Replication Package for *From Pledge to Poll: Investigating the Impact of Campaign Promises on Party Alignment*

Michael G. Ganslmeier

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1 Overview

This replication package reproduces all results for:

Title: *From Pledge to Poll: Investigating the Impact of Campaign Promises on Party Alignment*
Author: Michael G. Ganslmeier
Institution: University of Exeter
Journal: *Comparative Political Studies*
Manuscript ID: CPS-24-0193.R1

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2 Folder Structure

```
/scripts         # R scripts for manuscript and appendix analysis
/data            # Processed SOEP dataset (TEMPORARY.RData)
/output          # HTML tables and PNG figures for manuscript & appendix
```

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3 Setup Instructions

3.1 Requirements

Make sure you have R (Version 4.2.0 or later) installed. Then install all required packages:

```r
install.packages("pacman")
pacman::p_load(
  plyr, dplyr, stringr, rddtools, rdrobust, rddensity,
  scales, foreign, haven, purrr, pbmcapply, devtools,
  tidyr, ggplot2, lubridate, ggthemes, outreg, stargazer,
  gtable, grid, gridExtra, cowplot, tidyquant, jtools,
  modelsummary, ggsci
)
```

3.2 Data Access

The analysis uses **SOEP-CORE v36** (DOI: 10.5684/soep.core.v36) provided by the **German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin)**.

To access the data:

- Submit a data usage agreement to the **Research Data Center (RDC)** of the SOEP at DIW Berlin.
- Follow the procedures outlined here: https://www.diw.de/en/diw_01.c.678568.en/research_data_center_soep.html
- After approval, download the necessary `.dta` files for SOEP-CORE v36.

Once you have the data:

- Run the preprocessing script `0_PREPROCESS.R` to generate `TEMPORARY.RData`. Before you run, please change the working directory (your raw SOEP folder) and the replication folder accordingly.
- Then run `scripts/wrapper.R` to reproduce all results. Change your replication folder to your working directory beforehand.

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4 Preprocessing

The `0_PREPROCESS.R` script performs the following tasks:

- Loads individual SOEP raw files (`ppathl.dta`, `pgen.dta`, `hgen.dta`, `pl.dta`, etc.).
- Constructs the **running variable** based on first child's date of birth relative to January 1992.
- Creates the **treatment indicator**.
- Merges all relevant covariates (e.g., age, education, income, political interest).
- Constructs the **outcome variables** for alignment and turnout.
- Generates **weights** for survey correction.
- Saves the final dataset as `/data/TEMPORARY.RData`.

This processed file is used for **all** subsequent analyses.

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5 Analysis Scripts Overview

5.1 `scripts/1_MANUSCRIPT.R`

- Reproduces all figures and tables from the main manuscript.

5.2 `scripts/2_APPENDIX_A.R`

- Conducts identification checks (e.g., McCrary density test, balance tests, placebo tests).

5.3 `scripts/3_APPENDIX_B.R`

- Explores robustness checks for the alignment analysis.

5.4 `scripts/4_APPENDIX_C.R`

- Explores robustness checks for the turnout analysis.

5.5 `scripts/5_APPENDIX_D.R`

- Explores robustness checks for the durability analysis.

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6 Variables Used in the Analysis

Table 1: Variable Descriptions

Variable	Description
partyUNION	Alignment with CDU/CSU (voted or supports party)
BDATE01	Date of birth of first child
x	Running variable: months relative to January 1992
y	Outcome variable for RDD
weight14	Post-stratification weight (2014)
age	Age of respondent
female	Female dummy
married	Married dummy
nchild	Number of children
income	Log household income
income2	Monthly personal income
ftexperience	Full-time work experience (years)
ptexperience	Part-time work experience (years)
workexperience	Total work experience (full-time + part-time)
nodegree	No formal education degree (dummy)
educCat_*	Education categories (dummy variables)
satishhinc	Satisfaction with household income (0–10 scale)
polintrest	Political interest (scale 1–4)
turnout09_cs	Reported voting in 2009
turnout13_cs	Reported voting in 2013
turnout17_cs	Reported voting in 2017
politmember	Membership in a political organization
lrscale	Left-right political self-placement (0 = Left, 10 = Right)

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7 Replication Instructions

After obtaining access to the SOEP data:

1. Run `scripts/0_PREPROCESS.R` to create `TEMPORARY.RData`.
2. Then run `scripts/wrapper.R` to sequentially execute all replication scripts.

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8 Notes

- All output files (figures and tables) are saved in `/results`.

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9 Contact

Michael G. Ganslmeier (University of Exeter) m.ganslmeier@exeter.ac.uk