Making Electoral Research Global

A collaboration among top scholars from election studies around the world.

A platform for sustained international cooperation around issues of democratic politics.

A resource for high-quality, independent survey data and insights into how elections work.

CSES datasets include 159 election studies from 54 nations

Find out more about CSES at:
www.cses.org / @cestweets
Because of the CSES, we know that...

Globalization increases electoral fairness.
   Birch 2016

Voters are not only concerned about party positions, but also policy outcomes.
   Kedar 2005, 2006

Inequality undermines public goods provision.
   Baldwin and Huber 2010

Adverse economic conditions motivate political participation.
   Karp and Milazzo 2016

By exposing divisions, open party nomination processes decrease political participation.
   Kernell 2015

The wealthy turn out to vote more when the public wants — and the state can deliver — redistribution.
   Kasara and Suryanarayan 2015

Ideologically distinct options make it easier for citizens to vote according to their interests.
   Lau et al. 2013

Political polarization increases political engagement.
   Lupu 2014

Public attachment to political parties facilitates political representation.
   Dalton, Farrell, and McAllister 2011

People vote less on the economy when multi-level governance makes it hard to identify who is in charge.
   Anderson 2006

Corruption and human rights problems decrease the importance voters place on the economy.
   Singer 2011

The voting public is more tolerant of poor national economic performance when the global economy is also lackluster.
   Kayser and Peress 2012

CSES datasets are available for free and without embargo, enabling the work of thousands of researchers, policymakers, students, and journalists.
Research in the Public Interest

When Do the Rich Vote Less Than the Poor and Why?
Explaining Turnout Inequality across the World
Kasara and Suryanarayan, 2015

"Where the rich anticipate taxation, they have a greater incentive to participate in politics, and politicians are more likely to use fiscal policy to gain support."

Turnout Inequality

Notes: Ratio of turnout among the top quintile to turnout among the bottom quintile on a wealth index.

GESIS Klingemann Prize for the Best CSES Scholarship

Each year, the public nominates scholarly works using CSES, with the best piece selected to receive an award funded by GESIS in Germany. The 2017 winner is:

Coping with Complexity: How Voters Adapt to Unstable Parties
by Dani Marinova

The book examines party instability and its consequences for how citizens behave in elections. The author argues that party instability:

- makes it more difficult for voters to acquire information related to elections
- makes voters more likely to rely on candidate characteristics when voting
CSES Modules

The theme of each new survey module is determined after a public call for ideas that are then evaluated through an open and inclusive process.

Module 5: Populism

CSES Modules address big global research questions

CSES' newest module focuses on populism and people's attitudes towards political elites, representative democracy and majority rule, and out-groups.

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*in process, estimated

Return on Investment

- The United States (National Science Foundation) and Germany (GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences) co-fund the central staffing for organizing the project.
- Millions of dollars of survey data collections are funded by individual country collaborators, at no additional cost to the project.
- Project collaborators and members of the CSES Planning Committee are volunteers and pay for their own flights to meetings.
- Local hosts largely cover the costs of project planning meetings.

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