No escape from the media gates? How public opinion and issue salience shape interest groups' prominence in the news

Published in Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly

Evelien Willems

Department of Political Science, University of Antwerp

Sint-Jacobstraat 2-4, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium

evelien.willems@uantwerpen.be

Further documentation of the interest group survey data is available via:

Beyers, J., D. Fink-Hafner, W. Maloney, M. Novak, and F. Heylen (2020). The Comparative Interest Group Survey Project: Project design, practical lessons, and datasets. Interest Groups & Advocacy. doi: 0.1057/s41309-020- 00082-0. www.cigsurvey.eu

Overview of variables policy area dataset

Variable name	*Description*
Dependent variable	
attention_cat	Media prominence: 0 = no media attention 1 = 1 media appearance 2 = 2 media appearances 3 = 3+ media appearances
attention	Count of media appearances
Organizational variables	
type3	Group type: 1 = Concentrated (incl. businesses, professionals, institutions and associations of public authorities) 2 = Representative diffuse 3 = Solidarity
access_cat	Degree of access to advisory councils: 0 = no access 1 = access
access_cent access	Count of seats in advisory councils (log), standardized Count of seats in advisory councils, unstandardized

staff_cent staff	Number of staff (log), standardized Number of staff (log), unstandardized
memact_cent memact	Constituency involvement (index), standardized Constituency involvement (index), unstandardized
energy	Intensity of media strategies: 0 = below-median 1 = above-median
energy_cent energy_overall_adj	Intensity of media strategies, standardized Intensity of media strategies, unstandardized
Explanatory variables	
dich_c	Support largest share of the public: 0 = no 1 = yes
news_sal SAL_PD	News salience, standardized News salience, unstandardized
Contextual controls	
pub_priority ees_log	Public priority (log), standardized Public priority (log), unstandardized
statusquo	Position vs. policy status quo: 0 = SQ-defender 1 = SQ-challenger
polcon contestation_percentage	Political contestation, standardized Political contestation, unstandardized
energyPD AdEnergy	Advocacy energy per policy area, standardized Advocacy energy per policy area, unstandardized
juris	Competent government level of issue: 0 = national 1 = Flanders 2 = Walloon region/Francophone community
Identifiers	
Org_ID	Interest group ID
PD_ID	Policy area ID

Overview of variables issue dataset

Variable name	*Description*
Dependent variable	
attention_cat	Media prominence: 1 = 1 media appearance 2 = 2 media appearances 3 = 3+ media appearances
attention	Count of media appearances
Organizational variables	
type3	Group type: 1 = Concentrated (incl. businesses, professionals, institutions and associations of public authorities) 2 = Representative diffuse 3 = Solidarity
access_cat	Degree of access to advisory councils: 0 = below-median 1 = above-median
access_cent access	Count of seats in advisory councils (log), standardized Count of seats in advisory councils (log), unstandardized
staff_cent staff	Number of staff (log), standardized Number of staff (log), unstandardized
memact_cent memact	Constituency involvement (index), standardized Constituency involvement (index), unstandardized
outside_cat	Intensity of media strategies: 0 = below-median 1 = above-median
energy_overall_adj	Intensity of media strategies, unstandardized
Explanatory variables	
congruence_cent congruence	Share of public support, standardized Share of public support, unstandardized
dich_c	Support largest share of the public: 0 = no 1 = yes
salience_all_log_cent salience_all	News salience, standardized News salience, unstandardized

Contextual controls	
statusquo	Position vs. policy status quo: 0 = SQ-defender 1 = SQ-challenger
contest_cent contest	Political contestation, standardized Political contestation, unstandardized
energy_cent AdEnergy	Advocacy energy per policy area, standardized Advocacy energy per policy area, unstandardized
juris	Competent government level of issue: 0 = national 1 = Flanders 2 = Walloon region/Francophone community
Identifiers	
Org_ID	Interest group ID
issueid	Issue ID
PD_ID	Policy area ID