

The United Kingdom 2017 election: Polarization in a split issue space

Cristian Vaccari, Kaat Smets and Oliver Heath

Online Appendices

APPENDIX A – PARTY SPECIFIC ANALYSIS

Table A1. Predicting the share of party tweets (party specific)

	Model 1	Model 2
Issue yield	0.13*** (0.05) [0.26]	-0.11*** (0.00) [-0.22]
Systemic salience	0.27*** (0.04) [0.27]	0.26*** (0.01) [0.26]
UKIP		-0.03*** (0.00) [-0.22]
Greens		-0.03*** (0.00) [-0.60]
Liberal Democrats		-0.12*** (0.01) [-0.49]
Labour		-0.09*** (0.00) [-0.58]
Conservatives		-0.09*** (0.00) [-0.37]
UKIP*Issue yield		0.19*** (0.00) [0.38]
Greens*Issue yield		0.57*** (0.00) [1.14]

LibDems *Issue yield		0.38*** (0.00) [0.76]
Labour *Issue yield		0.49*** (0.01) [0.98]
Conservatives*Issue yield		0.27*** (0.00) [0.55]
UKIP *Systemic salience		-0.01*** (0.00) [-0.01]
Greens*Systemic salience		-0.04*** (0.00) [-0.04]
LibDems *Systemic salience		0.07*** (0.00) [0.07]
Labour *Systemic salience		-0.05*** (0.01) [-0.05]
Conservatives*Systemic salience		0.03*** (0.00) [0.03]
Constant	-0.19*** (0.03)	-0.14*** (0.01)
Sigma	0.07*** (0.00)	0.06*** (0.01)
N	168	168
AIC	-202.57	-231.00
BIC	-190.08	-227.88
VarExp	0.247	0.354

Note: b coefficients from tobit analysis with standard errors in parentheses and x-standardized coefficients in brackets; reference category: SNP; * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

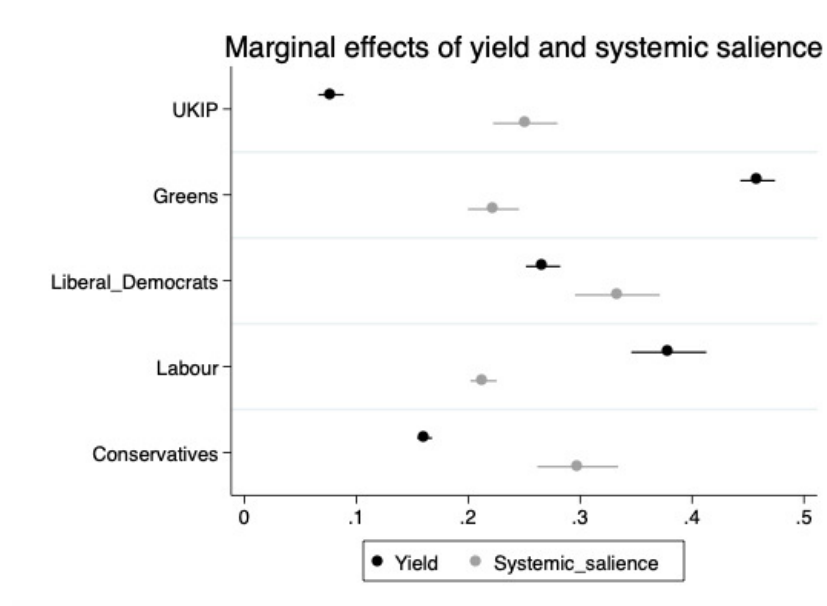
APPENDIX B – ANALYSES WITHOUT REGIONAL PARTIES

Table B1. Predicting the share of party tweets – excluding SNP

	Issue yield Model	Systemic salience model	Combined Model
Issue yield	0.21*** (0.04) [0.42]		0.16*** (0.03) [0.33]
Systemic salience		0.30*** (0.06) [0.30]	0.27*** (0.04) [0.27]
Constant	-0.24 (0.02)	-0.19*** (0.04)	-0.20*** (0.04)
Sigma	0.07*** (0.01)	0.07*** (0.00)	0.07*** (0.00)
<i>N</i>	140	140	140
AIC	-130.69	-145.60	-156.40
BIC	-121.86	-136.85	-144.63
VarExp	0.135	0.195	0.278

Note: b coefficients from tobit analysis with standard errors in parentheses and x-standardized coefficients in brackets; * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

Figure B2. Marginal effects of issue yield and systemic salience- excluding SNP



Note: Estimates are based on the coefficients from Model 2 in Table B1.

Table B3. Predicting the share of party tweets (party specific) – excluding SNP

	Model 1	Model 2
Issue yield	0.16*** (0.03) [0.33]	0.08*** (0.01) [0.15]
Systemic salience	0.27*** (0.04) [0.27]	0.25*** (0.01) [0.25]
Greens		-0.00*** (0.00) [-0.39]
Liberal Democrats		-0.09*** (0.00) [-0.28]
Labour		-0.07*** (0.00) [-0.37]
Conservatives		-0.07*** (0.00) [-0.15]
Greens*Issue yield		0.38*** (0.00) [0.76]
LibDems *Issue yield		0.19*** (0.00) [0.38]
Labour *Issue yield		0.30*** (0.01) [0.60]
Conservatives*Issue yield		0.08*** (0.00) [0.17]
Greens*Systemic salience		-0.03*** (0.00) [-0.03]
LibDems *Systemic salience		0.08*** (0.00) [0.08]
Labour *Systemic salience		-0.04*** (0.01) [-0.04]

Conservatives*Systemic salience	0.05*** (0.00) [0.05]	
Constant	-0.20*** (0.04)	-0.17*** (0.01)
Sigma	0.07*** (0.00)	0.06*** (0.01)
<i>N</i>	140	140
AIC	-156.40	-180.01
BIC	-144.63	-177.07
VarExp	0.278	0.377

Note: b coefficients from tobit analysis with standard errors in parentheses and x-standardized coefficients in brackets; reference category: UKIP; * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

APPENDIX C – CONTENT OF THE PARTIES' TWEETS

	Cons	Lab	L-D	SNP	Green	UKIP	All
Remain in/leave the European Union (p)	33.7%	0.9%	25.5%	7.5%	3.0%	9.2%	15.9%
Cut/raise taxes and spend less/more on social services (p)	10.7%	10.7%	16.0%	17.9%	6.0%	9.2%	11.6%
Improve the NHS (v)	1.4%	18.4%	7.0%	13.8%	9.8%	2.3%	8.9%
Provide leadership for the country (v)	17.9%	2.5%	2.5%	1.2%	3.6%	3.4%	7.6%
Boost economic growth (v)	9.9%	3.2%	6.0%	5.2%	1.2%	2.3%	5.7%
Improve the quality of schools (v)	2.7%	7.5%	7.0%	8.9%	5.7%	3.4%	5.6%
Protect the environment (v)	0.3%	1.4%	3.5%	2.6%	21.4%	0.0%	4.5%
Protect pensions (v)	0.6%	11.1%	0.0%	4.6%	0.3%	0.0%	3.3%
Protect the UK from terrorist attacks (v)	4.7%	1.6%	3.5%	1.7%	1.2%	6.9%	3.0%
Reduce/maintain the cost of university tuition fees (p)	0.0%	5.0%	2.0%	2.9%	6.0%	1.1%	2.7%
Fight crime and keep communities safe (v)	2.1%	5.9%	1.5%	2.3%	0.3%	2.3%	2.6%
End/allow freedom of movement of people from the EU into Britain (p)	0.8%	0.0%	3.5%	1.4%	8.0%	0.0%	2.1%
Control immigration (v)	3.9%	0.0%	1.0%	0.6%	0.6%	6.9%	1.9%
Reduce/do not reduce income differences (p)	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	4.3%	4.2%	0.0%	1.8%
Invest more public money/rely on the private sector to build affordable homes (p)	0.8%	3.6%	1.5%	0.6%	2.4%	0.0%	1.7%
Maintain/dismantle nuclear weapons (p)	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	4.2%	0.0%	1.7%
Reduce unemployment (v)	0.6%	3.4%	0.0%	2.6%	0.3%	1.1%	1.4%
Allow/do not allow Scotland to vote in another referendum on independence (p)	0.7%	0.5%	1.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Increase/do not increase the minimum wage (p)	0.3%	1.1%	0.0%	2.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%
Remain in/leave the European Single Market (p)	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.4%	1.2%	2.3%	0.8%
Nationalize/do not nationalize railways (p)	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%
Require foreigners to adapt to British culture/Allow them to preserve their culture (p)	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.7%	0.3%
Expand/limit the provision of grammar schools (p)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	3.4%	0.2%
Allow/prohibit fracking to produce more oil and gas (p)	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%

Ban/maintain zero hours contracts for workers (p)	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ban/allow the Islamic veil in public spaces (p)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%
Keep/repeal the law that allows gay marriages (p)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Restrict/maintain levels of access to welfare benefits for immigrants (p)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other issues	6.1%	19.0%	16.0%	14.1%	19.3%	39.1%	14.5%
<i>N</i>	709	441	200	347	336	87	2120

Note: The table shows the percentage of tweets that each party and its leaders posted on each issue against the total tweets with some issue content by that party and leaders. (p) = positional issues; (v) = valence issues.