Context and focus

**Context**: semi-presidential system since 1958/1962

- 9 presidential elections since 1965 (5 years term since 2002)
- Legislative elections now a few weeks after the presidential elections (since 2002); no connection before. 14 elections since 1958.
- Both elections held with a run-off system (majority or majority/plurality)

**Presidential elections dominate**, and hence are now attracting most of the academic attention.

**Other elections** (Senate, local,…) never thoroughly studied, except for some referendums.
Election studies in France

**Main studies:**


**CSES included in** from 2002 (module 2 onwards)

Most studies are single cross-sectional surveys. Panel data in the 1960s and since 2002.
Core topics

• Long-lasting interest in socio-demographic determinants

• Attitudes and values (economic vs. cultural dimension) have come to the fore since the 1990s.

• Since the 1980s, explaining emergence and success of the extreme National Front have been key.
What’s new

• France has tried to catch up with developments in electoral studies:
  • Long term online panel (dynamob)
  • Pre-election barometers and campaign panels
  • VAA (La boussole électorale)
  • Inclusion of random sampling in post-election surveys
Organization and data access

• Studies conducted by various teams, mainly located in Sciences Po, Paris (CEVIPOF).

• Since the 2000s, efforts to build a larger network to create a stable national election study. Yet, no long term and infrastructure funding available.

• Progress in data archiving, through the CDSP (cdsp.sciences-po.fr). Access through Nesstar server and possible access to original data.
Data access

French surveys

Files distributed by the CDSP are freely available to members of the scientific community for research or teaching. Requests from other users are considered on a case by case basis.

Surveys:
- Panel Electoral Français 2007
- The Baromètre Politique Français (BPF - French Political Barometer) 2006-2007
- Panel Électoral Français 2002
- Pre- and post-election surveys 1998-1997
- Democracy 2000 Survey
- Interregional Surveys (OIP 1985-2004)
- Exit polls, 1995 Presidential Election
- Surveys on cadres of political parties
- Surveys of Elected Officials
- Surveys on younger and older generations
- Surveys on environment (IFEN)
- L’ouvrier français en 1970
- Baromètre on Citizenship
- Science Surveys
- Enquêtes "Presse Gaïe"
- La socialisation professionnelle des gardiens de la paix 1992-2002
- Archives of the Atlas of the practice religious of the catholics in France
Latest results…

• Are not available at CDSP yet.
• But information can be found at:
  • http://www.cevipof.com/fr/2012/recherche/
  • https://sites.google.com/a/iepg.fr/trielec/resultats-analyses/enquetes-pre-electorales