

ARE WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT MORE RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC PRIORITIES?

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- Are women in parliament more responsive to the issues that are prioritized by women constituents?
- If so, is it the case that women in parliament simply are more attuned to women's priorities, or are women in parliament more responsive to the public more generally?
- Finally, are women in parliament also more responsive to the issues prioritized by male constituents?

- The Jackie (and Jill) Robinson effect (Anzia & Berry, 2011): women face additional barriers compared to men on the way to elected office
- Only the most talented, hardest female candidates succeed in electoral politics
- Feminist Democratic Representation (FDR) (Celis & Childs, 2020) builds on but yet extends beyond traditional theories of substantive representation
- In addition to acting in a responsive manner (Pitkin, 1967), political representatives act on behalf of core feminist principles of inclusiveness and egalitarianism
- Women in parliament will additionally engage with, and respond to, a wider scope of issues

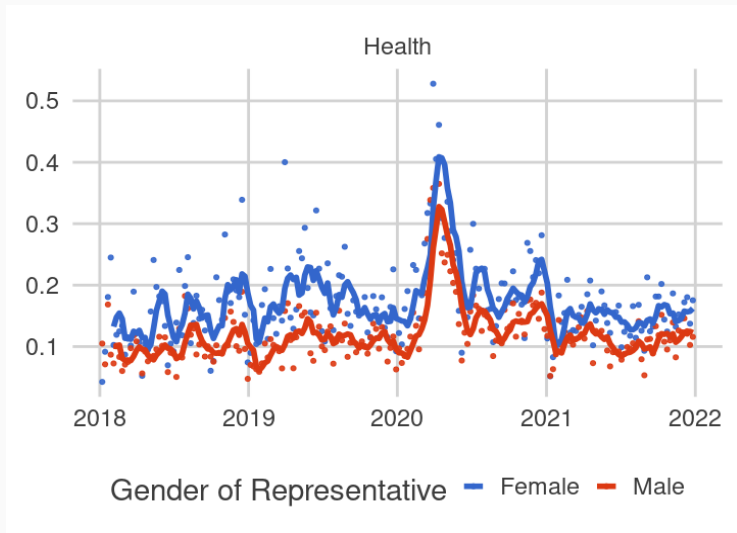
- Responsiveness is an ongoing, dynamic process (Stimson, MacKuen, & Erikson, 1995)
- Before representatives can adjust policy to public preferences, they must respond to the public's issue priorities (Baumgartner & Jones, 2010)
- We conceptualize responsiveness as shifts in the public salience of an issue met by shifts in legislators' attention to the same issue

HOW CAN WE MEASURE LEGISLATORS' ATTENTION?

- We look to legislators' tweets sent on Twitter to measure their attention to the issues surveyed
- We train Word2Vec embeddings models (Mikolov, Sutskever, Chen, Corrado, & Dean, 2013) on legislators' tweets in each country
- Models are then used to build keyword dictionaries by performing semantic similarity queries using the issue as a seed word
- We use the top-10 keywords for each issue to identify tweets sent by representatives¹

¹see Appendix B

LEGISLATORS' 'ATTENTION' TO HEALTH IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

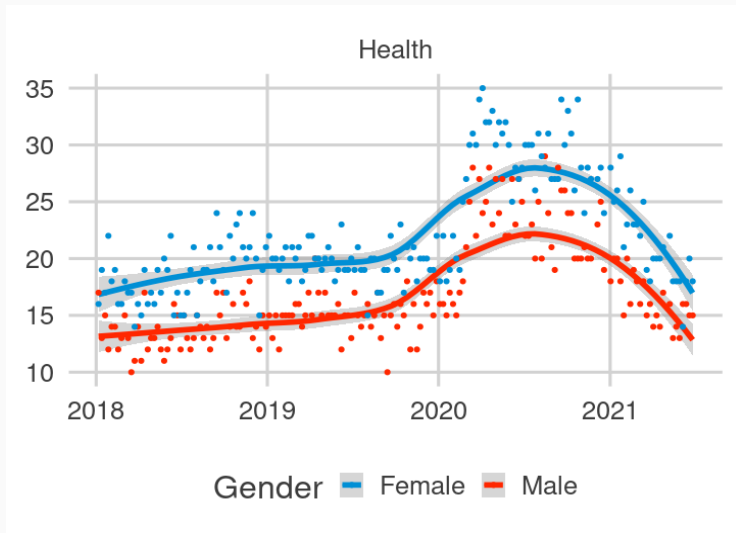


HOW CAN WE MEASURE PUBLIC ATTENTION?

- Public attention to different issues is in constant flux (Baumgartner & Jones, 2010)
- We combine hundreds of individual surveys asking the public ‘What is the most important problem facing the country?’
- Responses include numerous issues,² allowing for dynamic measurements of public priorities by gender in the US & UK

²See Appendix A

PUBLIC 'ATTENTION' TO HEALTH IN THE UNITED STATES



ARE WOMEN MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE PUBLIC?

- We used lagged OLS models to estimate the degree to which shifts in public attention predict subsequent shifts in legislators' attention
- In the US and UK, male representatives are consistently 12–16 percent less responsive than women representatives to national public priorities

US Female Reps. → National public	0.062** (0.029)
UK Female Reps. → National public	0.071*** (0.017)

Table: Responsiveness to national public priorities by gender of representative. Gender of representative is a dummy variable in the model. *See tables 1 and 2 in paper*

ARE WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES MORE RESPONSIVE TO WOMEN?

- Women representatives are more responsive to women's issue priorities in the US and UK than their male counterparts

US Female Reps. → Women's attention	0.094*** (0.026)
UK Female Reps. → Women's attention	0.076*** (0.015)

Table: Responsiveness to women's issue priorities by gender of representative.
Gender of representative is a binary variable in the model. *See tables 3 and 4 in paper*

ARE WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES MORE RESPONSIVE TO MEN?

- Women representatives are more responsive to men's issue priorities in the UK but not quite in the US

US Female Reps. → Men's attention	0.012 (0.034)
UK Female Reps. → Men's attention	0.055*** (0.019)

Table: Responsiveness to men's issue priorities by gender of representative. Gender of representative is a binary variable in the model. *See tables 3 and 4 in paper*

- Robustness checks performed - reverse causality/keywords
- Clear differences in how men and women in politics align their attention with the public
- Responsiveness is not a zero-sum game

- Women face greater institutional constraints than men, likely masking the extent to which behavior differs in other contexts beyond social media
- Studies examining gendered differences should do so when individuals face the fewest constraints – social media provides a great opportunity
- It is likely in the best interest of both men and women voters to elect more women (seriously)

References

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