Online Supporting Information:

Political Dynasties and the Selection of Cabinet Ministers

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Abstract

We investigate whether politicians whose family relatives previously served in parliament and cabinet enjoy a competitive "legacy advantage" in progressing from the backbenches to cabinet. This advantage may stem from two potential mechanisms: a direct effect attributable to the informational advantages of legacies, or an indirect effect that operates through greater electoral strength. We evaluate the relative contribution of each mechanism using candidate-level data from Irish parliamentary elections and cabinets from 1944-2016. Our results reveal that politicians with a family history in cabinet do enjoy an advantage in cabinet selection, and that this advantage cannot be attributed simply to greater electoral popularity.

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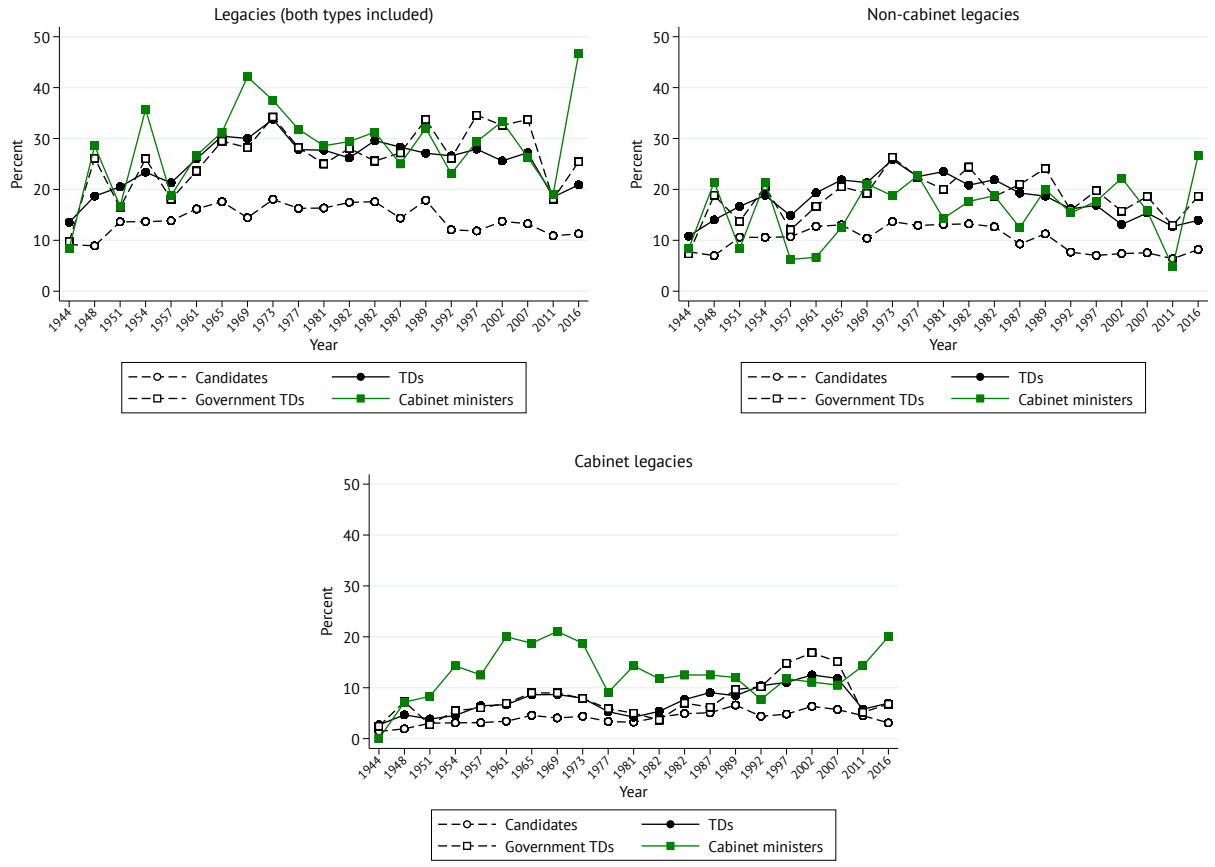
Figure A.1: Proportion of candidates, TDs, government-party TDs, and cabinet ministers in the Republic of Ireland, by legacy status, 1944-2016



Note: Candidate and TD samples include by-election candidates and winners. Cabinet minister sample excludes non-TD cabinet ministers, and combines all cabinets formed during the term. The primary sources of the candidate data are Elections Ireland (electionsireland.org), Gallagher (1993), and Gallagher (2009) for elections prior to 2011 (see main article for full references). Source for 2011 and 2016 elections is *The Independent* newspaper (online). Ministerial appointment data are from the website of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister). Data sources for family ties are listed in endnote 9 in the main article.

Table A.1: Descriptive statistics of the data sample: candidates

Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.
Win (DV1)	8,715	0.3860	0.4869	0	1
Share of quota (DV2)	8,693	0.4927	0.3608	0	2.5
Non-cabinet legacy	8,715	0.0974	0.2965	0	1
Cabinet legacy	8,715	0.0414	0.1993	0	1
Female	8,715	0.1138	0.3176	0	1
First-time candidate	8,715	0.3980	0.4895	0	1

Party name	Number	Percent
Fianna Fáil	2,500	28.69
Fine Gael	2,112	24.23
Labour	1,044	11.98
Sinn Féin	397	4.56
Progressive Democrats	196	2.25
Green Party	237	2.72
Democratic Left	38	0.44
Christian Solidarity	55	0.63
Independents	1,473	16.90
Indep. Labour/National Labour	24	0.28
Workers' Party	138	1.58
Socialist	27	0.31
People Before Profit	37	0.42
New Vision	20	0.23
Clann na Poblachta	173	1.99
Clann na Talmhan	66	0.76
Other minor parties	178	2.04
Total	**8,175**	**100**

Note: Sample includes by-election candidates. The number of observations for *Share of the quota* is lower due to unopposed candidates and former Speakers (*Cinn Chomhairle*), who are returned automatically.

Table A.2: Descriptive statistics of the data sample: backbench governing-party TDs

Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.
Cabinet appointment	1,477	0.10	0.31	0	1
Non-cabinet legacy	1,477	0.18	0.39	0	1
Cabinet legacy	1,477	0.07	0.26	0	1
Number of wins	1,477	3.31	2.49	1	15
Share of quota	1,474	0.83	0.24	0.08	2.05
Prior local assembly experience	1,477	0.55	0.50	0	1
Prior Seanad experience	1,477	0.04	0.19	0	1
ISCO occupation code:					
1 = Senior officials, managers	1,477	0.16	0.37	0	1
2 = Professionals	1,477	0.40	0.49	0	1
3 = Technicians, associate professionals	1,477	0.12	0.32	0	1
4 = Clerks	1,477	0.02	0.15	0	1
5 = Service workers, shop workers	1,477	0.07	0.25	0	1
6 = Skilled agricultural, fishery workers	1,477	0.17	0.38	0	1
7 = Craft and related trades workers	1,477	0.04	0.20	0	1
8 = Machine operators, assemblers	1,477	0.01	0.07	0	1
9 = Elementary occupations	1,477	0.01	0.07	0	1
10 = Military/IRA	1,477	0.01	0.08	0	1
Female	1,477	0.08	0.28	0	1
Age	1,477	47.25	10.70	21	75
Local born	1,424	0.80	0.40	0	1
Post-secondary training or degree (only)	1,345	0.50	0.50	0	1
Post-graduate degree	1,345	0.09	0.28	0	1
Attended UCD	1,326	0.22	0.42	0	1
Attended fees-paying secondary school	1,279	0.18	0.39	0	1

Party name	Number	Percent
Fianna Fáil	882	59.72
Fine Gael	399	27.01
Labour	140	9.48
Progressive Democrats	14	0.95
Greens	5	0.34
Democratic Left	6	0.41
Independent	8	0.54
National Labour	5	0.34
Clann na Poblachta	10	0.68
Clann na Talmhan	8	0.54
Total	**1,477**	**100**

Note: Sample excludes Prime Minister, Speaker (*Ceann Comhairle*), and TDs with previous cabinet experience. Includes by-election winners. The number of observations for *Share of the quota* is lower due to unopposed candidates and former *Cinn Chomhairle*, who are returned automatically.

Table A.3: The direct and indirect effects of being a cabinet legacy: LSEM approach

DV:	Cabinet appt.	Share of quota	Cabinet appt.
Cabinet legacy	0.090	0.054	0.077
	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.042)
Number of wins	0.064	0.066	0.050
	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)
Number of wins^2	-0.005	-0.005	-0.004
	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Share of quota			0.231
			(0.039)
Constant	-0.035	0.690	-0.195
	(0.016)	(0.017)	(0.033)
N	1,477	1,474	1,474
R^2	0.077	0.155	0.104
Party-Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: Robust standard errors clustered on individual TD in parentheses. Non-cabinet legacies are excluded, so the comparison is cabinet legacies to non-legacies. The total effect (c) is the coefficient on *Cabinet legacy* in the first column = .09. The indirect effect (ab = .01) is the product of the coefficient on *Cabinet legacy* in the second column (a = .05) and the coefficient on *Share of quota* in the third column (b = .23). The direct effect (c') is equal to c - ab = .08.

Table A.4: The legacy advantage conditioning on pre-electoral attributes (1): experience

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Non-cabinet legacy	-0.018	-0.026	-0.016	-0.020
	(0.020)	(0.020)	(0.020)	(0.020)
Cabinet legacy	0.086	0.076	0.083	0.065
	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.039)
Number of wins	0.065	0.063	0.065	0.070
	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.010)
Number of wins^2	-0.005	-0.005	-0.005	-0.005
	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Prior local assembly experience		-0.070		
		(0.017)		
Prior Seanad experience			0.070	
			(0.055)	
ISCO-2 = Professionals				0.069
				(0.026)
ISCO-3 = Technicians				-0.022
				(0.029)
ISCO-4 = Clerks				-0.013
				(0.049)
ISCO-5 = Service workers				-0.066
				(0.029)
ISCO-6 = Agricultural, fishery				-0.040
				(0.027)
ISCO-7 = Craft and trades				-0.057
				(0.040)
ISCO-8 = Machine operators				0.071
				(0.118)
ISCO-9 = Elementary occupations				-0.065
				(0.046)
ISCO-10 = Military/IRA				-0.023
				(0.100)
Constant	-0.032	0.012	-0.036	-0.054
	(0.017)	(0.019)	(0.017)	(0.028)
N	1,477	1,477	1,477	1,477
R^2	0.078	0.089	0.080	0.103
Party-Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: Robust standard errors clustered on individual TD in parentheses. Experience controls include categorical dummies for prior experience (i.e., before being elected to the Dáil) in a local assembly, prior experience in the Seanad, and prior occupation (baseline category is ISCO 1 = Senior officials and managers).

Table A.5: The legacy advantage conditioning on pre-electoral attributes (2): demographics

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Non-cabinet legacy	-0.023	-0.033	-0.021
	(0.020)	(0.020)	(0.021)
Cabinet legacy	0.083	0.069	0.080
	(0.039)	(0.040)	(0.038)
Number of wins	0.065	0.074	0.067
	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.010)
Number of wins^2	-0.005	-0.005	-0.005
	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Female	0.039		
	(0.030)		
Age 30-39		0.059	
		(0.028)	
Age 40-49		0.043	
		(0.028)	
Age 50-59		-0.002	
		(0.030)	
Age 60 and older		-0.098	
		(0.032)	
Local born			-0.051
			(0.023)
Constant	-0.036	-0.071	0.009
	(0.017)	(0.026)	(0.025)
N	1,477	1,477	1,424
R^2	0.079	0.098	0.083
Party-Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: Robust standard errors clustered on individual TD in parentheses. Demographic controls include categorical dummies for gender, age group (baseline category is Age 21-29), and whether the TD was born locally (within the county).

Table A.6: The legacy advantage conditioning on pre-electoral attributes (3): education

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Non-cabinet legacy	-0.040	-0.035	-0.040
	(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.023)
Cabinet legacy	0.038	0.041	0.043
	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.041)
Number of wins	0.075	0.074	0.074
	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)
Number of wins^2	-0.005	-0.005	-0.005
	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Post-secondary training or degree (only)	0.104		
	(0.018)		
Post-graduate degree	0.174		
	(0.041)		
Attended UCD		0.116	
		(0.025)	
Attended fees-paying secondary school			0.057
			(0.027)
Constant	-0.106	-0.058	-0.040
	(0.023)	(0.020)	(0.020)
N	1,345	1,326	1,279
R^2	0.113	0.107	0.092
Party-Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: Robust standard errors clustered on individual TD in parentheses. Education controls include categorical variables for level of education (baseline category is secondary or less), whether the TD attended the University College Dublin (UCD), and whether the TD attended a fees-paying secondary school (a private institution).