

The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems Project: An Overview



www.cses.org

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Rationale for the CSES

- *Designed to study variations in electoral systems*
- *Wide variations across countries on...*
 - Electoral rules
 - Presidential or parliamentary system
 - Federalism vs unitary government
 - Lines of political conflict

... and more

CSES as a Research Resource

- Electoral engineering
- Electoral institutions and the personal vote
- Voter turnout
- Democracy in divided societies
- Competence and legitimacy in new democracies
- Economic voting in a globalizing economy

...and more

General Project Overview

- *Micro dataset*
 - 10-15 minute module with common questions in national election studies
 - module topic current for about 5 years
 - District level data for each respondent, e.g. turnout
- *Macro dataset*
 - detailed information about democratic institutions
- *Public access at <http://www.cses.org>*



1996-2001

Module 1: System Performance

- *Topics include...*
 - electoral institutions and political cognition and behavior
 - the nature of political and social cleavages and alignments
 - the evaluation of democratic institutions and processes

2001-2006

Module 2: Accountability, Representation

- *Topics include...*
 - elections as accountability versus elections as representation
 - voter engagement and electoral participation
 - institutional context and voter choice

2006-2011

Module 3: Electoral Choices

- *The Electoral Choice Set*
 - How do choices affect electoral decisions?
 - How do supply patterns influence choice?
- *Dimensions of Choice*
 - Retrospective, prospective
 - Ideology
 - Performance evaluations

Module 3 Electoral Choices, *continued*

- *What happens if choices are not meaningful?*
 - Decline in electoral participation
 - New parties may alter the choice set
 - Political support may decline

Geographical Coverage

- *Countries included in the CSES*
 - Criteria for inclusion
 - Around 55 countries as at mid-2008
 - Module 1, 33 countries
 - Module 2, 38 countries
 - Limited coverage in Africa
 - Reasonable coverage in Latin America, East Asia

Publications using the CSES

- **Book examples**

- Pippa Norris, *Electoral Engineering*
- Hans-Dieter Klingemann, *The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems*
- Series with OUP

- **Journal examples**

- Special issue of *Political Analysis*, vol 13 (4) 2005
'Multilevel Modeling for Large Clusters'
- Special issue of *Party Politics*, vol 13 (2) 2007
'Political Parties and Political Development'
- *Electoral Studies* symposium, vol 27 (1) 2008
'Public Support for Democracy'

ALSO PUBLISHED BY
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Politics of Electoral Systems

Edited by Michael Gallagher
and Paul Mitchell

Losers' Consent

Elections and Democratic Legitimacy
Christopher J. Anderson, André Blais,
Shaun Bowler, Todd Donovan, and
Ola Lishaug

The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior

Edited by Russell J. Dalton and
Hans-Dieter Klingemann



SERIES EDITORS:
Hans-Dieter Klingemann and Ian McAllister

Citizens living in presidential or parliamentary systems face different political choices as do voters casting votes in elections governed by rules of proportional representation or plurality. Political commentators seem to know how such rules influence political behaviour. They firmly believe, for example, that candidates running in plurality systems are better known and held more accountable to their constituencies than candidates competing in elections governed by proportional representation. However, such assertions rest on shaky ground simply because solid empirical knowledge to evaluate the impact of political institutions on individual political behaviour is still lacking. *The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems* has collected data on political institutions and on individual political behaviour and scrutinized it carefully. In line with common wisdom, results of most analyses presented in this volume confirm that political institutions matter for individual political behaviour but, contrary to what is widely believed, they do not matter much.

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Klingemann
The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems

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The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems

Edited by Hans-Dieter Klingemann

Hans-Dieter Klingemann is Professor
Emeritus, Social Science Research
Center, Berlin.

CSES OUP Series

- • Vol 1 *The Comparative Study of Electoral Systems*.
Editor: Hans-Dieter Klingemann.
- • Vol 2 *Elections and Representative Democracy: Representation and Accountability*. Editor: Jacques Thomassen.
- • Vol 3 *Choices, Elections, Democracy*.
Editors: Hermann Schmitt and Bernhard Weßels.
- • Vol 4 *Citizens In Context: How Institutional Structures Shape Citizen Behavior*. Editors: Russell J. Dalton and Chris Anderson.
- • *Does Globalization Make a Difference? Public Perceptions of Constraint in Old and New Democracies*. Author: Jack Vowles.
- • *Exchanging Places? Gender and Political Behaviour in Western Democracies*. Authors: Bernadette C. Hayes and Ian McAllister.