

Comments on “Voting behavior under  
doubts of ballot secrecy:  
(un)intentionally nudging voters  
towards a dominant party regime” by  
Kai Ostwald and Guillem Rimbau

Juraj Medzihorsky

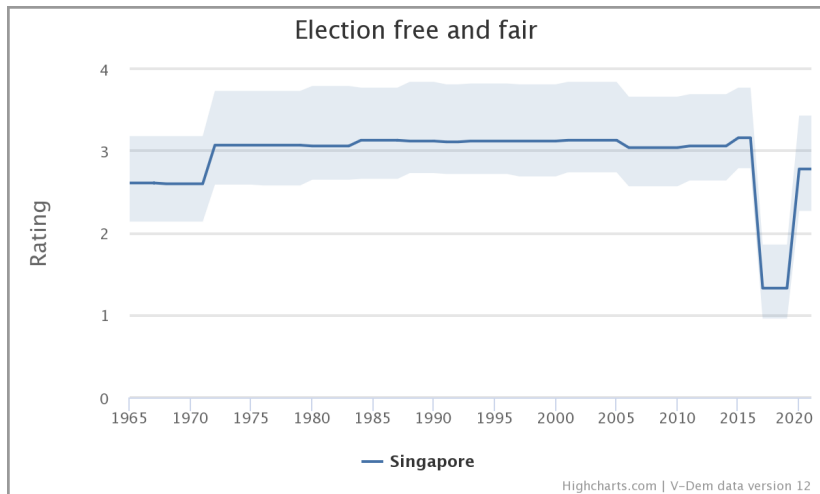
Durham University

EPSA 2022

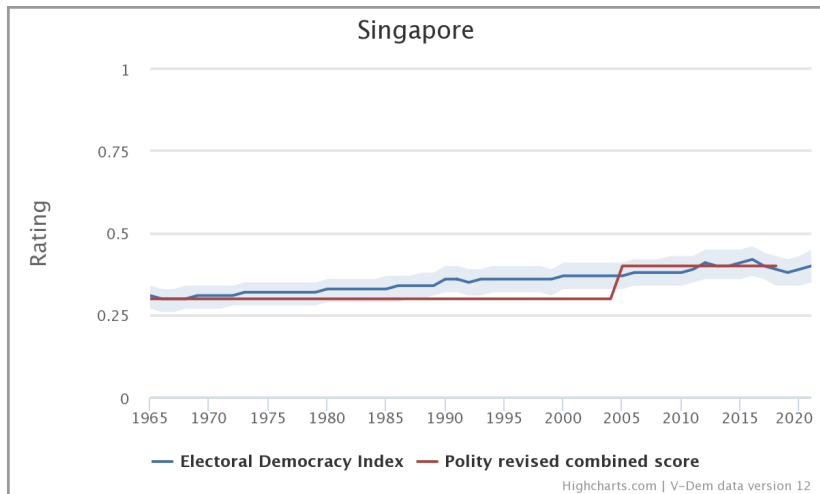
## Summary

- Very clearly written and easy to follow
- Two 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

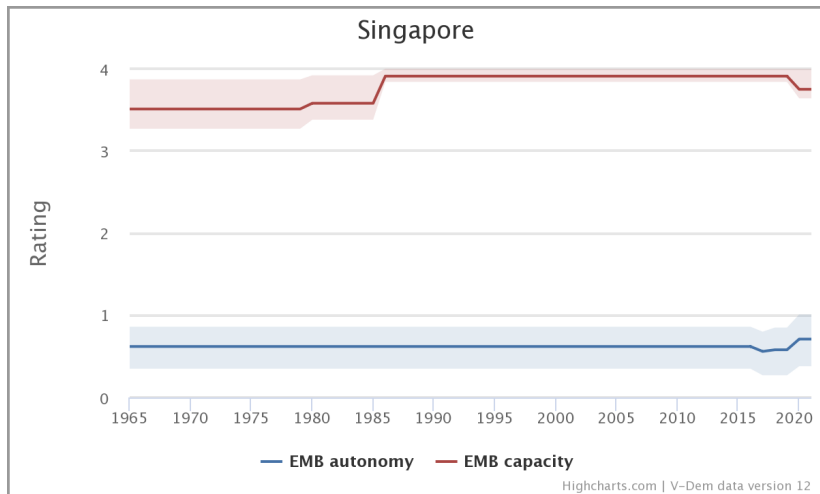
# Singapore's status w.r.t. (electoral) democracy



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



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



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



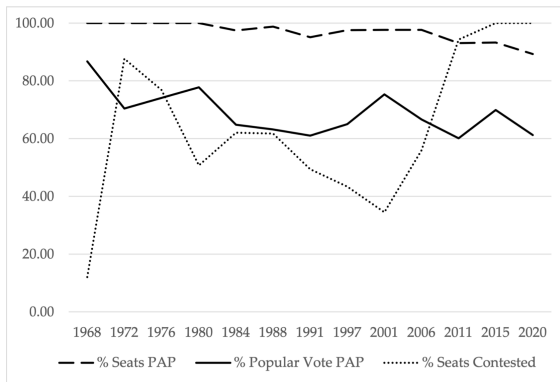
*Casino* (1995)

## 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

# Singapore's electoral system

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 Rimbau 2022.



## 2. Beliefs on ballot secrecy and other things

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

### 3. Simulated elections

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