

Challenges to Democracy: A Replication Course

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Seminar dates and times

The seminar meets on **Thursdays at 09:00-11:00**. The first seminar will be on **13 January**, and the final seminar will be on **17 March**.

Course Description and Format

This seminar will introduce researchers to some of the latest empirical research on some key topics in political behaviour and representation, focussing on experimental and other causal inference research designs to address some of the main challenges to democracy.

The course will also enable researchers to replicate and extend empirical results (in Stata or R), to help researchers understand how to set up data, and undertake robustness tests. Hence, the seminar is an opportunity for first year researchers to apply the methods they have learned in their methods courses in the first term, and for researchers in subsequent years to practice their empirical estimation skills.

Main learning outcomes: 1) better understanding of some of the latest research designs in the study of comparative political behaviour; 2) practice replicating others' research; and 3) learn how to prepare data files for replication.

Assignments: Replication Exercises

There will be two replication exercises, undertaken in groups (groups will be assigned in week 1):

- 1) In week 5, each group will present the replicated results of one of the papers we have discussed in weeks 1 to 4, focussing on presenting the main results in the paper, explaining the coding and modelling choices made in the estimation, and discussing how the replication files could have been improved; and
- 2) In week 10, each group will present the replicated results of either one of the papers we have discussed in weeks 1 to 9 or another paper on a topic covered by the course, this time presenting one or more extensions of the results, such as changing a specification, undertaking a sub-sample investigation, or conducting another type of a robustness test.

Some Replication Guidance

Here is some guidance on the replication process by the Berkeley Institute for Transparency in the Social Sciences: <https://bitss.github.io/ACRE/>.

Please also watch the “Introduction to Replication” video from the BITSS, here: <https://www.bitss.org/research-transparency-mooc/replication/>.

What we are going to do in this course is the first stage of what BITSS calls “Pure Replication” (the replication of a scholar’s work using their data and set up, but with some extensions and checks), as opposed to “Statistical Replication” (the replication of a study using a different dataset in a different context).

Some things to check before running a replication file:

- 1) Make sure you have the latest versions (available to you) of Stata and R Studio;
- 2) Read any “README” file, or equivalent, before you get started;
- 3) Make sure you have all the data files you need (e.g. some papers require you to download extra datafiles, e.g. BES, ESS, ANES etc.);
- 4) In the script file (the Stata .do file or R script file), change the directory for the files to the local folder on your computer where you have stored the data files;
- 5) Check you have all the necessary packages installed to run the analysis; and
- 6) After you have made any edits to a script file, save your own version of the file.

Seminar Topics, Readings & Replication Files

Participants are expected to **READ BOTH OF THE PAPERS** each week. When reading the papers, focus on the research design and the set up of the empirical estimation.

Participants are also expected each week to download the replication files of both papers, **REPLICATE THE ANALYSIS AND RESULTS OF ONE OF THE PAPERS**, write a short paragraph of commentary on the replication process (e.g. summarising how the files are set up and what choices were made in the replication process), and be ready to discuss the replication in the seminar.

Session 1. (13 January) Political Preferences 1: Immigration

Malhotra, Neil and Benjamin Newman (2017) Explaining Immigration Preferences: Disentangling Skill and Prevalence. *Research & Politics*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168017734076>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/DEKS5Z>. [Stata]

Giani, Marco and Pierre-Guillaume Méon (2021) Global Racist Contagion Following Donald Trump's Election. *British Journal of Political Science* 51 (3) 1332-1139, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123419000449>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/YPYMH8>. [Stata]

Session 2. (20 January) Political Preferences 2: Redistribution

Margolit, Yotam and Moses Shayo (2020) How Markets Shape Political Preferences: Evidence from a Field Experiment. *American Journal of Political Science* 65(2) 473-492, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12517>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/UEAR10>. [Stata and R]

Heide-Jørgensen, Tobias (2021) Triggering Ideological Thinking: How Elections Foster Coherence of Welfare State Attitudes. *American Political Science Review* 115(2) 506-521, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055421000010>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/XMKPSQ>. [Stata]

Session 3. (27 January) Support for Populist Parties 1: Economics

Colantone, Italo and Piero Stanig (2018) The Trade Origins of Economic Nationalism: Import Competition and Voting Behavior in Western Europe. *American Journal of Political Science* 62(4) 936-953, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12358>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/NRAQRH>. [Stata and R]

Baccini, Leonardo and Stephen Weymouth (2021) Gone For Good: Deindustrialization, White Voter Backlash, and US Presidential Voting. *American Political Science Review* 115(2) 550-567, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055421000022>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/UW8G4Y>. [Stata]

(nb. If you are a Mac user, install "The Unarchiver" from the App store to unpack the .rar file)

Session 4. (3 February) Support for Populist Parties 2: Culture

Bolet, Diane (2021) Drinking Alone: Local Socio-Cultural Degradation and Radical Right Support – The Case of British Pub Closures. *Comparative Political Studies* 54(9) 1653-1692, <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0010414021997158>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/E0NUUX>. [Stata]

(nb. I will share the additional data files that are needed to run the “Analysis.do” file.)

Schäfer, Armin (2021) Cultural Backlash? How (Not) to Explain the Rise of Authoritarian Populism. *British Journal of Political Science*, forthcoming, <https://cup.org/3EEkCps>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/FVZ8TR>. [R]

(nb. Download the BES Waves 1-19 data. See instructions in the “prep_bes.Rmd” file)

Session 5. (10 February) REPLICATION EXERCISE 1: GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Replicated the results of one of the papers from weeks 1 to 4, focussing on presenting the main results in the paper, explaining the coding and modelling choices made in the estimation, and discussing how the replication files could have been improved.

Session 6. (17 February) Polarization

Simas, Elizabeth N., Scott Clifford and Justin H. Kirkland (2020) How Empathic Concern Fuels Political Polarization. *American Political Science Review* 114(1) 258-269, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055419000534>. [Stata]

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/RJL2DK>.

Dias, Nicholas and Yphtach Lelkes (2021) The Nature of Affective Polarization: Disentangling Policy Disagreement from Partisan Identity. *American Journal of Political Science*, forthcoming, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12628>. [R]

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/JHJJW0>.

Session 7. (24 February) Party and Voting Behaviour

Abou-Chadi, Tarik and Lukas F. Stoetzer (2020) How Parties React to Voter Transitions. *American Political Science Review* 114(3) 940-945, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055420000155>. [R]

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/HULLNG>.

Bornschiefer, Simon, Silja Häusermann, Delia Zollinger and Céline Colombo (2021) How ‘Us’ and ‘Them’ Relates to Voting Behavior: Social Structure, Social Identities, and Electoral Choice. *Comparative Political Studies*, forthcoming, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414021997504>. [Stata and R]

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/NS6MYB>.

Session 8. (3 March) Influence of the Media

Foos Florian and Daniel Bischof (2021) Tabloid Media Campaigns and Public Opinion: Quasi-Experimental Evidence on Euroscepticism in England. *American Political Science Review* 2021, forthcoming, <https://cup.org/3mBQQvk>. [Stata]

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/NYPOQD>.

Castanho Silva, Bruno and Sven-Oliver Proksch (2021) Fake It 'Til You Make It: A Natural Experiment to Identify European Politicians' Benefit from Twitter Bots. *American Political Science Review* 115(1) 316-322, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055420000817>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/PAMABU>. [R]

Session 9. (10 March) Accountability of Politicians

Motolonia, Lucia (2021) Electoral Accountability and Particularistic Legislation: Evidence from an Electoral Reform in Mexico. *American Political Science Review* 115(1) 97-113, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055420000672>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/NOMCOH>. [Stata]

Hanretty, Chris, Jonathan Mellon and Patrick English (2021) Members of Parliament Are Minimally Accountable for Their Issue Stances (and They Know It). *American Political Science Review* 115(4) 1275-1291, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055421000514>.

Replication files: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/KSTD9J>. [R]

Session 10. (17 March) REPLICATION EXERCISE 2: GROUP PRESENTATIONS

*Each group will present the replicated results of **either** one of the papers we have discussed in weeks 1 to 9 **or another paper on a topic covered by the course**, this time presenting one or more extensions of the results, such as changing a specification, undertaking a sub-sample investigation, or conducting another type of a robustness test.*