

Elections and Voting Behaviour in India

Organiser: Professor K.C. Suri

Thursdays 9:00-11:00

INF 330 SAI Z 10

Objective:

Studies on elections and voting constitute a major area of Political Science teaching and research all over the world. Students of Indian politics are interested in the ways in which Indian citizens exercise their vote, contributing to the success of India's democracy. The course will relate various theories of voting behaviour to the Indian context by reviewing some major writings on India.

The course seeks to answer questions such as the trends in voting over the years and levels of electoral participation, social structural factors as determinants of voting behaviour, relationship between economy and voting, and gender issue in elections? Discussions on the theme will mainly rely on the reports of empirical research over the past few decades. We will also study some of the writings analyzing the results of latest parliamentary election in India.

Calendar and Syllabus:

3 May 2018: Introduction to the course

17 May 2018: Evolution of Election Studies in India

Tawa Lama-Rewal, Stéphanie (2009). "Studying Elections in India: Scientific and Political Debates", *Samaj*, Issue 3.

Palshikar, Suhas (2013). "Election Studies," in K.C. Suri and Achin Vanaik (eds), *Indian Democracy*, Political Science, Volume 2, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2013.

24 May 2018: Voter turnout and political participation

Diwakar, Rekha (2008). "Voter Turnout in the Indian States: An Empirical Analysis", *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties*, 18:1, 75-100.

Palshikar, Suhas and Sanjay Kumar (2004). "Participatory Norm: How Broad Based Is It?", *Economic and Political Weekly*, XXXIX (51), December 18, 5412-5417.

Kumar, Sanjay (2009). "Patterns of Political Participation: Trends and Perspectives", *Economic and Political Weekly*, XLIV (39), September 26, 47-51.

7 June 2018: Social structural aspects: Caste

Ahmed, Bashiruddin (1970). "Caste and Electoral Politics", *Asian Survey*, 10(11), 979-92.

Pai, Sudha and Jagpal Singh (1997). "Politicisation of Dalits and Most Backward Castes, Study of Social Conflict and Political Preferences in Four Villages of Meerut District", *Economic and Political Weekly*, XXXII (23), June 7, 1356-1361

Heath, Anthony and Yadav, Yogendra (1999). "United Colours of Congress, Social Profile of Congress Voters, 1996 and 1998", *Economic and Political Weekly*, XXXIV (34 & 35), August 21-28, 2518-28.

Shah, Ghanshyam (2010). "Beyond Caste Voting: Modasa, Gujarat Revisited", *Economic and Political Weekly*, XLV (4), January 23, 54-61.

14 June 2018: Social structural aspects: Class

Sridharan, E. (2014). “Class Voting in the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections The Growing Size and Importance of the Middle Classes”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, September 27, 44(39), 72-76.

Thachil, Tariq (2014). “Elite Parties and Poor Voters: Theory and Evidence from India”, *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 108, No. 2 May. 454-77.

Ahuja, Amit and Pradeep Chhibber (2012). “Why the Poor Vote in India: “If I Don’t Vote, I Am Dead to the State,” *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 47:389–410

21 June 2018: Social structural aspects: Religion

Heath, Oliver, Gilles Verniers and Sanjay Kumar (2015). “Do Muslim voters prefer Muslim candidates: Co-religiosity and voting behaviour in India”, *Electoral Studies*, 38.

Chhibber, Pradeep and Rahul Verma (2014). “An Ideological Consolidation of the Right: The BJP's 2014 'Modi Wave'”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 49, Issue No. 39, 27 Sep.

28 June 2018: Voting and the economy

Varshney, Ashutosh (2007). “India's Democratic Challenge”, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.86, Number 2 (March-April), pp.93-106.

Kumar, Sanjay (2004). “Impact of Economic Reforms on Indian Electorate”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 39, No. 16 (Apr. 17-23), pp. 1621-1630.

Suri, K.C. (2009). “The Economy and Voting in the 15th Lok Sabha Elections”, *Economic & Political Weekly*, September 26, 44 (39): 64-70.

5 July 2018: Strategic / Tactical voting

Choi, Jungug (2009). “Strategic Voting in India: Its extent and determinants in the 2004 General Election”, *Asian Survey*, 49 (4), 609-24.

Chandra, Kanchan (2009). “Why voters in patronage democracies split their tickets: Strategic voting for ethnic parties”, *Electoral Studies* 28 (2009) 21–32.

12 July 2018: Women and elections

Deshpande, Rajeshwari (2004). “How Gendered Was Women's Participation in Election 2004?”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 39, No. 51 (Dec. 18-24), pp. 5431-5436.

Dagar, Rainuka (2015). “Gender Narratives and Elections: Mandate for Safety, Development, or Rights,” in Paul Wallace (ed). *India’s 2014 Elections: A Modi-led BJP Sweep*, Sage, New Delhi, pp. 64-95.

19 July 2018: Analysis of the 2014 General Election results

Palshikar, Suhas and K.C. Suri (2014). “Critical Shifts in the Long Term, Caution in the Short Term: [India's 2014 Lok Sabha Elections](#)”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, [Vol. 49, Issue No. 39, 27 Sep.](#)

Tillin, Louise (2015). “Indian elections 2014: explaining the landslide”, *Contemporary South Asia*, 23:2, 117-122.

Diwakar, Rekha (2015). “The 16th General Election in India”, *Electoral Studies*, 37, pp.120-25.

26 July 2018: Analysis of the 2014 General Election results

Mitra, Subrata K. and Jivanta Schöttli (2016). “India’s 2014 General Elections: A Critical Realignment in Indian Politics?”, *Asian Survey*, Vol. 56 No. 4, July/August; pp. 605-628.

Heath, Oliver (2015). “The BJP's return to power: mobilisation, conversion and vote swing in the 2014 Indian elections”, *Contemporary South Asia*, 23:2, 123-135.

Wyatt, Andrew (2015). “India in 2014: Decisive National Elections”, *Asian Survey*, Vol.55, Number1, pp.33–47.

General guidelines:

This is a seminar course. Students are required to go through the readings mentioned in the syllabus and participate in classroom discussions. I will provide a brief introduction to each of these themes, followed by student presentations of the select reading or readings in about 15-20 minutes and discussion. Students are expected to give a short note in about 1500 words on the reading soon after their presentation in classroom. This is followed by a full-length essay of 5000-6000 words to be submitted at the end of the semester. We will identify additional and supplementary readings on topics students choose to write a full-length essay.

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