The Swedish National Election Studies Program 1952-

History

- Founded by professor Jörgen Westerståhl in 1952, pilot study in 1954.
- First nationally representative voter study in 1956.
- 1960-: Longstanding companionship with Statistics Sweden (SCB)
  *Field work* conducted by SCB, financed by the Parliament, integrated part of the official democracy statistics
- *Research* financed by UoG (Chair) and by ’regular’ research funding.

Data treasure (All available w english documentation from www.snd.gu.se/en)

- 17 National Election Studies 1956-2010 (rolling two wave panels)

Features of the SNES

- Large population based samples, face to face-interviews
- Pre-election interviews (campaign panel component)
- Validated vote
- Census register data
SNES Core Organization

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Program coordinator: Per Hedberg
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Sören Holmberg : Staffan I Lindberg : Staffan Kumlin :
Stefan Dahlberg
Super Election Year 2014
Voter surveys

- SNES EP Election Study 2014
- SNES National Election Study 2014
- European Election Study (EES) 2014
- SNES/LORe Internet Campaign Panel 2014 x2
- LORe standing panels (opt in/prob. based)
- Exit Poll EP-election 2014 (SVT/Valu)
- Exit Poll National Election 2014 (SVT/Valu)
- National SOM-survey 2014
- Regional SOM-survey(s) 2014
- Diaspora SOM-survey 2014
And more…

• Member of Parliament Study 2014
• Panel of Politicians
• Panel of Journalists
• Coding of Party Pledges (and tracking of the fulfillment)
• Party manifesto codings
• Content analyses of media coverage
• Party campaign and propaganda incl TV-ads
2014 Super Election Year in Sweden

Feb   Mar   Apr   May   June   July   Aug   Sep   Oct   Nov

SNES EP2014
Post Election mail back w web and telephone
n=5 400

SNES EP2014
Post Election mail back w web
n=5 400

SNES EP2014
Pre Election Face to face w telephone
n=2 000

SNES 2014
Post Election Face to face w telephone
n=2 000

2010

2018 2019

2018 2019

www.valforskning.pol.gu.se
Topics of SNES 2014
The ”all purpose work horse” of Electoral Studies in Sweden

- Voting advice application (VAA)
- Strategic voting
- Political knowledge & sophistication
- Choice set models
- Issue ownership
- Preferential voting

- Government job performance
- Evaluations of political results
- Responsibility attribution
- Leader image
- Economic voting and patrimony
- Turnout & mobilization
- Absentee voting
- Perceptions of party pledges
- CSES IV

- Census register (turnout, education levels and type, household composition, household income, welfare benefits, taxation, real estate, yrs 2001-2014)
Swedish general election and Swedish European parliament election 2014

- Dotted bars = European Parliamentary election May 25, 2014
- Thick line bars = General election to the Riksdag, September 14, 2014
Swedish General Election 14 September 2014

- **Rules:** Minor changes: Election Day now the Second Sunday of September (not the third); Threshold in the preferential voting system lowered from 8 to 5 percent; Mandatory vote of confidence for PM if s/he does not leave. Related: Further improvements in the election administration and the absentee voting system.

- **Substance:** Red-Green parties vs the Incumbent center-right four-party coalition “The Alliance”; schooling, economy, unemployment, immigration was the most important issues for party choice according to the Exit polls.

- **Results:** increasing turnout; all eight parties keep representation in parliament, few wasted votes; Incumbent Conservative party lose a lot; Anti-immigrant party Sweden democrats doubled in size and got 13 percent.

- **Effects:** government turnover; parliamentary stalemate; weak minority government with Social Democrat and Green party with Stefan Löfven as new PM; post-election coalition negotiations/bargains will soon decide the future of the weak minority government; Fragmentation and left-right depolarisation of party system.
Challenges

- Long term funding
- Response rates
- Mixed mode designs
- Data availability and usage
- International impact
SNES

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