

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)	0.010*** (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		-.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	
	R-squared	0.06	0.11	Overall explanatory power of the model

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- Dalton nicely summarises the case that traditional cleavage-based voting had declined, for three reasons, and been replaced by issue-based voting, though this may still be driven by new combinations of underlying cleavages.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

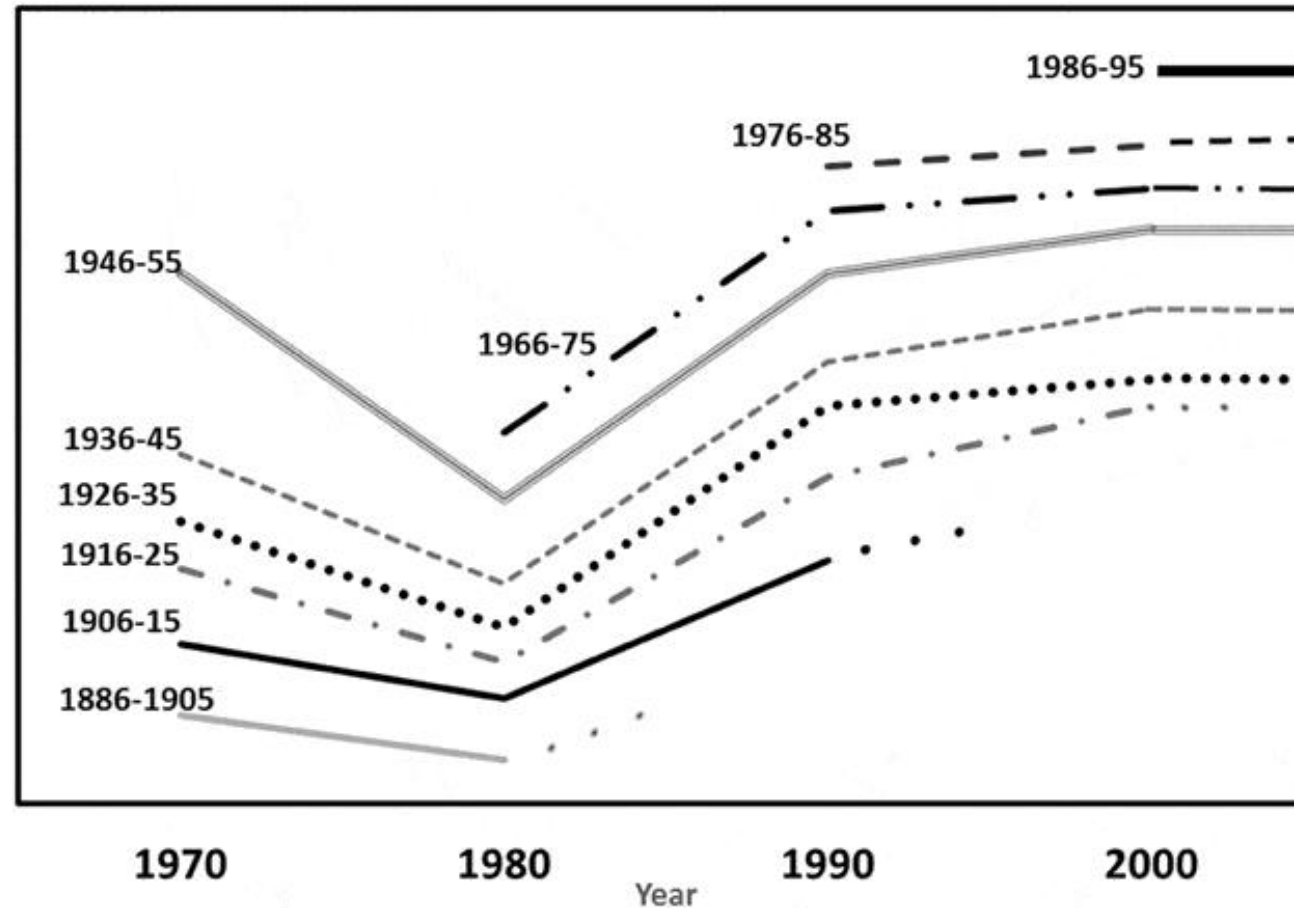
President Mauricio Macri was defeated by a ticket that included former President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner in the No. 2 spot.



Real-World Example



Appendix: Inglehart and Norris Illustrated



Inglehart and Norris, p. 8.