

Latvian election studies

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Election-related studies

- Abundance of elections since 1991:
 - Eight national elections
 - Six municipal elections
 - Three European elections
- Two strands of research:
 - Academic studies
 - Non-academic studies

Non-academic studies

- Pre-election surveys
 - Commissioned by political parties, media since 1998
 - Focus on issues, messages, leaders, party support
 - Nationally-representative samples
 - CAPI, CATI
 - Data sets typically not available
- Exit polls
 - Commissioned by media since 2002
 - Missing much of demographics
 - Various levels of accuracy (non-response 25-30%)

Academic studies, 1993-2002

- Various institutions in charge
- Unclear focus
 - Vote choice and socio-demographic variables
- Pre- and post-election surveys
- Varying quality of fieldwork
- Data deposited at GESIS

Academic studies, 2004-

- Explicitly cross-national
- ISSP 2003, 2004, 2013
 - Citizenship
 - National identity
- ESS 2006, 2008
 - trust in institutions;
 - party membership and ID;
 - ideological self-placement;
 - political participation

Academic studies, 2004-

- CSES M3 and M4
 - country-specific issues
- Attempts to maintain time-series
- Technicalities
 - CAPI within 2 months from the election day
 - Stratified random samples
 - 45-55 minute interview
- Data available via CSES

Main topics

- Turnout
- Vote choice
 - Importance of cleavage structure
 - Impact of IT and political communication
- Effects of preferential voting

Challenges

- Accuracy of data (emigration)
- Social/policy relevance of research
- Funding
- Small number of researchers
- Data collection method