Paolo Bellucci

**Reading list on public opinion and the EU in the Great Recession**


Economic voting – a retrospective evaluation of parties’ performance – has been interpreted as voters’ instrument of democratic accountability. Based on EES data for Southern Europe, the As. show that voters holding the EU responsible for the economic condition of their nation – thus assigning prime economic competence to the supranational polity – are less likely to hold their government accountable. This finding – confirming for Southern Europe the general finding on the clarity of government responsibility (Powel & Whitten, 1993), and the globalisation hypothesis (Helwig; Duch and Stevenson, 2008) – globalisation reduces the signal concerning the government handling of the economy – points to the fact that EU integration diminishes national government responsibility and accountability, while as the Hobolt and Tilley book argue, the EU at the same time is perceived responsible but not accountable. A paradox.


EP elections are considered second order elections, waged on domestic issues. While European issues - pro-contra integration and increasing EU competence – have been rarely entered party competition at national legislative elections. The A. argues that two conditions need to be met in order for the EU issue to become political relevant domestically: the issue must be salient in voters’ agenda, and there must be partisan conflict over Europe. Data from National Election Studies in Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, UK in 1990s- 2000s.


Special Issues

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Special Symposium: Economic Crisis and Elections: The European Periphery
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Paolo Bellucci, Marina Costa Lobo, Michael S. Lewis-Beck, Economic crisis and elections: The European periphery, Pages 469-471
Michael S. Lewis-Beck, Richard Nadeau, PIGS or not? Economic voting in Southern Europe, Pages 472-477
Michael Marsh, Slava Mikhaylov, Economic voting in a crisis: The Irish election of 2011, Pages 478-484
Roula Nezi, Economic voting under the economic crisis: Evidence from Greece, Pages 498-505
André Freire, José Santana-Pereira, Economic voting in Portugal, 2002–2009, Pages 506-512
Marina Costa Lobo, Michael S. Lewis-Beck, The integration hypothesis: How the European Union shapes economic voting, Pages 522-528
Thomas J. Scotto, Conclusion: Thinking about models of economic voting in hard times, Pages 529-531


Contents
Pedro C. Magalhães, Introduction – Financial Crisis, Austerity, and Electoral Politics, 125
Indridi H. Indridason, The Collapse: Economic Considerations in Vote Choice in Iceland, 134
Michael Marsh and Slava Mikhaylov A Conservative Revolution: The Electoral Response to Economic Crisis in Ireland, 160
Pedro C. Magalhães The Elections of the Great Recession in Portugal: Performance Voting under a Blurred Responsibility for the Economy, 180
Eftichia Teperoglou and Emmanouil Tsatsanis, Dealignment, De-legitimation and the Implosion of the Two-Party System in Greece: The Earthquake Election of 6 May 2012, 203
Paolo Bellucci, The Political Consequences of Blame Attribution for the Economic Crisis in the 2013 Italian National Election, 243