

Presentation

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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

$$(1) \textit{Turnout}_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \textit{Youth Unemployment Rate}_{it} + \delta_i + \epsilon_{it}$$

Regional and Time Fixed effects model

$$(2) \textit{Turnout}_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \textit{Youth Unemployment Rate}_{it} + \delta_i + \lambda_t + \epsilon_{it}$$

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).

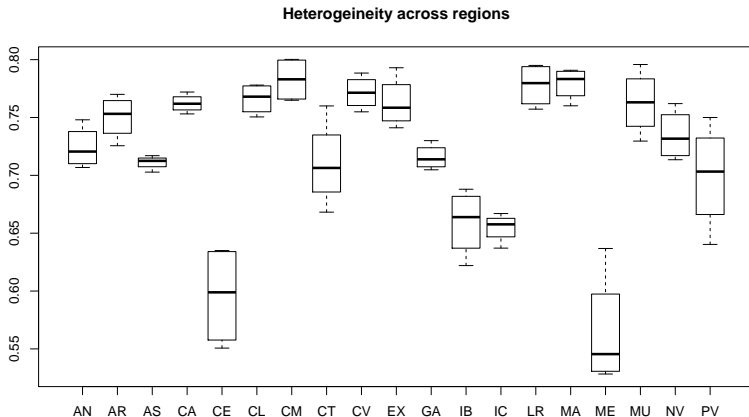
METHODS OF GATHERING

- ▶ **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".

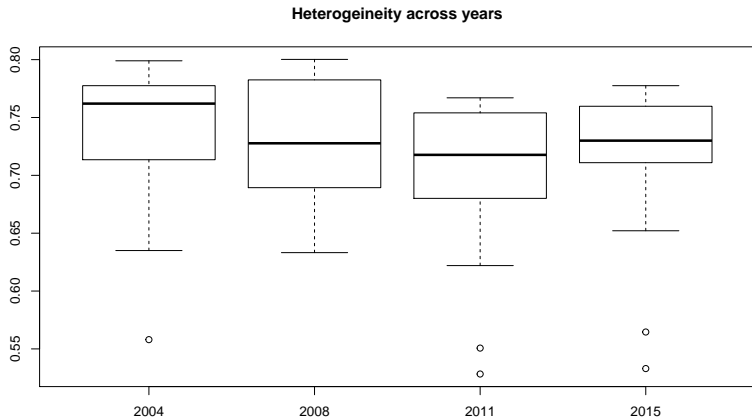
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (1)

Dependent Variable: Turnout



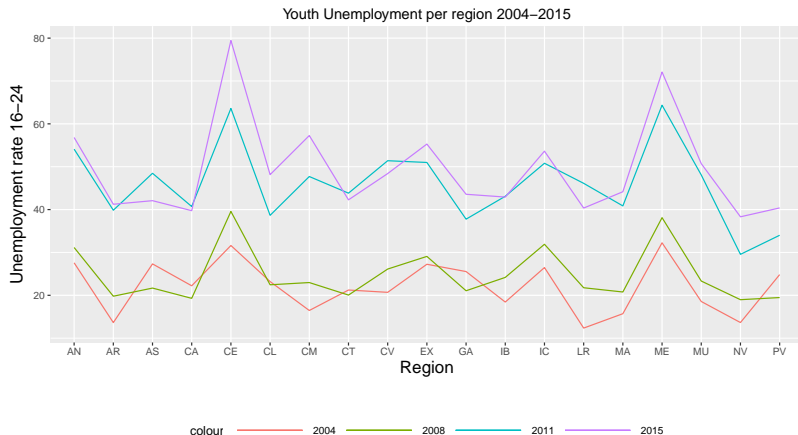
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (2)

Dependent Variable: Turnout



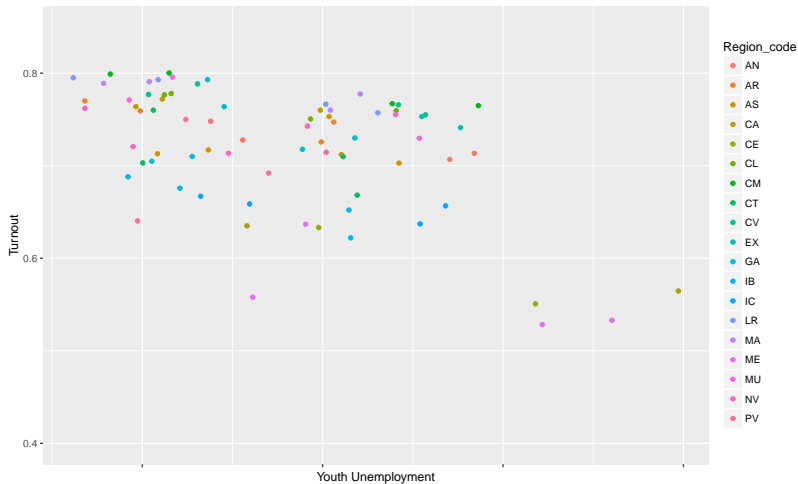
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (3)

Independent Variable: Youth Unemployment



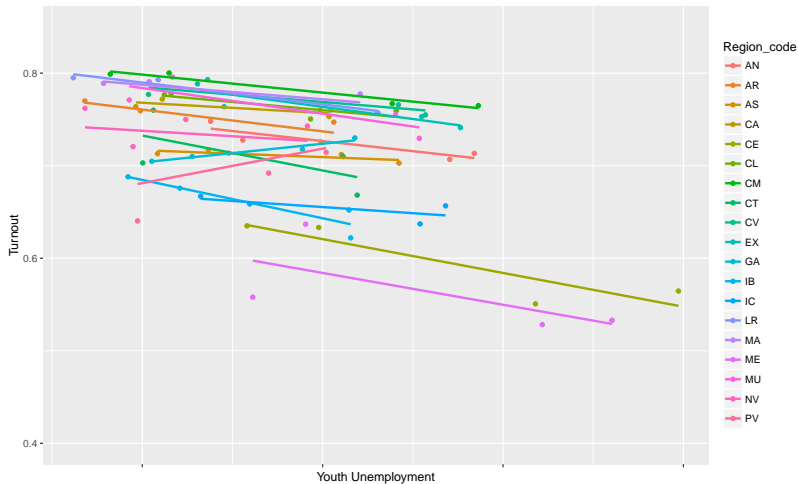
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (4)

Turnout and Youth Unemployment



DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (5)

Turnout and Youth Unemployment patterns



RESULTS (1)

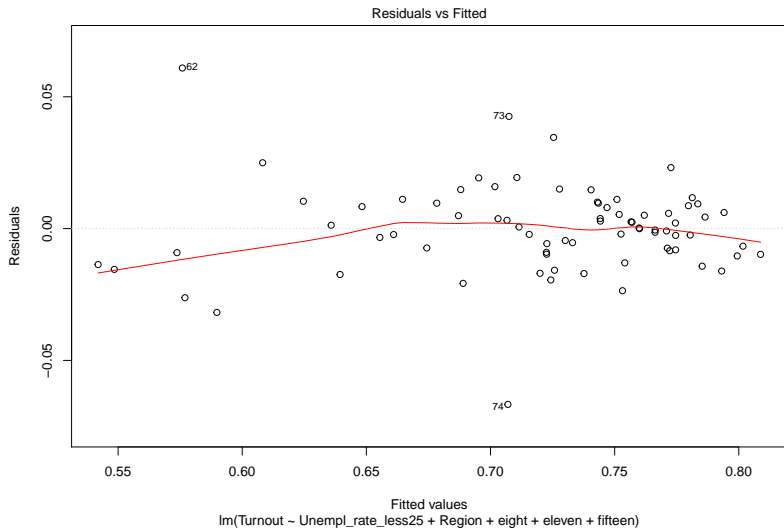
Table 1: Basic Regression

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Voter Turnout in General Elections	
	(1)	(2)
Youth Unemployment	−0.001*** (0.0002)	−0.001* (0.001)
eight		−0.007 (0.007)
eleven		−0.009 (0.016)
fifteen		0.006 (0.018)
Constant	0.771*** (0.013)	0.777*** (0.021)
Region fixed effects	YES	YES
Observations	76	76
R ²	0.925	0.933
Adjusted R ²	0.899	0.906
Residual Std. Error	0.021 (df = 56)	0.020 (df = 53)
F Statistic	36.162*** (df = 19; 56)	33.701*** (df = 22; 53)

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

RESULTS (2)



CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ In Spain, youth unemployment affects turnout negatively, in general.

BUT:

- ▶ Different regions present different patterns
- ▶ In 2015, a higher level of youth unemployment was correlated to higher turnout

EXTRA SLIDE

Table 2: Basic Regression

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Voter Turnout in General Election	
	(1)	(2)
Youth Unemployment	−0.001*** (0.0002)	−0.001*** (0.0002)
Constant	0.011 (0.015)	0.011 (0.015)
RegionAsturias	−0.021 (0.015)	−0.021 (0.015)
RegionBalears	−0.076***	−0.076***