L2929 Week 11: Elites and Masses
Essential Readings Questions to Consider

Classes: Thursdays, 11:00 – 13:00, LT313

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 16:00 – 17:00, MC431

Essential Reading Key Questions:

1. What is 'May's law of curvilinear disparity' outlined by Bale et al.? How applicable do they find it to be in the contemporary UK context?
    a) Would you expect May's law to apply in other contexts? If so, which contexts do you expect it to apply in and why?
    b) What do Bale et al. find regarding the differences between voters, party members and MPs on the economic and social values dimensions?
    c) Do you think that voters care more either economic or social values? Why?
    d) What process do you think underpins the differences that Bale et al. observe? Do you think that MPs and party members are distinct before they join parties, or are they socialised into their differences?
    e) Do you think that we need economic and social values to be shared between the public, party members, and MPs? Why?

2. What is technocracy, as outlined by Bertsou and Caramani? What are its components?
    a) Do you think that technocracy, populism, and party democracy are mutually exclusive or not? Why?
    b) What are the differences between people in the technocratic and populist groups that Bertsou and Caramani identify?
    c) At what point does someone become an expert? How are experts different, if at all, from non-experts?

3. Reher notes, in relation to people with disabilities, that 'the more "restricted" people feel, the more left wing they tend to be'. To what extent do you think that this observation can be extended to other marginalised groups?
    a) Reher identifies four reasons why we might expect descriptive representation to be linked to substantive representation. What are they? Which ones, if any, do you find more convincing?
    b) What does Reher mean when she refers to possible selection effects relating to which people with disabilities become politicians?
    c) What does Reher find in relation to whether disabled candidates are closer to disabled voters on key issues?
    d) If marginalised groups are better represented by people from within those groups, what measures might we propose to ensure that candidates can emerge from those groups?
    e) How important do you think it is for elected representatives to be descriptively representative of the public? Do you think this is only, or primarily, important because of the link to substantive representation?