

Firing up the base: The effect of party system polarisation on positive and negative partisanship in Europe between 1999-2019

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- ① Concept definition
- ② Theoretical framework
- ③ Research design
- ④ Results and Discussion

Dependent variables

■ Positive Partisanship

- Attachment to a political party
- Usually measured by asking "do you feel close to a political party...Which one?"
- Contributes to party system stability and drives electoral behaviour

■ Negative Partisanship:

- Commonly defined in terms of affect and emotions: "repulsion" or "Systematic animadversion"
- Some evidence pointing to the role of ideology
- "A power of its own" on electoral behaviour

NOTE **Conceptually and empirically independent from PP**
Can dislike a party without supporting any

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Research question

- The link between party polarisation and partisanship
 - The more differentiated parties' ideological stances, the stronger *Positive* Partisanship (Lupu 2015; Vegetti 2015)
 - Party system polarisation makes it easier to associate party with policy, and arouses stronger positive feelings
 - ! Scholarly neglect of Negative Partisanship
 - Since 2015 refugee crisis: polarisation structured around cultural issues (e.g. EU integration, immigration)

- What is the link between cultural and economic polarisation on positive and negative partisanship?

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Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1 *An increase in economic polarisation will lead to an increase in positive partisanship*

Hypothesis 2 *An increase in economic polarisation will lead to an increase in negative partisanship*

Hypothesis 3 *The effect of economic polarisation will be mediated by the salience of this dimension*

Hypothesis 4 *An increase in cultural polarisation will lead to an increase in positive partisanship*

Hypothesis 5 *An increase in cultural polarisation will lead to an increase in negative partisanship*

Hypothesis 6 *The effect of cultural polarisation will be mediated by the salience of this dimension*

Data and methods

■ Data sources

- Main data from European Election Studies 1999-2019 (5 waves)
- 60-65000 respondents, 74-93 election-year, 21 European countries (CEE and WE)
- Party data from Chapel Hill Expert Surveys and ParlGov
- Pairing strategy: Closest *prior* General Election

■ Two Dependent Variables

- Positive Partisanship (Binary outcome)
- Negative Partisanship (Binary outcome)

Data and methods

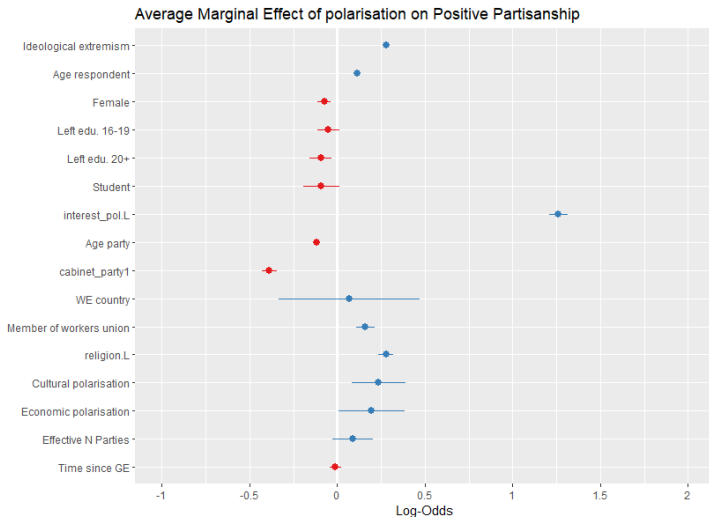
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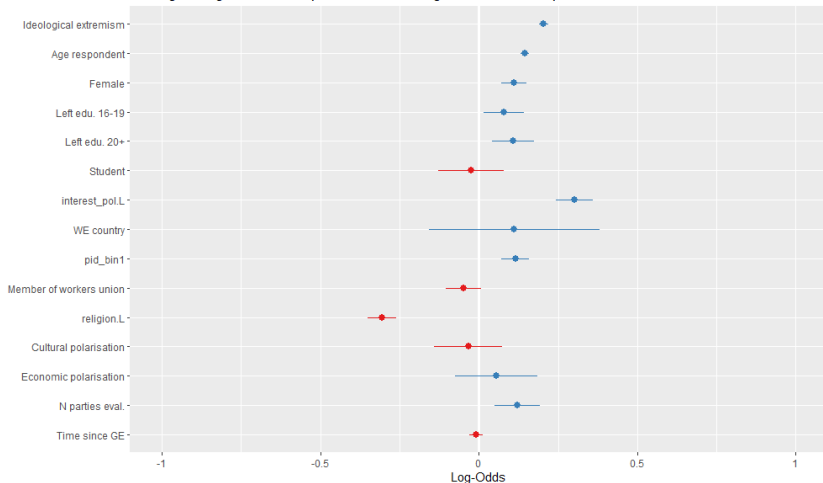
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Positive Partisanship models









Negative Partisanship models

Average Marginal Effect of polarisation on Negative Partisanship



Hypotheses

Hypotheses	Result
H1: An increase in economic polarisation will lead to an increase in positive partisanship	
H2: An increase in economic polarisation will lead to an increase in negative partisanship	
H3: The effect of economic polarisation will be mediated by the salience of this dimension	
H4: An increase in cultural polarisation will lead to an increase in positive partisanship	
H5: An increase in cultural polarisation will lead to an increase in negative partisanship	
H6: The effect of cultural polarisation will be mediated by the salience of this dimension	

Conclusions

- The positive partisan is male, less educated, and older
- The negative partisan is female, educated, and older
- Positive Partisanship driven by instrumental reasoning (retrospective evaluations, ideology)
- Negative Partisanship immune to political factors
- A realignment on educational attainments?
- Electoral collapse of traditional parties and successes of new parties
- Effect of polarisation less pronounced than in prior work

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Test

- ① point 1
- ② point 2