

GV101 Week 05: Preferences, Ideologies, and Dimensions

Questions to Consider

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Office Hours (by appointment via the [Student Hub](#)):

Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30, CBG.4.13

Wednesdays, 14:30 – 15:30, CBG.4.13

Country Question:

- How applicable is the economic redistribution left-right political dimension in your adopted country, and how extreme are its end points?
 - What other important dimensions of politics are there in your adopted country? Can these be subsumed within a general left-right dimension?

Essential Reading Questions:

1. Dalton offers three possible explanations for the declining importance of social cleavages in shaping vote choice (if we accept that decline). What are they?
 - a) Do you find one the most convincing? Why?
 - b) Can you think of any other possible explanations?
2. It has been more than 15 years since Dalton identified the rising importance of voting based on issues rather than their social group. How important do you think issue voting is today? Why?
 - a) If issue voting is still important, do you think it is a good thing? Why?
3. Do you think that politics is unidimensional or multidimensional? You may wish to make reference to Benoit and Laver.
 - a) What do you think is / are the prevailing dimension(s) of politics?
 - b) What different approaches are there to conceptualising the meaning of the left-right dimension?
4. According to Benoit and Laver, why is it important to ask about salience of dimensions as well as placement on them?
 - a) Can you think of an alternative dimension to those identified by Benoit and Laver that could be tested for its contribution to left-right placement?
 - b) What are the implications of Benoit and Laver's findings for comparing the positions or parties in different countries or over time?
5. What do Inglehart and Norris identify as the two key causes of support for populist authoritarian parties, and how do those causes relate to each other?
 - a) Do you think that this represents primarily an economic or a cultural explanation, or a mix of the two?

Further Reading Questions:

6. What are the findings of Grasso et al., and how do they explain these findings?
 - a) How could the findings of Grasso et al. be observed at the same time as rising liberal values?
7. What are Dinas' two main predictions about the impact of parental politicisation on the congruence of parent and child political positions? What is the basis for these predictions?
 - a) According to Dinas, How are the impact of a child's college attendance and opposition to the Vietnam War on congruence between parent and child party identity influenced by the level of parental politicisation?

Essential Readings for Next Week (after Reading Week):

- Paul R. Abramson, John H. Aldrich, André Blais, Matthew Diamond, Abraham Diskin, Indridi H. Indridason, Daniel J. Lee, and Renan Levine, 'Comparing Strategic Voting Under FPTP and PR', *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 1 (2010), pp 61-90.
- Geoffrey Evans, John Curtice, and Pippa Norris, 'New labour, new tactical voting? The causes and consequences of tactical voting in the 1997 general election', *British Elections & Parties Review*, Vol. 8, No. 1 (1998), pp. 65-79.
- Ronald Inglehart and Pippa Norris, 'Trump, Brexit, and the Rise of Populism: Economic Have-Nots and Cultural Backlash', HKS Working Paper No. RWP16-026, SSRN (Aug., 2016), available online: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2818659.

Further Readings for Consideration Next Week:

- Geoffrey Evans, 'The Continued Significance of Class Voting', *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 3 (Jun., 2000), pp. 401-417.
- Noam Gidron and Peter A. Hall, 'The politics of social status: economic and cultural roots of the populist right', *The British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 68, No. S1 (2017), pp. S57-S84.