

Since A. Downs' seminal contribution (1957) the role of issues in electoral competition has been intensively scrutinized. From spatial voting to issue ownership (Petrocik 1996) scholars have proposed various theories to analyze the supply side and the demand side of electoral competition. Nevertheless, even if priming and agenda setting scholars emphasize that changes on attention to issues in the media influence electoral competition, the salience of issues i.e. how important issues are, has seldom been investigated in electoral studies. According to the "politics of attention" logics, the salience of issues is more important than the preference about it. Beyond the salience vs. preference approach, how issue importance and issue preference interacts has been neither studied nor evaluated regarding its consequences. Voter's policy priorities can only be known by combining the two dimensions: importance and preference. Therefore the project has two components:

- measuring relative preferences and their changes on a sample of issues ;
- estimating relative and absolute salience and their changes on the same issues.

Dates of Online Surveys

Wave Number	Field date
1	June 11 – June 20, 2014
2	September 25 - October 6, 2014
3	December 5 – December 15, 2014
4	January 30 - February 9, 2015
5	May 13 - May 26, 2015
6	October 2 – October 12, 2015
7	February 5 – February 15, 2016
8	September 9 –September 16, 2016.
9	December 9 – December 19, 2016
10	April 21 – April 23, 2017
11	October 16 – October 23, 2017

Note: Survey administered by Kanter (TNS-Sofres)

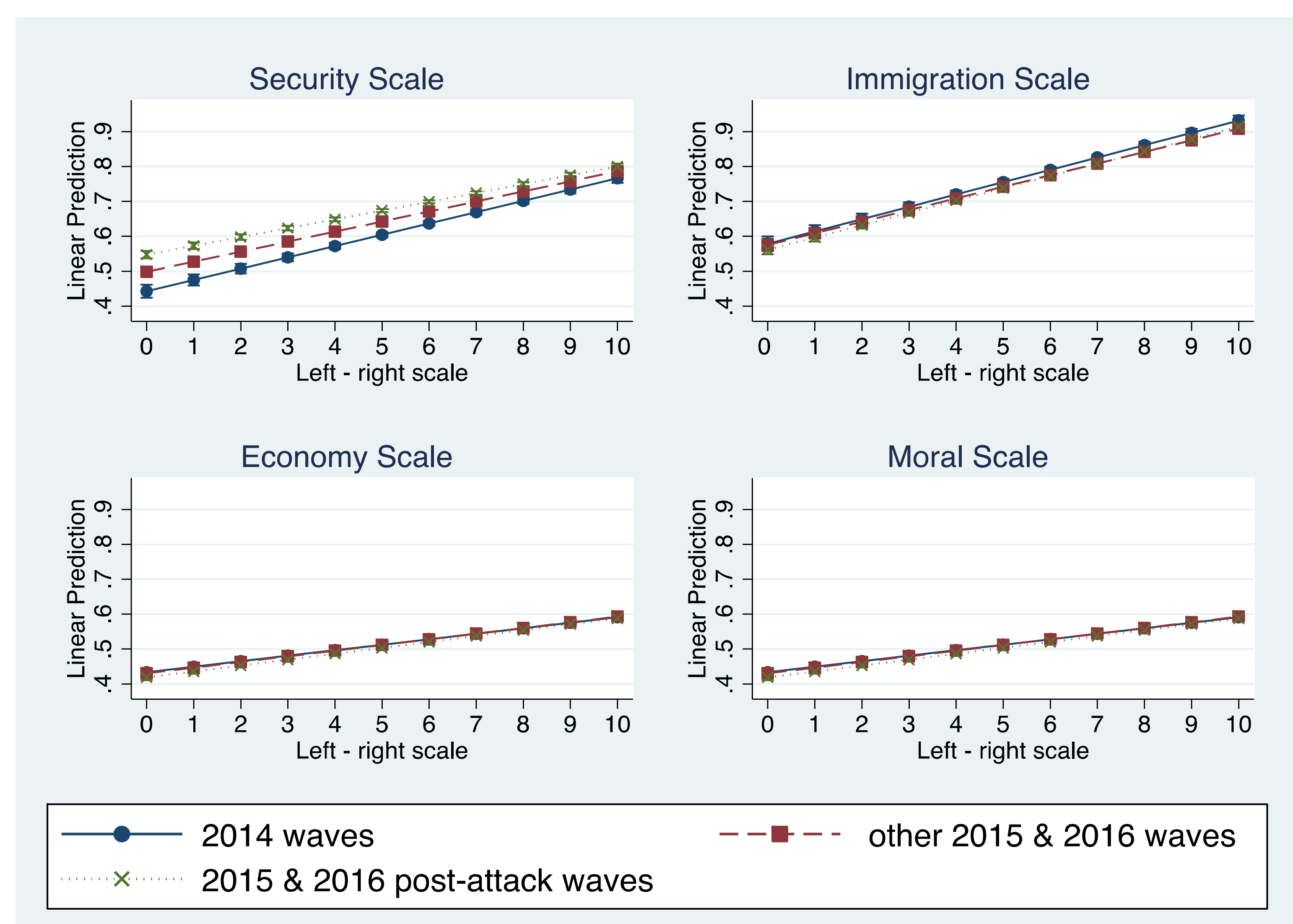
Latest Publication

S. Brouard, P. Vasilopoulos & M. Foucault « How Terrorism Affects Political Attitudes: France in the Aftermath of the 2015-2016 Attacks », *West European Politics*, forthcoming, 2018.

This study investigates what impact the terrorist attacks in Paris (2015) and Nice (2016) had on political attitudes in France. Drawing on nine cross-sectional surveys, it tests the premises of three major theories of opinion change that predict contrasting shifts in opinion among ordinary citizens according to their ideological position in the aftermath of terrorist attacks: the Reactive Liberals Hypothesis (RLH), the Terror Management Theory (TMT), and the Bayesian Updating Theory (BUT). In line with both RLH and BUT, the findings show that left-wing sympathisers shifted toward the right following the attacks. However, the results suggest that, in line with BUT, the attacks only had a significant impact on attitudes toward security, while they had no effect on attitudes toward immigration, or toward moral and socio-economic issues.

Effects of Terrorism on Political Attitudes

Predictive values on each scale for different ideological self-placements according to different periods



Evaluation of Democracy Research Group

Research team :

Sylvain BROUARD



Sylvain Brouard is researcher at Sciences Po's CEVIPOF and the co-head of the French Politics Group at the American Political Association.

His research concerns the interplay between political competition, institutions, and public action. In particular, he is interested in public opinion, electoral behavior, and political agendas.

Martial FOUCAULT



Martial Foucault is the director of CEVIPOF at Sciences Po and an associate researcher at LIEPP. His research interests range from political economy to political

behavior, without neglecting public policies, fiscal policies, and statistical methods. He was previously the director of the European Union Center for Excellence (University of Montreal/McGill University).

Nicolas SAUGER



Nicolas Sauger is an associate professor at Sciences Po's Center for European Studies (CEE).

His research focuses on the analysis of the transformation of the structures of political competition in France and in Europe. He has a particular interest in laboratory experiments in social sciences and in repeated comparative surveys.

Emiliano GROSSMAN



Emiliano is Professor at SciencesPo. His research concentrates on agenda-setting and political institutions. He is currently working on two major research projects.

The first concerns the possibility of partisan Government in a context of ever growing interdependence. The other focuses on the influence of media salience on policy-making processes.