

ETHNICITY AND POLICY

This project aims to address the interplay between identity or ethnic politics, political representation and policy formulation. Ethnic politics has been generally considered as politics of belonging, potentially leading to group confrontation, and conflict. The possibility that ethnic politics may, under particular circumstances, influence ideological representation, and be conducive to specific policy outcomes is undertheorized and empirically unexplored. This project rectifies this shortcoming in a novel, comparative and interdisciplinary perspective.

Evaluation of Democracy Research Group

Research team :

Jan ROVNY

Theoretical Basis

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Results

The cases studied exemplify the circumstantial nature of ethnic preferences -- a topic that is overlooked by the literature on both political preference formation, and on ethnic politics. It shows that while Sudeten Germans preferred to not belong to the Czechoslovak state, once this question was taken off the table by exogenous factors (peace conference, treaty with Austria, the Locarno process), the dominant minority representatives turned towards the search for ethnic group maintenance within the status quo. This leads to two developments. First, the vast majority of Sudeten German voters consistently support those parties that presented moderate cooperative solutions. Second, these elites seek inclusive policy changes, particularly in the areas of equitable access to native language schooling, to civil service jobs, and to government tenders. It is of course difficult to assess whether all of these ethnic requests are just, or whether they simply aim at re-establishing the primacy of the ethnic minority.



Jan Rovny is an associate professor at Sciences Po, Center for European Studies and Compared Politics (CEE) and the Interdisciplinary Research Center for the Evaluation of Public Policies (LIEPP).

His research focuses on political competition in Europe with the aim of uncovering the ideological conflict lines in different countries. Recently, he works primarily on the effect of ethnic identity on political preferences and representation.

Paul LENORMAND



Paul Lenormand is doctor in history and associate researcher at the Centre d'Histoire (CHSP). He works as a research fellow at Services Historique de la Défense (SHD).

His research focuses on Central and Eastern Europe, with a special focus on the history of warfare and the Cold War. His dissertation's topic was: "Towards 'People's Army:' assessing the impact of war and communism on the Czechoslovak military culture".

Volksfreund (social democratic newspaper)



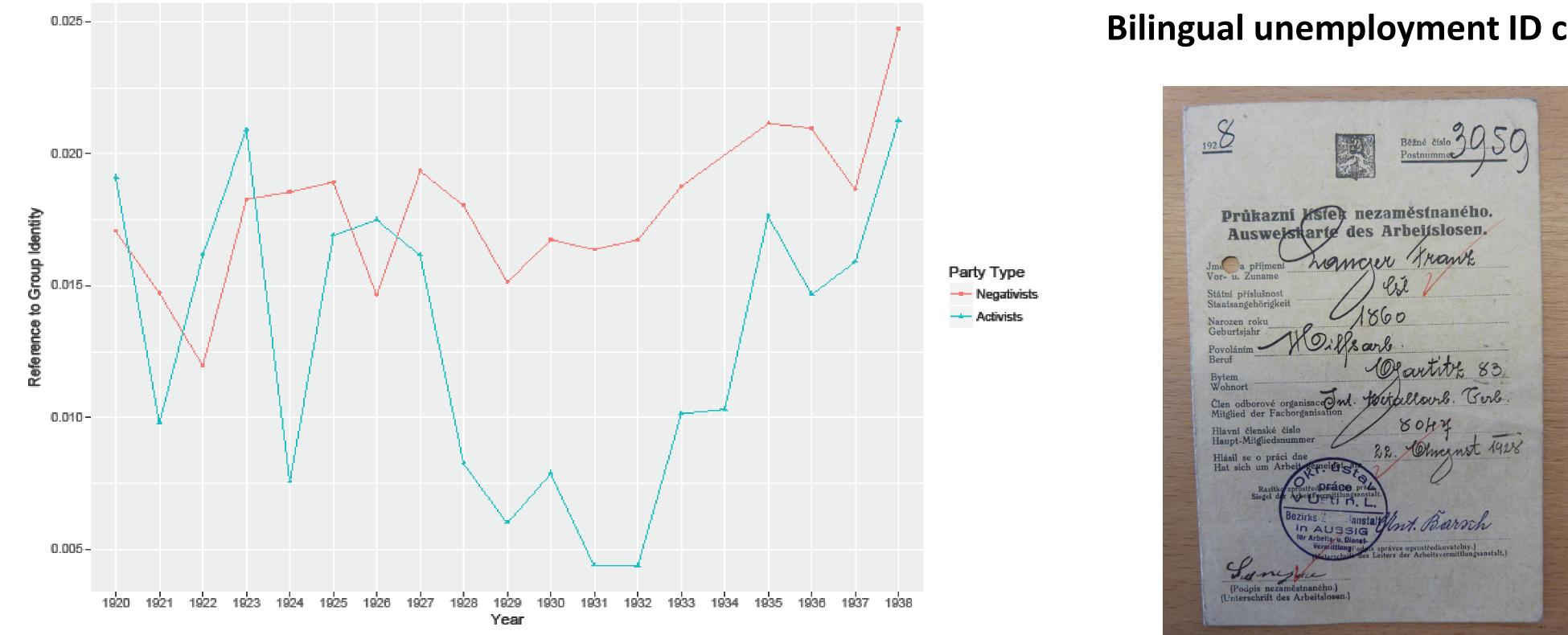
Nevertheless, the evidence suggests that, despite the details of the political give and take, the primary aim of the moderate ethnic elites is to make their group symbolically, as well as practically equal citizens and co-owners of state they live in. This goal, that in today's language may be labeled as `multicultural,' is, however, not inherent to the group, it is but an outcome of their current minority status. As circumstances change, political preferences change with them. As the possibility to escape from minority status becomes increasingly realistic, the cooperative moderates lose political support to the ethnic extremists who seek to redress ethnic grievances more radically -- by ending the group's minority status. The moderates are torn between their original cooperative aims, and the radicalization of their group, struggling to adapt to the new discourse.

Archival evidence at our disposal suggested that German-speaking ministers -- Ludwig Czech and Franz Spina in particular -- and their subordinates supported a relatively national-blind public policy. They were well aware of the weaknesses of multinational Czechoslovakia, but rather than undermining the state, they used its resources in the form of law, and public funding to support and protect the German minority from a complete Czech monopoly over the state. They were both rational, as the most extreme Czech nationalists would have prospered in an entirely radical German environment, and culturally inclined to do so, having been socialized in an era of transnational cooperation.

Police Report

a obecní agendy vládní komisaři. Obecní finanční zákon, také oblíbený terč negativistických útoků má za účel snížiti obecní přirážky a tím učiniti danová břemene poplatníků snesitelnými.Tento zákon je skutečně výhodný a bude míti nesporně příznivý vliv na rozhárané obecní hospodářství. Aktivistům jest děkovati za to, že bezdůvodné zavírání německých škol přestalo a že otázka školní je řešena spravedlivě a dle skutečných potřeb.V ohledu kulturním nastala vlivem aktivistů náležitá úprava a kulturní boj, který za vlády socialistické hrozil vypouknouti, byl na dhouhou dobu odvrácen. Aktivismus není německým politickým ideálem, je ales za dnešních poměrů v tomto státě jediný rozumný postup pro Němce, kteří loyálně

Group Identity



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Spina's letter and post card

kož jistý Dr.Dvořák, jenž vykonává lékařskou prak

teprve jeden rok a nesložil dosud fysikátní zkouš

má toto místo dostat, jakmile absolvuje fysikátný

říve patřily k Rakousku, a ježto neobsazení tohoto ta lékařem německé národnosti znamenalo by pro

německé politické strany, obzvláště též pro německou křesťansko-sociální stranu, která v tomto kraji jest silně zastoupena, velikou újmu, prosím Vás, pane ministře, velmi snažně, abyste ráčil laskavě zrušiti rozkaz pana ministra Dra Tiso a zařídil jmenování

Dra Veldena.

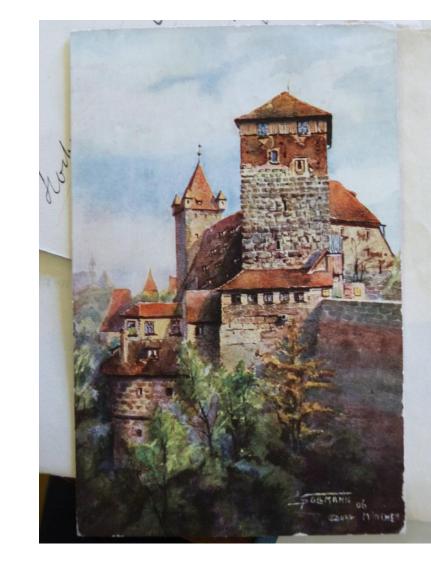
lelikož se jedná o tři německé obce, které

Děkuje Vám předem za Vaši laskavost, o kter

Vám oddaný

2 Ming

snažně prosím, znamenám s projevem dokonalé úcty



Bilingual unemployment ID card



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