

Italian National Election Studies

A (relatively) recent chapter of along tradition of electoral research

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The series of main Italian electoral studies related to Itanes

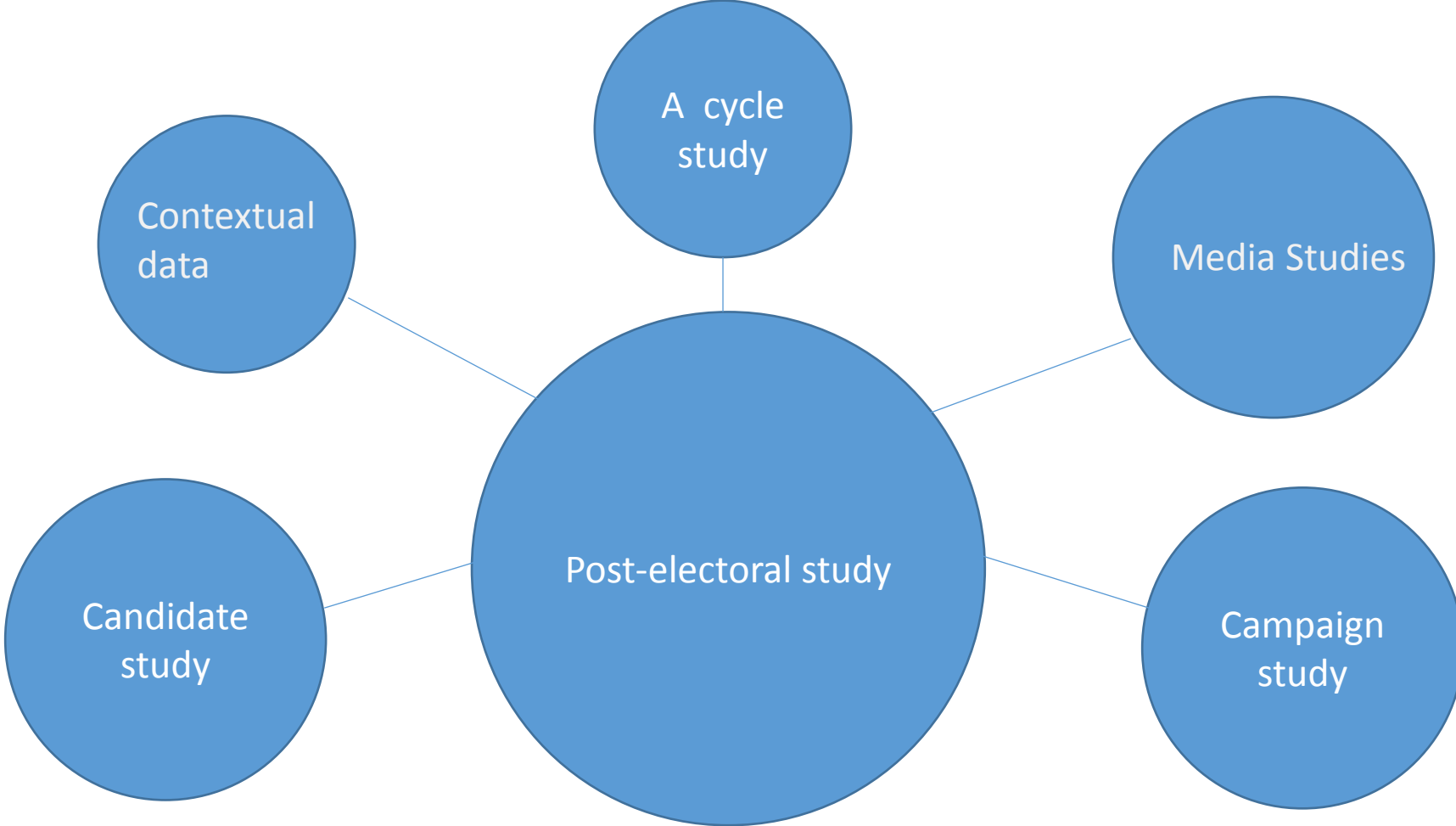
	Years	Timing	Unit of analysis	Mode
Istituto Cattaneo	1948-1963		Municipalities and Dc and Pci members	
Barnes-Sani	1968	Post-electoral	Individual	Paper and pencil
Barnes-Sani	1972	Post-electoral	Individual	Paper and pencil
Istituto Cattaneo	1948-1987		Polling stations (sample)	
Sani and Mannheim	(1985)		Individual	Paper and pencil
Istituto Cattaneo	1992	Post-electoral	Individual	Cati
Istituto Cattaneo	1994	Post-electoral	Individual	Cati
Istituto Cattaneo-Itanes	1996	Post-electoral	Individual	Cati
Itanes	2001	Post-electoral	Individual	Capi
Itanes	2006	Post-electoral	Individual	Capi
Itanes	2008	Post-electoral	Individual	Cati
Itanes	2013	Post-electoral	Individual	Capi

Several other studies connected to the main Itanes post-electoral study

Study	Year	Type	Mode
Itanes	2001-2004-2006	Panel (three waves)	Capi-Capi-Cati
Itanes	2004	Cross-section	Cati
Itanes	2006	Panel (two waves-pre/post elections)	Capi
Itanes	2006	Five weeks pre RCS and panel	Cati
Cses Module	2006	Post-electoral	Capi
Itanes	2008	Panel (five waves pre and post electoral)	Cawi
Itanes	2013-2014-2015	Panel (six waves)	Cawi

All these studies are available or will be available at www.itanes.org

The «Ideal typical» structure of a Itanes Study



Characteristics of the post-electoral survey

	Sample	N.cases	Length
2001	Voters randomly selected from the electoral register of a random sample of polling stations, nested in a random sample of commune	3000	About 1 H
2006	The same	3000 (1500 II wave panel and 1500 new Rs)	About 1 H
2013	The same	1500	About 1 h

Campaign Study

Study	Design RCS	Mode
2006	200 Rs x 4 weeks before and half reinterviewed after	Cati
2013	200 Rs X 5 weeks before and half reinterviewed after	Cawi

Media

Study	Media	Integrated in the RCS
2013	Daily recoding of main newspaper (title) TV news Twitter Collected daily over two months before the elections	Winter 2015

Candidate Study

Study	Number of cases	Availability
2013	640 (Response rate= 22% of about 2800 candidate sample out of more than 11.000 candidates)	June 2015. CCS Core questionnaire plus other Italian specific items

Contextual data

Study	Data	Integration with the post-electoral
2001-2006	Political data at polling stations level Socio-economic data ad commune level	To be done
2013	The same	Spring 2015

Cycle component

Study	Characteristics	
2001-2006	Three waves Capi-cati panel covering 2001-2004 and 2006	1000 Rs in all 3 waves; 1800 in 2
2013-2014-2015	6 waves Cawi panel plus	So far 4 waves 2003 Rs in all of them
2015	Cross-sectional surveys on 3 Regional elections next Spring	

Books based on Itanes data

Election year(s)	Title	editors
1994	Sulla soglia del Cambiamento	Schadee and Parisi
1994-1996	A domanda risponde	Parisi and Corbetta
2001	Perché ha vinto il centro-destra	Itanes
2001	Le ragioni dell'elettore	Caciagli and Corbetta
2006	Dov'è la Vittoria	Itanes
2008	Il ritorno di Berlusconi	Itanes
2008	Gli italiani e la politica	Maraffi
2010	Votare in Italia, 1968-2006	Bellucci and Segatti
2013	Voto amaro	Itanes
20.....	The Italian Voter....	?????

Several dozens of articles in
International and national journals

Problems 1

- Post –Electoral Capi survey aimed to have a «representative» sample of Italian voters to capture time change and territorial differences
- Increasing costs made impossible to have in future other similar studies
- Cati surveys have their own limits (less than 10% of response set, non representation of young voters,..»
- Cawi surveys are helpful instruments for answering interesting questions, but so far not to provide «reliable» point estimations, which are important if tracking time change is a goal.

Problems 2 : Resources

- Almost all Italian National Elections Studies were made possible thanks to the scientific money from the Ministry of Scientific Research accessed by participation to calls open to all sorts of research projects.
- Until now the winning strategy has been to build a grand coalition of universities (in 2013 11 universities) in which Itanes group is the leading partner-
 - High coordination and transaction costs because of competition internalization
- Itanes tried but failed to convince research Institutions that Electoral Research is an infrastructure. Deeply rooted prejudice against individual data and survey research, also in academia.
- The outlook is bleak since there are anymore research funds similar to the previous ones.
- Italian foundations and private companies are not eager to invest their money in electoral studies. But they often finance opinion polls.

Thank you for your attention