

Séminaire Général du Centre d'études européennes

Do issue reputations drive party preference, or is it the other way around? Disentangling the direction of causality between issue ownership and party preference

Tuesday 2 May 2017

12.30 - 2.30 pm

Sciences Po
Room Goguel
56, rue des Saints-Pères
(Entrance through the 27 rue Saint-Guillaume)
75007 Paris

Issue ownership is increasingly used to explain voters' electoral choices. Various studies show that when voters consider a party to be better able to handle specific issues, this positively affects their party preference. However, a number of scholars have raised concerns about the confoundedness of especially competence issue ownership and party preferences, arguing that party preference may not only be a consequence of competence issue ownership: these reputations can also be caused by party preferences. Based on a Dutch three-wave panel survey, we show that while the impact of competence issue ownership on party preferences is substantial, shifts in party preferences exert a stronger influence on issue ownership. We discuss the implications of these findings for issue ownership theory.



Speaker

Rens Vliegthart, University of Amsterdam

Rens Vliegthart's research interests include media-politics relations, media coverage of social movements and businesses, election campaigns, European integration, soccer hooliganism and time series analysis. He is teaching in those and related topics at the University of Amsterdam.

Rens Vliegthart is a regular contributor to the blog *stukroodvlees*, that publishes on political and social science research and current affairs (in Dutch).

Discussion

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