

Public Opinion on Democracy and Advanced Survey Methodology¹ **MA Seminar, Summer 2022**

Day, time: Mondays, 10:00 – 13:30

Location: S103, IBW-Gebäude

Instructor: Lea Kaftan

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Office hours: Open request, offline or online

Course overview

Participants will discuss the most recent scientific publications on citizens attitudes towards democracy and the reasons for their support for democratic backsliding and anti-system parties. We will focus on liberal democracies, usually considered to be established and stable. Participants will have the possibility to question this assumption and their own beliefs concerning the role of citizens for stabilizing liberal democracies. At the same time, we will discuss the survey methodologies applied by the different researchers and replicate their findings. Participants will thus gain coding experience and learn to interpret the results of quantitative survey analyses, correctly.

Prerequisites

Participants should be able to read and discuss scientific articles in English. Perfection is neither expected nor required. Participants should also be familiar with basic statistical concepts such as Ordinary Least Square regressions and significance. Some preliminary knowledge of R will make it considerably easier to follow the course, but introductory material will be provided for self-study before the course starts. Furthermore, the willingness to participate in the sessions and to prepare the required readings are expected.

Assessment

Participants of the course will have to present their research ideas and write a final term paper. The term paper shall describe a novel research question and an appropriate hypothesis briefly embedded in a theoretical framework, outline a survey project to test the hypothesis and critically discuss potential issues with the survey design. The presentation shall give participants the opportunity to get feedback from their peers as well as to get insights into other research projects by other participants. Group work on the presentation and term papers is encouraged, as long as I can identify the contribution that each author has made to the term paper.

The presentation of the research project is mandatory, but will not be graded. The final grade is solely based on the term paper and will take the cohesiveness of the research project and the critical discussion of potential problems with it into account. Further details, including submission dates, will be communicated during the course. Active participation in each session including their preparations is highly encouraged.

¹ This is only a preliminary course description which might be subject to changes before the course starts.

Course organization

If possible, this course will take place offline. Participants who cannot participate in the offline sessions due to the Covid-19 pandemic or other work or family related responsibilities will have the possibility to get feedback on short within-course R assignments and present their research projects in a hybrid format. If necessary, this course will take place fully online. Active participation is still highly encouraged.

Additional course material

to be announced

Course schedule

Introduction

4 April, 10-11:30: Survey research and theories of democratic stability

Recommended readings:

- Easton, David. 1975. "A Re-Assessment of the Concept of Political Support." *British Journal of Political Science* 5(4): 435-57.
- Inglehart, Ronald F. 2016. "The Danger of Deconsolidation: How Much Should we Worry?" *Journal of Democracy* 27(3): 18-23.
- Welzel, Christian, and Ronald Inglehart. 2008. "The Role of Ordinary People in Democratization." *Journal of Democracy* 19(1): 126-40.
- Wuttke, Alexander, Konstantin Gavras, and Harald Schoen. 2020. "Have Europeans Grown Tired of Democracy? New Evidence from Eighteen Consolidated Democracies, 1981–2018." *British Journal of Political Science*, 1–13

Part I: Measuring citizens attitudes towards (liberal) democracy

23 May, 10-13:30: Learning democracy

Required readings:

- Mishler, William and Richard Rose. 1996. "Trajectories of Fear and Hope. Support for Democracy in Post-Communist Europe". *Comparative Political Studies* 28(4): 553-81.
- Rohrschneider, Robert. 1999. *Learning Democracy: Democratic and Economic Values in Unified Germany*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 8-32.
Chapter 2, "Charting the Inquiry"

Recommended readings:

- Fuchs-Schündeln, Nicola and Matthias Schündeln. 2015. "On the Endogeneity of Political Preferences: Evidence from Individual Experience with Democracy". *Science* 347(6226): 1145-48.

30 May, 10-13:30: Citizens' support for democracy

Required readings:

- Claassen, Christopher. 2020. "In the Mood for Democracy? Democratic Support as Thermostatic Opinion." *American Political Science Review* 114(1): 36-53.
- Kiewiet De Jonge, Chad P. 2016. "Should Researchers Abandon Questions About Democracy?" *Public Opinion Quarterly* 80(3): 694-716.

Recommended readings:

- Blair, Graeme, and Kosuke Imai. 2012. “Statistical Analysis of List Experiments.” *Political Analysis* 20 (1): 47–77.
- Glynn, Adam N. 2013. “What Can we Learn with Statistical Truth Serum?” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 77 (S1): 159–72.
- Inglehart, Ronald. 2003. “How Solid is Mass Support for Democracy—and How Can we Measure it?” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 36(1): 51-57.
- Lagos, Marta. 2003. “Support for and Satisfaction with Democracy.” *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 15(4): 471-71.

6 June – no session due to Pentecost

13 June, 10-13:30: Citizens’ understandings of democracy

Required readings:

- Dalton, Russell J, To-ch’öl Sin, and Willy Jou. 2007. “Understanding Democracy: Data from Unlikely Places.” *Journal of Democracy* 18(4): 142-56.
- Kriesi, Hanspeter, Willem Saris, and Paolo Moncagatte. 2016. “The Structure of Europeans’ View of Democracy.” In Ferrín, Monica, and Hanspeter Kriesi (Eds): *How Europeans View and Evaluate Democracy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 64-88.

Recommended readings:

- Osterberg-Kaufmann, Norma, Toralf Stark, and Christoph Mohamad-Klotzbach. 2020. “Challenges in Conceptualizing and Measuring Meanings and Understandings of Democracy.” *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft* 14: 299–320.

Part II: Citizens as watchdogs of (liberal) democracy

20 June, 10-13:30: Critical citizens

Required readings:

- Kölln, Ann-Kristin, and Kees Aarts. 2021. “What Explains the Dynamics of Citizens’ Satisfaction with Democracy? An Integrated Framework for Panel Data.” *Electoral Studies* 69: 102271.
- Norris, Pippa. 2011. *Democratic Deficit. Critical Citizens Revisited*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Chapter 2: “The Conceptual Framework”

Recommended readings:

- Norris, Pippa. 2011. *Democratic Deficit. Critical Citizens Revisited*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Other chapters
- Wagner, Alexander F., Friedrich Schneider, and Martin Halla. 2009. “The Quality of Institutions and Satisfaction with Democracy in Western Europe—A Panel Analysis.” *European Journal of Political Economy* 25(1): 30-41.
- Valgarðsson, Viktor Orri, and Daniel Devine. 2021, “What Satisfaction with Democracy? A Global Analysis of ‘Satisfaction with Democracy’ Measures.” *Political Research Quarterly*, doi:10659129211009605.

27 June, 10-13:30: Citizens’ tolerance for democratic backsliding

Required readings:

- Berlinski, Nicola, Margaret Doyle, Andrew M. Guess, Gabrielle Levy, Benjamin Lyons, Jacob M. Montgomery, Brendan Nyhan, and Jason Reifler. 2021. “The Effects of

Unsubstantiated Claims of Voter Fraud on Confidence in Elections”. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*: 1-16.

- Grossman, Guy, Dorothy Kronick, Matthew Levendusky, and Marc Meredith. 2021. “The Majoritarian Threat to Liberal Democracy”. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*: 1-10.

Recommended readings:

- Hainmueller, Jens, Daniel J. Hopkins, and Teppei Yamamoto. 2014. “Causal Inference in Conjoint Analysis: Understanding Multidimensional Choices via Stated Preference Experiments”. *Political Analysis* 22(1), 1–30.
- Leeper, Thomas J., Sara B. Hobolt, and James Tilley. 2020. “Measuring Subgroup Preferences in Conjoint Experiments”. *Political Analysis* 28(2), 207–221

4 July, 10-13:30: Citizens’ support for anti-system parties

Required readings:

- Grant, Zack P. 2021. “Crisis and Convergence: How the Combination of a Weak Economy and Mainstream Party Ideological De-Polarization Fuels Anti-System Support.” *Comparative Political Studies* 54(7): 1256-91.
- Hartevelde, Eelco, et al. 2021. “A Tough Trade-off? The Asymmetrical Impact of Populist Radical Right Inclusion on Satisfaction with Democracy and Government.” *European Political Science Review* 13(1): 113-133.

Closure

11 July, 10-11:03: Closure and presentations