

- ▶ Why stop in 2015? Presumably 2019 and 2022 exists by now?
- ▶ “Substantial representation” – more common “substantive”
- ▶ Distribution of rare word usage has a spike exactly at 0.5?
- ▶ Union president coded as working class (and one of the top 3 most common working class jobs)?
- ▶ “Well this is Scandinavia...” – good case justification, but perhaps also fair to discuss potential limits to generalizability