Comments on "Voting behavior under doubts of ballot secrecy: (un)intentionally nudging voters towards a dominant party regime" by Kai Ostwald and Guillem Riambau
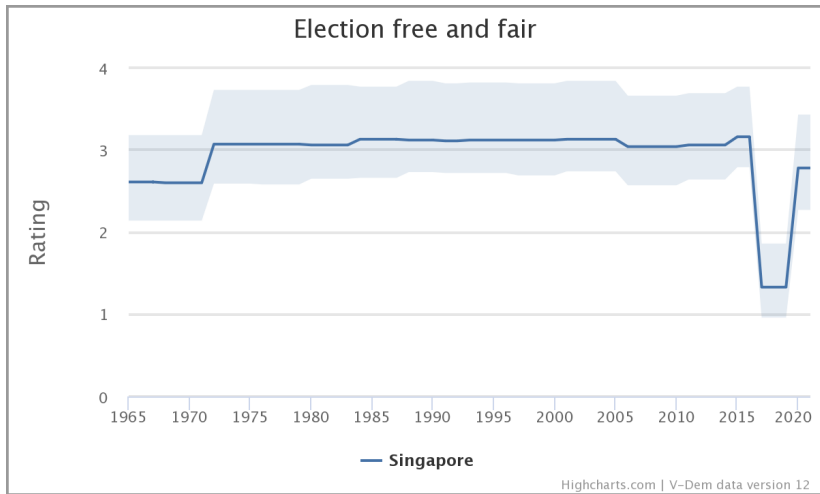
Juraj Medzihorsky
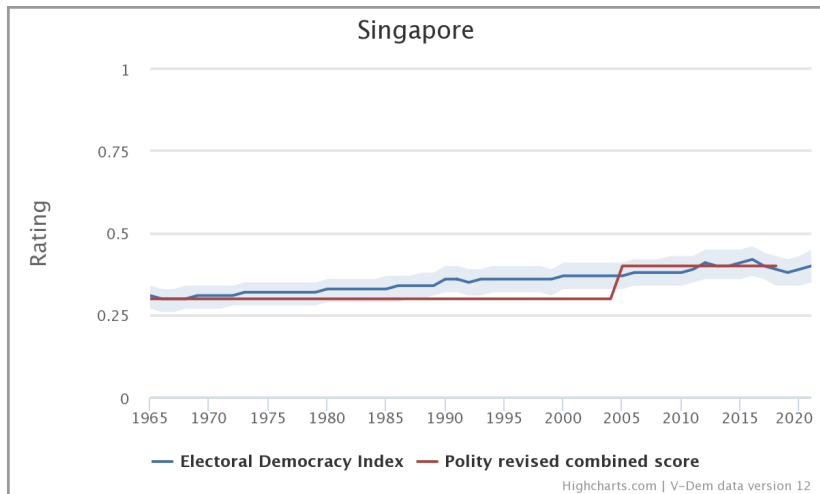
Durham University

EPSA 2022

Summary

- Very clearly written and easy to follow
- Goals:
  1. Measure in survey a belief that is challenging to measure as it relates to trust and willingness to disclose information
  2. See how this belief relates to other beliefs, socio-econ characteristics, political preferences
  3. Estimate how a change in this belief would affect Singaporean elections and politics
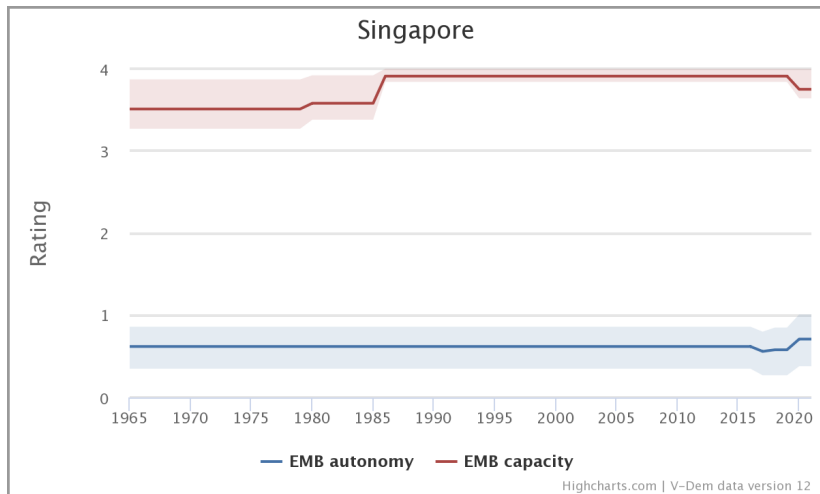
Singapore's status w.r.t. (electoral) democracy

Election free and fair

Rating

1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020

— Singapore

Highcharts.com | V–Dem data version 12

Singapore's status w.r.t. (electoral) democracy

Singapore

Rating

Legend:
— Electoral Democracy Index — Polity revised combined score

Highcharts.com | V–Dem data version 12

Singapore's status w.r.t. (electoral) democracy

Singapore — EMB autonomy and EMB capacity ratings, V–Dem data version 12 (Highcharts.com)

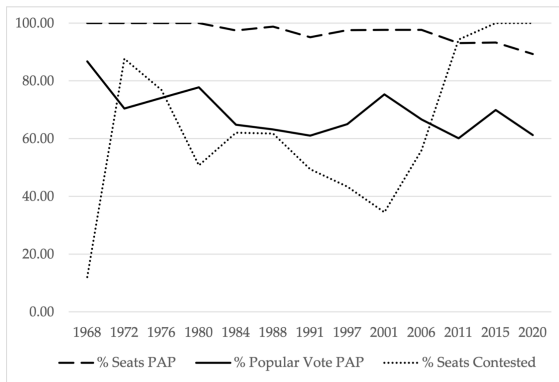Costs and benefits *to the voters* of voting for the Singaporean opposition

Casino (1995)

Costs and benefits to the voters of voting for the Singaporean opposition

- What's there to gain? And what are the chances of that?
- What's there to lose? And what are the chances of that?
- Could the gov't find out and individually sanction in the future?
- Could it do so now, using some other info?
- The most secure secrets are those that do not exist

Benefits, costs, and psychological effects of voting under highly gerrymandered partly multi-member FPTP

Figure 1: Parliamentary elections in Singapore since independence

Reproduced from Ostwald and Riambau 2022.

- Associations
- Conditional associations
- Prediction as forecasting
- Effects and regression coefs
  - ▶ Confounding
  - ▶ Weights

- Location (and thus constituency) not in the data
- Uniform swing
- MRP?