Codebook

For replication materials for:

"In for a penny, in for a pound? Evidence that government support parties cannot dissociate themselves from the Prime Minister's party"

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1. Cross-country analysis

Data Source

The data come from the European Election Study and include party observations from all countries that belonged to the European Union (EU) at the time of the European parliamentary elections in those years: 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019. As we are interested in the perceived ideological shift, we can only include parties for which we can measure perceived party positions from two consecutive waves.

Description of Generated Variables

Party identifier

identifies a unique value for each party in the data set

Coded as "party_n"

Year

identifies a year/wave dummy

Coded as "year"

Party j's Perceived Shift(t) (dependent variable)

Measures the change in the Left-Right position of the focal party j between the current EES survey year and the year of the previous survey, conducted five years prior. It is generated by grouping the data by country and party, sorting it by country, party, and year, and then computing the difference between the party's Left-Right positions in consecutive survey years.

Coded as "d_party_lr"

Prime Minister's Party/ PM Party

Measures if a party has the Prime Ministerial Positions at *t*. Binary measure.

Coded as "pm"

Government Member

Measures if a party is member of the government at *t*. Binary measure.

Coded as "govt"

Government Status of a Party

Measures the government status of a party at *t*. Categorical measure. 1= opposition party, 2= support party, 3= junior coalition member, 4= prime minister party

Coded as "govcat"

PM Party's Perceived Shift(t)

Indicates the perceived shift of the PM party over time.

Coded as: "d_pm_lr"

PM Party's Perceived Position(t-1)

Represents the perceived position of the PM party in the previous period.

Coded as: "l_pm_lr"

2. Spanish case study

Data Source

All variables and definitions for the panel analysis come from the E-Dem dataset, published with a CC 4.0 license: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

E-Dem: Torcal, M., Santana, A., Carty, E., & Comellas, J. M. (2020). Political and affective polarisation in a democracy in crisis: The E-Dem panel survey dataset (Spain, 2018–2019). Data in brief, 32, 106059.

All original variables can be found in the waves.dta version of the E-Dem panel survey dataset (the variables noted in parentheses are the labels used by E-Dem)

_1 references a variable taken from the first wave of the dataset

_2 references a variable taken from the second wave of the dataset

Interest (p1)

To begin with, how much are you interested in politics? (3) A lot, (2) a fair amount, (1) a little or (0) not at all?

Coded as: "interest"

Own shift

Generated by subtracting p6_2-p6_1 whereby p6 is phrased as:

When talking about politics, people talk about "left" and "right". Could you please tell us where you would position yourself on a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 means "left" and 10 means "right"?

Coded as: "ownshift"

Party Placement Variables (p7*)

And where would you place each of the following political parties on this same scale (left 0-10 right)?

Coded as: "PSOEposition1", "UPposition1", "IUposition1", "Csposition1"

Own shift - decentralization

Generated by subtracting p8_2-p8_1 whereby p8 is phrased as:

Nowadays, the Autonomous Communities can legislate, together with the Government and the National Legislature, on some aspects of the citizens' daily life, such as health and education. However, not everyone considers that this should be the case.

On this subject, could you tell me where you would position yourself on the following scale from 0 to 10? (0 - Spanish Government should regain its powers; 10 - The Autonomous Communities should be able to legislate on major issues in citizens' daily lives)

Coded as: "ownshiftDecentral"

Party Placement (decentralization) Variables (p8*)

On this subject, could you tell me where you would position yourself on the following scale from 0 to 10?

(The Spanish Government should regain its powers 0 - The Autonomous Communities should be able to legislate on major issues in citizens' daily lives 10)

Coded as: "PSOEDECposition1", "UPDECposition1"

Perceived Party Shifts

Generated by subtracting p7*_2-p7*_1 or p8*_2-p8*_1

Coded as: "PSOEshift", "Upshift", "Iushift", "Csshift", "PSOEshiftDecentral", "UpshiftDecentral"

Party Idenficiation

UPIU=1 if respondent answered yes to p35 (close to a political party) and the resposne was within the following list: Podemos and other affiliated municipal lists (En Comù Podem, En Marea, Ahora Madrid), IU (United Left)

UPIU=0 for all else