

Presentation

Rita Alvarez Martinez & Rafael Schmuziger

December 2nd, 2016

SUMMARY

- ▶ Motivation and Research Question
- ▶ Model
- ▶ Sources of data and methods of gathering
- ▶ Descriptive statistics
- ▶ Results
- ▶ Conclusion

MOTIVATION

RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ▶ **Spanish political system:** From a bi-party system (PP and the PSOE) to a multi party system (PP, PSOE, Podemos and Ciudadanos) in less than two years.
- ▶ **Critical social situation:** Especially for young people (youth unemployment rates reached 48.1% in 2015).
- ▶ **Increased social mobilization:** The M15 movement (*indigandos*) and demonstrations against austerity measures mobilized people traditionally not involved with politics - especially young people.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ▶ **Literature:** Turnout rate related to age, race/ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status and political/economical factors.
- ▶ Our model focus on whether **youth unemployment** (16 to 24 years old) has an impact on turnout in the case of Spain.

Do higher youth unemployment rates have impact on voter turnout?

MODEL

Regional Fixed effects model

$$Turnout_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Youth\ Unemployment\ Rate_{it} + \delta_i + \epsilon_{it}$$

Regional and Time Fixed effects model

$$Turnout_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Youth\ Unemployment\ Rate_{it} + \delta_i + \lambda_t + \epsilon_{it}$$

SOURCES OF DATA

Dataset comprised by two sources:

1. Electoral data of 2004, 2008, 2011 and 2015 (Spain Public Administration).
2. Unemployment rates by age groups in the same period (Spanish National Statistics Institute - INE).

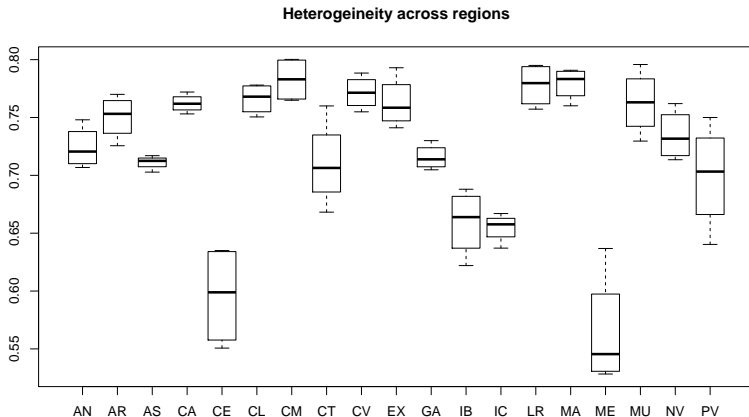
METHODS OF GATHERING

- ▶ **Electoral data:** *Web scraping* we used a different URL source to grab the data available online for each of the 19 regions of Spain in the four election cycles.
- ▶ **Unemployment data:** We used the tool that the INE offers to download the needed data on Excel and imported from R.

Both datasets were cleaned/merged to form the final dataset "Spain_data".

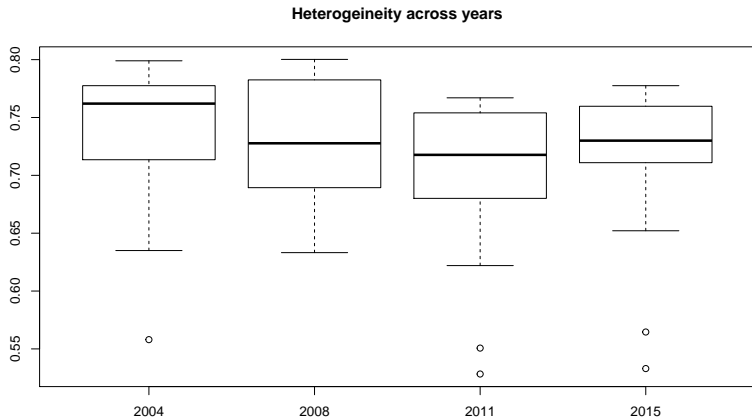
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (1)

Dependent Variable: Turnout



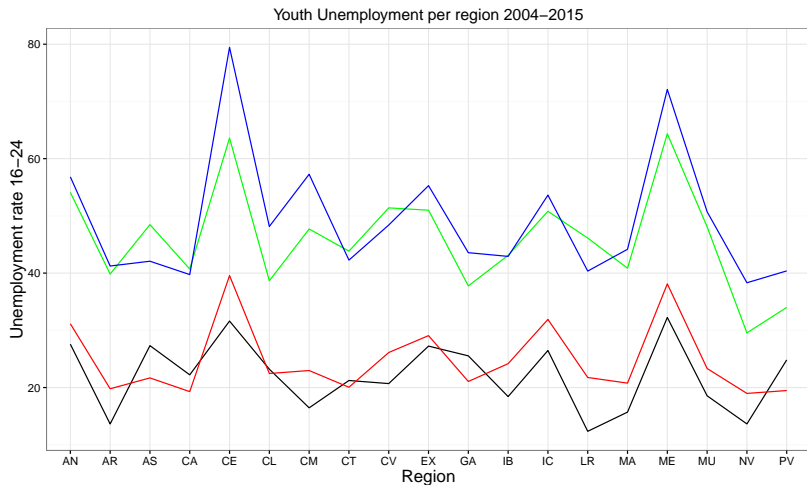
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (2)

Dependent Variable: Turnout



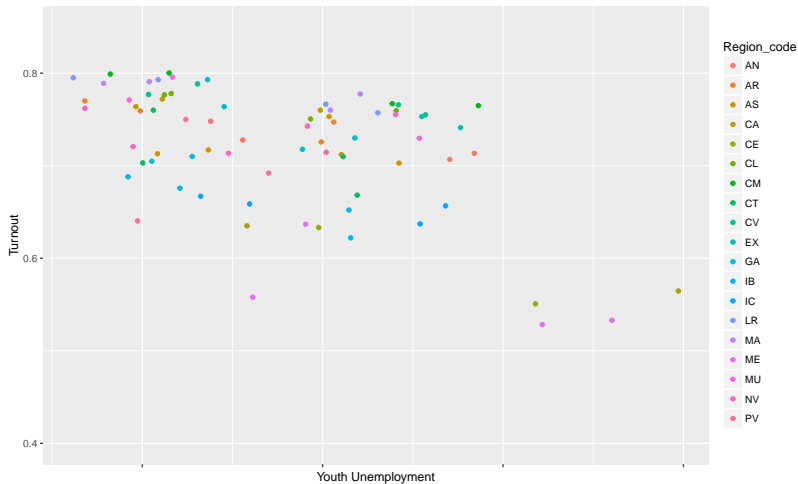
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (3)

Independent Variable: Youth Unemployment



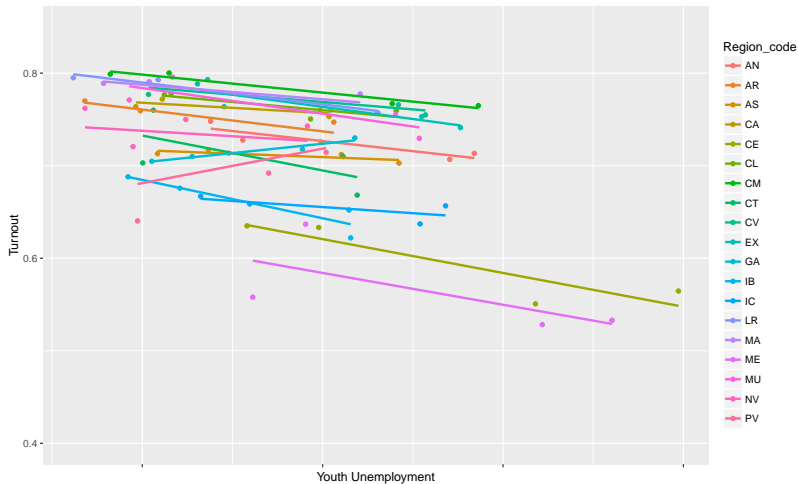
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (4)

Turnout and Youth Unemployment



DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (5)

Turnout and Youth Unemployment patterns



RESULTS

Table 1: Basic Regression

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>
	Voter Turnout in General Elections
Youth Unemployment	-0.002*** (0.0004)
Constant	0.799*** (0.017)
Observations	76
R ²	0.252
Adjusted R ²	0.241
Residual Std. Error	0.057 (df = 74)
F Statistic	24.877*** (df = 1; 74)

CONCLUSIONS