# Pre-analysis plan for a study on affective polarization in a multiparty setting

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## 1 Introduction

Studies from the USA (e.g., Iyengar and Westwood, 2015; Iyengar, Sood and Lelkes, 2012) suggests that Americans dislike people from the other party to the extent that they would be unhappy if their son or daughter married someone voting for the other party. A study by Klar, Krupnikov and Ryan (2018) further suggest that this is mainly restricted to strong partisans, and that negative affect toward the other political side is, first and foremost, negative affect toward partisans who discuss politics frequently, rather than rarely, regardless of the party they support.

I fielded a replication of the experiment by Klar, Krupnikov and Ryan (2018) in a probability based panel of Norwegian adults. I customized the design for a multiparty setting and investigate to what degree Norwegians are affectively polarized by (a) investigating whether people want their child to marry someone from their own party, a party they dislike, and a party they like, (b) to what extent it matters that the hypothetical in-law talks often or rarely about politics, and (c) whether these results vary among the more and less politically interested or educated, age groups, and between the left/right ideological axis.

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## 2 The design

This experiment is a replication of the study by Klar, Krupnikov and Ryan (2018), customized to a setting with nine, rather than two, political parties. The study is conducted in Norway in the Norwegian Citizen Panel. In the original experiment, Klar, Krupnikov and Ryan (2018) asked American adults: "How would you feel if you had a son or daughter who married someone who votes for the [Democratic Party/Republican Party] [but who rarely/and who frequently] talks about politics?". They used a five-point scale ranging from "very unhappy" to "very happy."

I have fielded a similar design in the twelfth wave of the Norwegian Citizen Panel, asking Norwegian adults (translated version): "How happy or unhappy would you feel if you had a son or daughter who married someone who votes for [The Progress Party / The Labour Party / The Conservative Party / The Liberal Party / The Christian Democratic Party / The Center Party (Agrarian Party) / The Green Party / The Radical Left Party / The Socialist Left Party.] [but who rarely/and who frequently] talks about politics?". Following the standard scale of the Norwegian Citizen Panel, I use a seven-point scale ranging from "very unhappy" to "very happy."

The Norwegian wording is as follows: "Hvor fornøyd eller misfornøyd ville du vært dersom du hadde en datter eller sønn som giftet seg med en person som stemmer [Rødt / Sosialistisk Venstreparti / Arbeiderpartiet / Senterpartiet / Miljøpartiet De Grønne / Venstre / Kristelig Folkeparti / Høyre / Fremskrittspartiet] [og ofte/, men sjelden] snakker om politikk?"

And the scale is as follows: "Svært fornøyd, Fornøyd, Noe fornøyd, Verken fornøyd eller misfornøyd, Noe misfornøyd, Misfornøyd, and Svært misfornøyd".

## 3 Data

The data for this study is collected through a probability-based online national survey conducted by the Norwegian Citizen Panel (NCP) from June 5th to June 25th 2018. The data will be available free of cost for scholars via the Norwegian Centre for Research Data.

## 4 Pre-analysis plan

I expect the respondents to be less happy with their son or daughter marrying a person that votes for a party they (a) dislike, (b) they did not vote for, and (c) that talks frequently, rather

than seldom, about politics.

I will analyze the data with OLS regression models and the analysis of the results will follow the following steps:

I will first explore the main results for all conditions by plotting the differences in mean (with 95 % confidence interval) for all the nine Norwegian parties.

I will then explore the results for all conditions by matching the party shown in the vignette with a variable that measure the degree respondents like or dislike that specific political party. More specifically, the item in the NCP asks: "We would like to ask you to consider how much you like or dislike the various political parties in Norway..." on a a scale from 1 (Intensely dislike) to 7 (Intensely like)". I code the matched variable as "Like party", "Dislike the party", or "Neither".

I will then explore the results for all conditions with a measure of voting intention: If an national election was held tomorrow, which party would you vote for? Following the same procedure as explained above, I code the matched variable as "Voted for party", "Did not vote for party".

Finally, I will explore the effects by breaking these results down by age, gender, education, political interest, and self placement on the ideological left-right scale.

## References


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