

# GV101

## Introduction to Political Science

### Week 05: Preferences, Ideologies, and Dimensions

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# Regression Table Interpretation

**Carey & Hix (2011) data on electoral systems**

*Dependent variable:* effective number of parties elected in a parliament  
*Observations:* 615 elections in 82 democracies, since 1945

	(1)	(2)	
Constant	3.215*** (0.066)	3.418*** (0.339)	Baseline “intercept” value of dep. variable
Key independent variable	→ No. of MPs elected in a constituency	0.012*** (0.002)	Coefficient (magnitude of the effect / “slope”)
Other independent (control) variables	{ Economic inequality	-0.019*** (0.007)	Standard error
	Ethnic fragmentation	1.373** (.277)	
	Federal system	-0.518*** (.158)	Indication of statistical significance, *** ≥ 99% ** ≥ 95% * ≥ 90%
	GDP per capita	0.027* (0.012)	
	Population	-0.001 (0.001)	
No. of observations	615	615	Overall explanatory power of the model
R-squared	0.06	0.11	

# Essential Reading Overview

- Dalton nicely summarises the case that traditional cleavage-based voting had declined, for three reasons, and been replaced by issue-based voting, though this may still be driven by new combinations of underlying cleavages.
- Benoit and Laver argue, and present evidence that, policy areas and issues load (using expert placement) onto the left-right dimension differently from country to country and, thus, the meaning of the dimension varies between contexts.
- Inglehart and Norris argue that security in childhood affects underlying ideology, but that this varies in response to current economic circumstances, and thus changes voter preferences.

# Real-World Example

## *In Argentina Election, Leftists Savor Victory Over Incumbent*

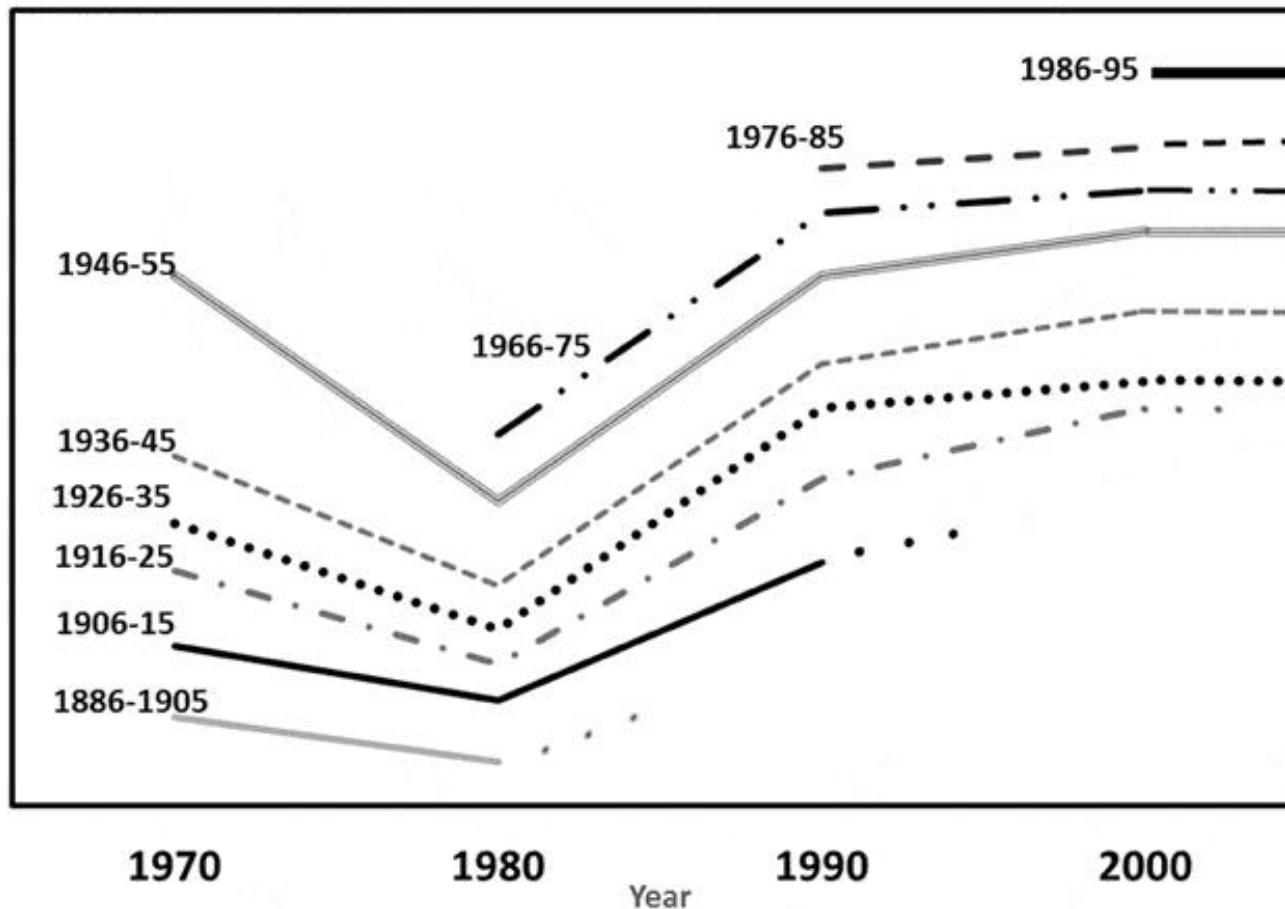
President Mauricio Macri was defeated by a ticket that included former President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner in the No. 2 spot.



# Real-World Example

The screenshot shows the BBC Radio 4 website for the program 'From Our Own Correspondent'. The main title 'From Our Own Correspondent' is displayed prominently. Below it, a large image shows a crowd of people holding blue flags and a banner with a portrait of a woman and the text 'LA PATRIA es el OTRO'. A 'Listen now' button is visible on the left. The main headline is 'A Modern Day Evita', with a subtext: 'An election in Argentina that has revived memories of Eva Peron'. Below this, there are buttons for 'Show more' and 'Available now' (28 minutes). On the right, there is a 'Last on' section for the next day, a 'More episodes' section with 'PREVIOUS' and 'NEXT' links, and a link to 'See all episodes from From Our Own Correspondent'. The BBC Radio 4 logo is in the top left corner, and a 'LIVE' indicator for 'The Food Programme' is in the top right.

# Appendix: Inglehart and Norris Illustrated



Inglehart and Norris, p. 8.