

APPENDIX

Figure A1 – Leave-one-out cross-validation test results for main effects model using the *most liked leader* measure of leader effects on turnout (model 1, Table 2)

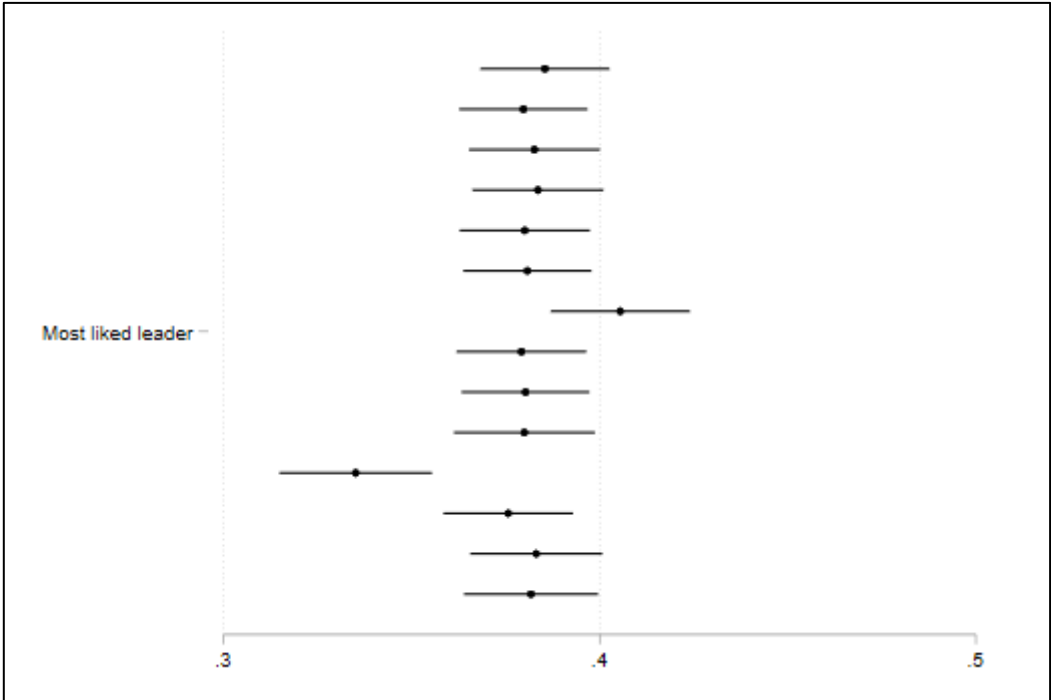


Figure A2 – Leave-one-out cross-validation test results for main effects model using the H measure of leader effects on turnout (model 2, Table 2)

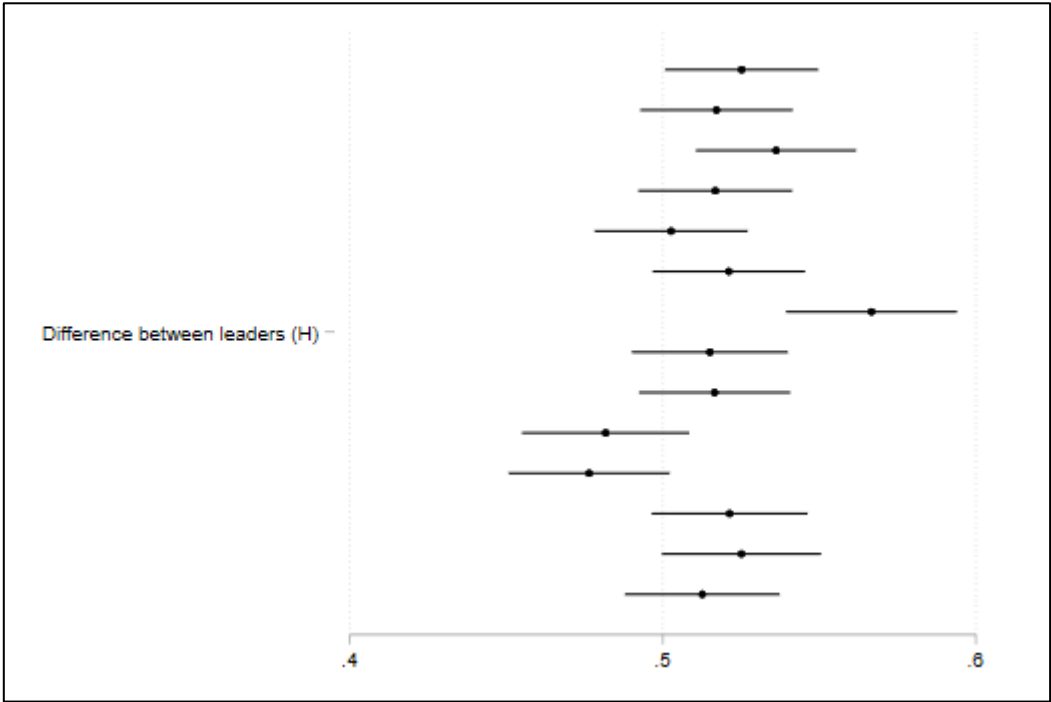


Figure A3 – Leave-one-out cross-validation test results for the cross-time interaction model between the *most liked leader* measure of leader effects and election-year, and partisanship and election-year (model 3, Table 2)

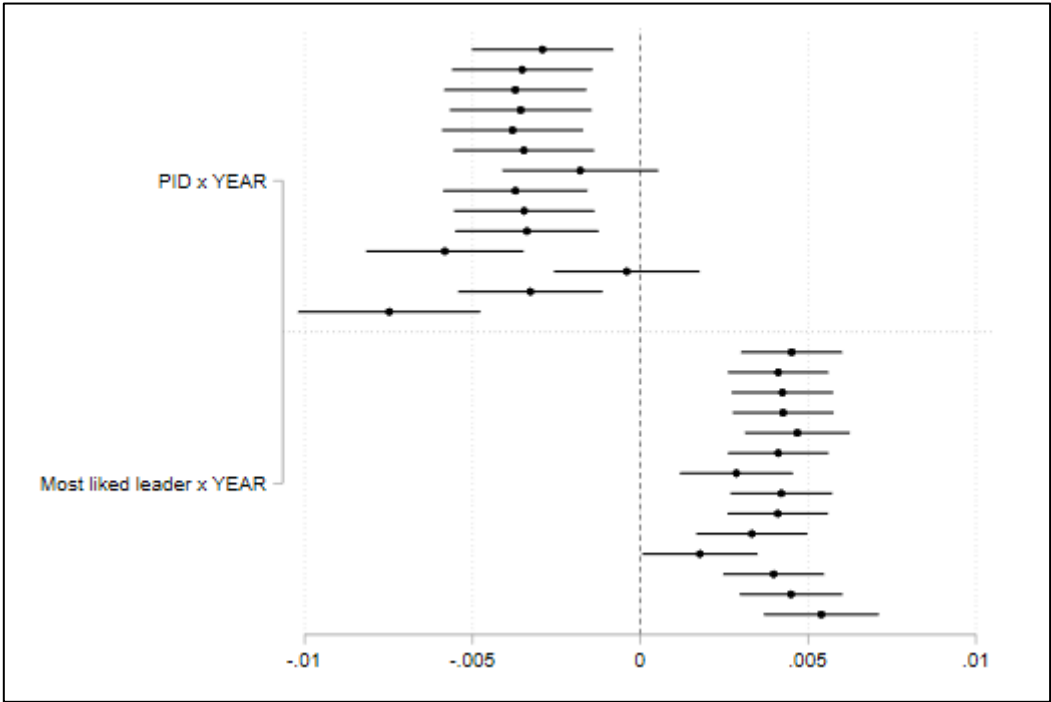


Figure A4 – Leave-one-out cross-validation test results for the cross-time interaction model between the *most liked leader* measure of leader effects and election-year, and partisanship and election-year – sample of television-centric individuals (model 2, Table 3)

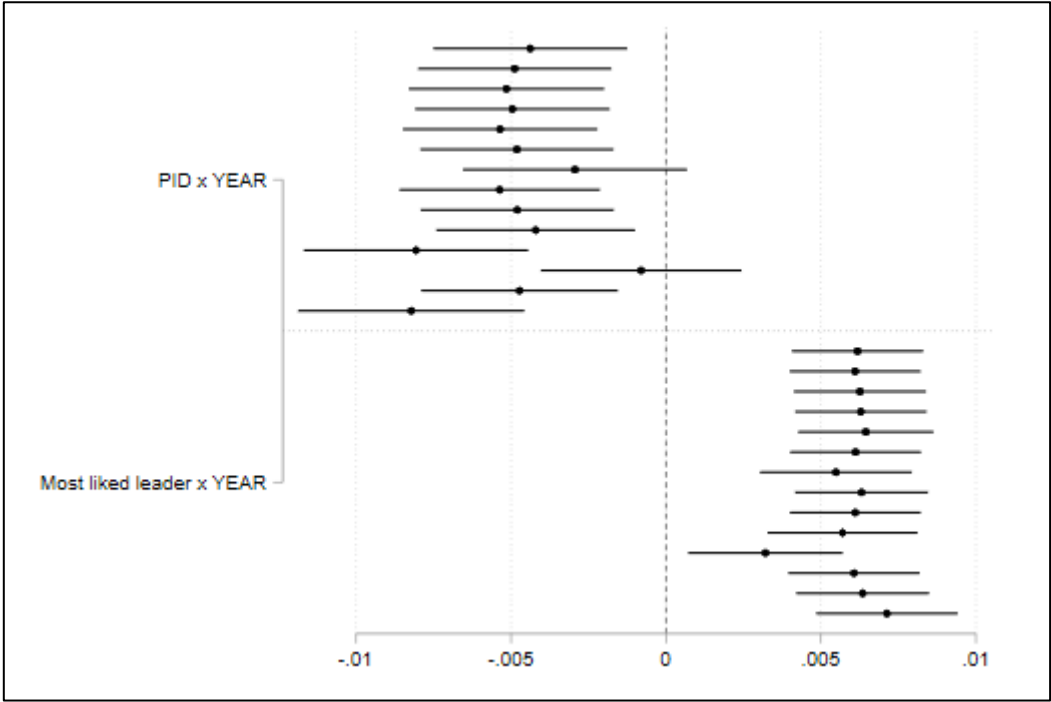


Table A1 – The impact of voters’ evaluations of party leaders on turnout decisions – effects on abstention by satisfaction: HLM estimation

	(1)
Age	.008*** (.001)
Gender	.047** (.018)
Education	.141*** (.013)
Religiosity	.022* (.009)
Union membership	.262*** (.026)
Interest in politics	.564*** (.019)
Ideology	.155*** (.006)
Television	-.141** (.009)
Newspapers	-.088*** (.009)
Partisanship	.510*** (.009)
Leaders: Satisfaction	.149*** (.009)
Constant	.081 (.152)
Log-likelihood	-42415.67
Wald chi-2	8260.57
AIC	84857.34
BIC	84981.89
N (elections)	52
N (observations)	107037

Table A2 – Replication of the models in Table 2, including an additional control for respondents' identification with the party of their most liked leader (0. Does not identify with the party of the most liked leader; 1. Identifies with the party of the most liked leader)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Age	.008*** (.001)	.008*** (.001)	.009*** (.001)	.008*** (.001)
Gender	.040* (.020)	.065*** (.019)	.0382 (.020)	.063** (.019)
Education	.203*** (.015)	.163*** (.014)	.203*** (.015)	.163*** (.014)
Religiosity	.029** (.011)	.038*** (.010)	.029** (.011)	.038*** (.010)
Union membership	.271*** (.030)	.271*** (.029)	.270*** (.030)	.272*** (.029)
Interest in politics	.561*** (.021)	.578*** (.020)	.559*** (.021)	.578*** (.020)
Ideological proximity	.129*** (.007)	.166*** (.006)	.129*** (.007)	.166*** (.006)
Television	-.114*** (.010)	-.136*** (.010)	-.114*** (.010)	-.135*** (.010)
Newspapers	-.109*** (.010)	-.095*** (.010)	-.109*** (.010)	-.095*** (.010)
Partisanship	.506*** (.014)	.523*** (.014)	.511*** (.015)	.526*** (.014)
Partisanship (most liked leader's party)	.112*** (.017)	.161*** (.016)	.291*** (.040)	.321*** (.039)
Leader: Most liked leader	.356*** (.010)		.188*** (.036)	
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)		.447*** (.014)		.068 (.055)
Leaders: Most liked leader*Year			.005*** (.001)	
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)*Year				.012*** (.002)
Partisanship (most liked leader's party)*Year			-.006*** (.001)	-.005*** (.001)
Year			-.034** (.013)	-.036** (.013)
Constant	.306 (.157)	.128 (.160)	1.29** (.392)	1.16** (.398)
Log-likelihood	-34611.659	-36857.14	-34588.07	-36820.882
Wald chi-2	9516.36	10682.41	9558.35	10735.73
AIC	69251.32	73742.28	69210.14	73675.76
BIC	69384.08	73875.51	69371.35	73837.54
N (elections)	52	52	52	52
N (observations)	97069	100353	97069	100353

Table A3 – Replication of the models in Table 3, including an additional control for respondents' identification with the party of their most liked leader (0. Does not identify with the party of the most liked leader; 1. Identifies with the party of the most liked leader)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Age	.008*** (.001)	.009*** (.001)	.008*** (.001)	.008*** (.001)
Gender	.022 (.029)	.057* (.028)	.040 (.028)	.086** (.027)
Education	.188*** (.021)	.218*** (.022)	.156*** (.020)	.173*** (.021)
Religiosity	.034* (.016)	.018 (.014)	.048** (.015)	.023 (.014)
Union membership	.233*** (.041)	.323*** (.044)	.239*** (.040)	.318*** (.042)
Interest in politics	.548*** (.031)	.539*** (.029)	.575*** (.030)	.549*** (.028)
Ideological proximity	.126*** (.010)	.132*** (.009)	.158*** (.010)	.172*** (.009)
Television	-.065** (.024)	-.048* (.022)	-.070** (.023)	-.059** (.021)
Newspapers	-.176*** (.025)	-.171*** (.022)	-.177*** (.024)	-.153*** (.021)
Partisanship	.512*** (.021)	.508*** (.020)	.528*** (.020)	.522*** (.020)
Partisanship (most liked leader's party)	.222*** (.052)	.382*** (.063)	.264*** (.051)	.397*** (.062)
Leader: Most liked leader	.224*** (.049)	.141** (.054)		
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)			.053 (.082)	.063 (.074)
Leaders: Most liked leader*Year	.003* (.001)	.007*** (.002)		
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)*Year			.011*** (.002)	.013*** (.002)
Partisanship (most liked leader's party)*Year	-.003* (.002)	-.009*** (.002)	-.003* (.001)	-.008*** (.002)
Year	-.035** (.013)	-.032* (.013)	-.038** (.013)	-.035** (.013)
Constant	1.45*** (3.48)	1.29** (3.22)	1.30** (3.08)	1.16** (2.85)
Log-likelihood	-16462.17	-18131.186	-17590.078	-19222.712
Wald chi-2	4916.99	4558.91	5603.99	5017.66
AIC	32958.34	36296.37	35214.16	38479.42
BIC	33107.76	36445.82	35364.18	38629.39
N (elections)	52	52	52	52
N (observations)	48497	48572	50256	50097

Table A4 – Replication of the models in Table 2, including an additional control for the degree of respondents' identification with the party of their most liked leader (0. Does not identify with the party of the most liked leader; 1. Weakly identifies with the party of the most liked leader; 2. Moderately identifies with the party of the most liked leader; 3. Strongly identifies with the party of the most liked leader)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Age	.008*** (.001)	.007*** (.001)	.008*** (.001)	.007*** (.001)
Gender	.038 (.020)	.063** (.019)	.038 (.020)	.061** (.019)
Education	.208*** (.015)	.168*** (.014)	.207*** (.015)	.168*** (.014)
Religiosity	.029** (.011)	.037*** (.010)	.029** (.011)	.037*** (.010)
Union membership	.267*** (.030)	.268*** (.029)	.266*** (.030)	.269*** (.029)
Interest in politics	.553*** (.021)	.569*** (.020)	.551*** (.021)	.568*** (.020)
Ideological proximity	.130*** (.007)	.166*** (.006)	.130*** (.007)	.166*** (.006)
Television	-.114*** (.010)	-.135*** (.010)	-.113*** (.010)	-.134*** (.010)
Newspapers	-.108*** (.010)	-.093*** (.010)	-.108*** (.010)	-.093*** (.010)
Partisanship	.465*** (.013)	.489*** (.013)	.471*** (.013)	.493*** (.013)
Degree of Partisanship (most liked leader's party)	.234*** (.018)	.284*** (.018)	.405*** (.042)	.435*** (.041)
Leader: Most liked leader	.345*** (.010)		.160*** (.036)	
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)		.438*** (.014)		.042 (.055)
Leaders: Most liked leader*Year			.006*** (.001)	
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)*Year				.012*** (.002)
Degree of Partisanship (most liked leader's party)*Year			-.006*** (.001)	-.005*** (.001)
Year			-.033** (.013)	-.035** (.013)
Constant	.334* (.157)	.171 (.159)	.297*** (.393)	1.17** (.399)
Log-likelihood	-34546.397	-36772.174	-34523.414	-36735.911
Wald chi-2	9475.16	10629.51	9515.18	10682.79
AIC	69120.79	73572.35	69080.83	73505.82
BIC	69253.56	73705.58	69242.04	73677.6
N (elections)	48	48	48	48
N (observations)	97069	100353	97069	100353

Table A5 - Replication of the models in Table 3, including an additional control for the degree of respondents' identification with the party of their most liked leader (0. Does not identify with the party of the most liked leader; 1. Weakly identifies with the party of the most liked leader; 2. Moderately identifies with the party of the most liked leader; 3. Strongly identifies with the party of the most liked leader)

	<i>Most liked leader</i>		<i>H</i>	
	NP-centric	TV-centric	NP-centric	TV-centric
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Age	.007*** (.001)	.009*** (.001)	.008*** (.001)	.008*** (.001)
Gender	.021 (.029)	.056* (.028)	.038 (.028)	.084** (.027)
Education	.193*** (.021)	.222*** (.022)	.161*** (.020)	.177*** (.021)
Religiosity	.034* (.016)	.017 (.014)	.047** (.015)	.021 (.014)
Union membership	.231*** (.041)	.319*** (.044)	.236*** (.040)	.315*** (.042)
Interest in politics	.537*** (.031)	.533*** (.029)	.562*** (.030)	.541*** (.028)
Ideological proximity	.127*** (.010)	.132*** (.009)	.159*** (.010)	.172*** (.009)
Television	-.063** (.024)	-.045* (.022)	-.068** (.023)	-.055** (.021)
Newspapers	-.176*** (.025)	-.170*** (.022)	-.177*** (.024)	-.152*** (.021)
Partisanship	.474*** (.019)	.464*** (.018)	.496*** (.018)	.485*** (.018)
Degree of Partisanship (most liked leader's party)	.366*** (.054)	.457*** (.068)	.407*** (.052)	.471*** (.067)
Leader: Most liked leader	.181*** (.050)	.130* (.054)		
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)			.005 (.083)	.056 (.074)
Leaders: Most liked leader*Year	.004** (.001)	.007*** (.002)		
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)*Year			.012*** (.002)	.013*** (.002)
Degree of Partisanship (most liked leader's party)*Year	-.004** (.002)	-.007*** (.002)	-.004* (.002)	-.006** (.002)
Year	-.035** (.013)	-.032* (.013)	-.037** (.013)	-.033** (.013)
Constant	1.46*** (.419)	1.30** (.401)	1.31** (.423)	1.17** (.408)
Log-likelihood	-16426.126	-18103.911	-17544.273	-19183.908
Wald chi-2	4901.96	4533.32	5581.96	4992.99
AIC	32886.25	36241.82	35122.55	38401.82
BIC	33035.67	36391.26	35272.57	38551.79
N (elections)	48	48	48	48
N (observations)	48497	48572	50256	50097

Table A6 - Replication of the models in Tables 2 and 3, excluding all countries with a single data point (Austria, Denmark and Ireland)

	<i>Most liked leader</i>				<i>H</i>	
			NP-centric	TV-centric	NP-centric	TV-centric
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Age	.005*** (.001)	.005*** (.001)	.005*** (.001)	.006*** (.001)	.005*** (.001)	.005*** (.001)
Gender	.019 (.019)	.049** (.018)	-.022 (.028)	.058* (.026)	.007 (.027)	.089*** (.025)
Education	.153*** (.014)	.108*** (.014)	.137*** (.020)	.173*** (.021)	.096*** (.019)	.126*** (.020)
Religiosity	.001 (.010)	.019* (.009)	.011 (.015)	.001 (.013)	.024 (.014)	.007 (.013)
Union membership	.263*** (.028)	.263*** (.027)	.266*** (.040)	.273*** (.041)	.258*** (.038)	.280*** (.039)
Interest in politics	.476*** (.020)	.488*** (.019)	.460*** (.030)	.464*** (.027)	.484*** (.028)	.467*** (.025)
Ideological proximity	.133*** (.006)	.185*** (.006)	.131*** (.010)	.135*** (.009)	.179*** (.009)	.189*** (.008)
Television	-.110*** (.010)	-.130*** (.009)	-.037 (.023)	-.059** (.021)	-.037 (.022)	-.074*** (.020)
Newspapers	-.089*** (.009)	-.073*** (.009)	-.178*** (.024)	-.156*** (.020)	-.180*** (.023)	-.130*** (.020)
Partisanship	.702*** (.048)	.703*** (.046)	.641*** (.072)	.728*** (.063)	.659*** (.069)	.713*** (.061)
Leader: most liked leader	.220*** (.028)		.268*** (.045)	.187*** (.036)		
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)		.372*** (.040)			.372*** (.064)	.360*** (.052)
Leader: most liked leader*Year	.005*** (.001)		.003* (.001)	.007*** (.001)		
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)*Year		.005*** (.001)			.004* (.002)	.006*** (.002)

Partisanship*Year	-.007*** (.001)	-.007*** (.001)	-.006** (.002)	-.008*** (.002)	-.006** (.002)	-.007*** (.002)
Year	-.034* (.015)	-.036* (.015)	-.034* (.015)	-.034* (.014)	-.036* (.016)	-.035* (.015)
Constant	1.45*** (.441)	1.21** (.466)	1.54** (.473)	1.54*** (.437)	1.28** (.493)	1.27** (.463)
Log-likelihood	-40111.615	-43280.259	-18633.489	-21468.321	-20065.807	-23198.325
Wald chi-2	9287.70	10666.48	4689.83	4515.48	5430.46	5118.27
AIC	80255.23	86592.52	37298.98	42968.64	40163.61	46428.65
BIC	80407.95	86745.87	37440.11	43110.76	40305.35	46571.41
N (elections)	49	49	49	49	49	49
N (observations)	103253	107408	50035	53218	51986	55422

Table A7 – Replication of the models in Tables 2 and 3, excluding cases with FPTP electoral systems (UK)

	<i>Most liked leader</i>				<i>H</i>	
			NP-centric	TV-centric	NP-centric	TV-centric
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Age	.005*** (.001)	.005*** (.001)	.005*** (.001)	.006*** (.001)	.005*** (.001)	.005*** (.001)
Gender	.019 (.019)	.049** (.018)	-.022 (.028)	.058* (.026)	.007 (.027)	.089*** (.025)
Education	.153*** (.014)	.108*** (.014)	.137*** (.020)	.173*** (.021)	.096*** (.019)	.126*** (.020)
Religiosity	.001 (.010)	.019* (.009)	.011 (.015)	.001 (.013)	.024 (.014)	.007 (.013)
Union membership	.263*** (.028)	.263*** (.027)	.266*** (.040)	.273*** (.041)	.258*** (.038)	.280*** (.039)
Interest in politics	.476*** (.020)	.488*** (.019)	.460*** (.030)	.464*** (.027)	.484*** (.028)	.467*** (.025)
Ideological proximity	.133*** (.006)	.185*** (.006)	.131*** (.010)	.135*** (.009)	.179*** (.009)	.189*** (.008)
Television	-.110*** (.010)	-.130*** (.009)	-.037 (.023)	-.059** (.021)	-.037 (.022)	-.074*** (.020)
Newspapers	-.089*** (.009)	-.073*** (.009)	-.178*** (.024)	-.156*** (.020)	-.180*** (.023)	-.130*** (.020)
Partisanship	.702*** (.048)	.703*** (.046)	.641*** (.072)	.728*** (.063)	.659*** (.069)	.713*** (.061)
Leader: most liked leader	.220*** (.028)		.268*** (.045)	.187*** (.036)		
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)		.372*** (.040)			.372*** (.064)	.360*** (.052)
Leader: most liked leader*Year	.005*** (.001)		.003* (.001)	.007*** (.001)		
Leaders: difference between leaders (H)*Year		.005*** (.001)			.004* (.002)	.006*** (.002)

Partisanship*Year	-.007*** (.001)	-.007*** (.001)	-.006** (.002)	-.008*** (.002)	-.006** (.002)	-.007*** (.002)
Year	-.034* (.015)	-.036* (.015)	-.034* (.015)	-.034* (.014)	-.036* (.016)	-0.0354* (0.0151)
Constant	1.45*** (.441)	1.21** (.466)	1.54** (.473)	1.54*** (.437)	1.28** (.493)	1.27** (.463)
Log-likelihood	-37144.167	-40475.766	-17184.651	-19949.433	-18717.092	-21739.802
Wald chi-2	8444.96	9792.12	4219.54	4166.03	4948.18	4756.14
AIC	74320.33	80983.53	34401.3	39930.87	37466.18	43511.6
BIC	74472.11	81136.03	34541.52	40072	37607.11	43653.47
N (elections)	48	48	48	48	48	48
N (observations)	97313	101829	47261	50052	49421	52408
<i>N</i>	97313	101829	47261	50052	49421	52408

Table A8 – Question wording and recoding strategy for leader thermometer variables

Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy (if any)
Austria	2013	How much do you like the following politicians? Please rate each politician on a scale from 0 to 10. 0 means you strongly dislike that politician and 10 means that you strongly like that politician.	0. Strongly dislike 10. Strongly like	<i>none</i>
Denmark	2005	I would like to ask you how well or bad you think of some of our political leaders when 0 means you think very bad about the person and 10 means you think really well about the person.	0. Very bad 10. Very good	<i>none</i>
Finland	2003 2007 2011 2015	Rate the following leaders on a scale from 0 (strongly dislike) to 10 (strongly like).	0. Strongly dislike 10. Strongly like	<i>none</i>
Germany	2002	Generally speaking, what do you think of [LEADER] ? Please use the following scale. “+5” means that you have a very positive view of this politician, whereas “-5” means that you have a very negative view of this politician.	-5. Very negative view 5. Very positive view	5-points were added to the original scale, so that the recoded scale ranges from 0 to 10
	2009 2013	Please tell me what you think about some leading politicians. Please use the scale from - 5 to + 5 for this purpose.	-5. Strongly dislike 5. Strongly like	5-points were added to the original scale, so that the recoded scale ranges from 0 to 10
Greece	1985 1996	We would like to know your feelings towards some persons and social organization on a scale from 0-10. If you feel very favorable towards this person, you can give him the highest score of 10; if you feel hostile towards this person you can give him a 0 (zero); if you feel absolutely neutral towards this person, you can give him a 5.	1. Hostile 10. Favorable	Values from 1 to 5 in the original scale were recoded by subtracting 1-point, so that the recoded scale ranges from 0 to 10 with no observations in the middle point of the scale

Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy (if any)
Ireland	2007	And what do you think of the party leaders? After I read the name of a party leader, please rate them on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means you strongly dislike that candidate and 10 means that you strongly like that candidate.	0. Strongly dislike 10. Strongly like	<i>none</i>
Italy	1985	How much sympathy do you have for the political leaders that I am about to read? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means "no sympathy" and 10 means "much sympathy".	1. No sympathy 10. Much sympathy	Values from 1 to 5 in the original scale were recoded by subtracting 1-point, so that the recoded scale ranges from 0 to 10 with no observations in the middle point of the scale
	1990 1996 2001 2006	I shall now read you a list of national politicians. For each of them tell me whether you have ever heard of them and, if so, give them a score from 1 to 10 according to your opinion of them: 1 means a totally negative judgment and 10 means a totally positive judgment.	1. Totally negative 10. Totally positive	Values from 1 to 5 in the original scale were recoded by subtracting 1-point, so that the recoded scale ranges from 0 to 10 with no observations in the middle point of the scale
	2013	I shall now read you a list of national politicians. For each of them tell me whether you have ever heard of them and, if so, give them a score from 0 to 10 according to your opinion of them: 0 means a totally negative judgment and 10 means a totally positive judgment.	0. Totally negative 10. Totally positive	<i>none</i>
Netherlands	1986 1989 1994 1998	<i>See: Thomassen, J. (2005). The European Voter. Oxford: Oxford University Press</i>		<i>none</i>

Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy (if any)
Netherlands	2002	I would also like to know how sympathetic you find the following politicians. You can give each [politician] a score between 0 and 100. The more sympathetic you find a [politician] , the higher the score you give. A score of 50 means that you find a [politician] neither sympathetic nor unsympathetic.	0. Very unsympathetic 100. Very sympathetic	The original values were divided by 10 and then rounded to the nearest integer value, so that the recoded scale ranges from 0 to 10
	2006 2010	I would like to know from you how sympathetic you find party leaders. To this end you can give points between 0 and 10 to the respective party leaders. 0 means that you find this party leader very unsympathetic and 10 means that you find this party leader very sympathetic.	0. Very unsympathetic 10. Very sympathetic	<i>none</i>
Portugal	1985	I will now give you the names of some Portuguese politicians. Using the same scale from 0 to 10 tell me which number corresponds to the degree of sympathy you have for the following political leaders.	0. No sympathy 10. A lot of sympathy	<i>none</i>
	1993	I would like you to tell me how much sympathy do you have for the following personalities. I have numbers from 1 to 10, in which 10 means you have very much sympathy and 1 none. Which number would you use to classify your sympathy for [politician]	1. No sympathy 10. A lot of sympathy	Values from 1 to 5 in the original scale were recoded by subtracting 1-point, so that the recoded scale ranges from 0 to 10 with no observations in the middle point of the scale
	2002	Degree of sympathy for political leaders	0. Great antipathy 10. Great sympathy	<i>none</i>
	2005	<i>n/a</i>	0. Great antipathy 10. Great sympathy	<i>none</i>
	2009 2011 2015	I would like to know what you think about each one of our political leaders, using a scale from 0 to 10, where ZERO means Great dislike for the political leader, TEN means that you fell Great sympathy for the leader and FIVE you feel indifference for the leader	0. Great dislike 10. Great sympathy	<i>none</i>

Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy (if any)
Spain	2000	I'm going to read out a series of political leaders' names. Please tell me, for each one, whether you know of them and how you value their political performance. Grade them from 0 to 10, where 0 means that you value them "very bad" and 10 means that you value them "very good".	0. Very bad 10. Very good	none
	2008			
	2011			
	2015			
	2016			
Sweden	1985	<i>See: Thomassen, J. (2005). The European Voter. Oxford: Oxford University Press</i>		none
	1988			
	1991			
	1994			
	1998			
	2002	On this card there is a kind of scale. I would like you to use it to illustrate how much you like or dislike the different [party leaders]. Use 'plus' figures for [party leaders] you like and 'minus' figures for [party leaders] parties you dislike.	-5. Strongly dislike 5. Strongly like	5-points were added to the original scale, so that the recoded scale ranges from 0 to 10
	2006	I'd like to know what you think about each of our [political leaders]. Please rate the [political leaders] on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means you strongly dislike that [political leader] and 10 means that you strongly like that [political leader].	0. Strongly dislike 10. Strongly like	none
	2010	On this card there is a kind of scale. I would like you to use it to illustrate how much you like or dislike the different [party leaders]. Use 'plus' figures for [party leaders] you like and 'minus' figures for [party leaders] parties you dislike.	-5. Strongly dislike 5. Strongly like	5-points were added to the original scale, so that the recoded scale ranges from 0 to 10
Switzerland	1995	Here is another list of other known politicians. Can you tell me every time, what level of sympathy do you have for him or her on a scale ranging from 0 to 10, where 0 means "no sympathy" and 10 "very strong sympathy"?	0. No sympathy 10. Very strong sympathy	none
Switzerland	2007 2011 2015	And can you tell me what sympathy you have for the following political figures on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means "no sympathy" and 10 "very strong sympathy"?	0. No sympathy 10. Very strong sympathy	none

Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy (if any)
United Kingdom	1974	<i>See: Thomassen, J. (2005). The European Voter. Oxford: Oxford University Press</i>	0. Minimum	<i>none</i>
	1974		10. Maximum	
	2010 2015	Now, let's think more generally about the party leaders. Using a scale that runs from 0 to 10, where 0 means strongly dislike and 10 means strongly like, how do you feel about...	0. Strongly dislike 10. Strongly like	<i>none</i>

Table A9 – Question wording and recoding strategy for variables on exposure to political information in the newspapers

Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy	Notes
Austria	2013	How often do you read newspapers to learn about political events in Austria?	1. Almost every day 2. Several times a week 3. Several times a month 4. Less frequently 5. Never	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 4, 5	
Denmark	2005	How often: reading newspaper	1. Every day 2. 5-6 times a week 3. 3-4 times a week 4. 1-2 times a week 5. Less than once a week 6. Never	<i>Always:</i> 1, 2 <i>Often:</i> 3 <i>Rarely:</i> 4 <i>Never:</i> 5, 6	
Finland	2003 2007 2011 2015	How much attention did you pay to media coverage of the parliamentary elections in newspaper articles?	1. A great deal of attention 2. A fair amount of attention 3. Only a little 4. Paid no attention at all	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 4	
Germany	2002 2009 2013	Here on this list you can see different newspapers. On how many days of the week on average do you read reports on political events in Germany in [NEWSPAPER] during the election campaign?	<i>Number of days per week</i>	<i>Always:</i> 7, 6 <i>Often:</i> 5, 4, 3 <i>Rarely:</i> 2, 1 <i>Never:</i> 0	Respondents were asked how often they read news on different newspapers. We have taken the value of the respondent's most often read newspaper
Greece	1985	How often do your read daily newspapers?	1. Daily 2. 3-4 times a week 3. Once a week 4. Hardly ever 5. Never	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 4, 5	
	1996	During the electoral campaign, how frequently did you follow political news through newspapers?	1. Every day or almost every day 2. 3-4 days a week 3. 1-2 days a week 4. Less frequently 5. Never or almost never	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 4, 5	

Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy	Notes
Ireland	2007	On a scale 0 - 7, where 0 means never and 7 means every day, how often do you do the following? Read the newspaper	<i>Number of days per week</i>	<i>Always: 7, 6 Often: 5, 4, 3 Rarely: 2, 1 Never: 0</i>	
Italy	1985	How often do your read daily newspapers?	1. Daily 2. 3-4 times a week 3. Once a week 4. Hardly ever 5. Never	<i>Always: 1 Often: 2 Rarely: 3 Never: 4, 5</i>	
	1990 1996 2001 2006	Do you usually read a newspaper? If so, how frequently?	1. Don't read 2. Less than once a week 3. 1-2 days a week 4. 3-5 days a week 5. (Almost) Every day	<i>Always: 5 Often: 4 Rarely: 3 Never: 2, 1</i>	
	2013	Do you usually read a newspaper – physically or online, excluding sports' news? If so, how frequently?	1. No, never 2. Less than once a week 3. 1 day a week 4. 2 days a week 5. 3 days a week 6. 4 days a week 7. 5 days a week 8. 6 days a week 9. Every day	<i>Always: 9, 8 Often: 7, 6, 5 Rarely: 4, 3 Never: 2, 1</i>	
Netherlands	1986 1989 1994 1998 2002	When there is domestic news in the newspapers, for example news about governmental problems, how often do you read such news?	1. (Nearly) Always 2. Often 3. Now and then 4. Seldom or never 5. Does not read newspaper	<i>Always: 1 Often: 2 Rarely: 3 Never: 4, 5</i>	
	2006 2010	How often do you read a newspaper?	1. (Almost) daily 2. A few times a week 3. A few times a month 4. Seldom or never	<i>Always: 1 Often: 2 Rarely: 3 Never: 4</i>	

Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy	Notes
Portugal	1985	How often do you read daily newspapers?	1. Daily 2. 3-4 times a week 3. Once a week 4. Hardly ever 5. Never	<i>Always: 1</i> <i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 3</i> <i>Never: 4, 5</i>	
	1993	How frequently do you read weekly newspapers?	1. Less frequently 2. 1-2 times a week 3. 2/3 times a week 4. Every week	<i>Always: 4</i> <i>Often: 3</i> <i>Rarely: 2</i> <i>Never: 1</i>	
	2002	Frequency of readership of political news in the newspaper	1. Every day 2. Several times a week 3. Once a week 4. Less than once a week 5. Never	<i>Always: 1</i> <i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 3</i> <i>Never: 4, 5</i>	
	2005	During the electoral campaign, how often did you follow political news in newspapers?	1. Daily/almost every day 2. 3-4 days a week 3. 1-2 days a week 4. Less frequently 5. Never	<i>Always: 1</i> <i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 3</i> <i>Never: 4, 5</i>	
	2009 2011 2015	During the electoral campaign, how often did you follow political news in newspapers or magazines, in paper or online?	1. Daily/almost every day 2. 3-4 days a week 3. 1-2 days a week 4. Less frequently 5. Never	<i>Always: 1</i> <i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 3</i> <i>Never: 4, 5</i>	
Spain	2000 2008 2011 2015 2016	During this electoral campaign, could you tell me how frequently have you followed electoral and political information in the general newspapers?	1. Every day or almost every day 2. 4-5 days a week 3. 2-3 days a week 4. Only on the weekends 5. Rarely 6. Never or almost never	<i>Always: 1</i> <i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 4, 5</i> <i>Never: 6</i>	

Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy	Notes
Sweden	1985	How often do you read news and articles about politics in the daily press?	1. Never	<i>Always: 4</i>	
	1988		2. Occasionally	<i>Often: 3</i>	
	1991		3. Often	<i>Rarely: 2</i>	
	1994		4. Every day	<i>Never: 1</i>	
	1998				
	2002				
	2006				
	2010				
Switzerland	2007	How many days/week does R read news in the newspaper	<i>Number of days per week</i>	<i>Always: 7, 6</i>	
	2011			<i>Often: 5, 4, 3</i> <i>Rarely: 2, 1</i> <i>Never: 0</i>	
	2015	I would like to know how attentively have you followed, over the last days, political affairs on [newspapers]	1. Not at all attentive 2. Not very attentive 3. Rather attentive 4. Very attentive	<i>Always: 4</i> <i>Often: 3</i> <i>Rarely: 2</i> <i>Never: 1</i>	
United Kingdom	1974	How closely do you follow politics on the newspapers?	1. Very closely	<i>Always: 1</i>	
	1974		2. Fairly closely 3. Once in a while 4. Not at all	<i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 3</i> <i>Never: 4</i>	
	2010	Do you regularly read about politics or current affairs in one or more newspapers (either online or in print)?	1. Yes	<i>Always: n/a</i>	
	2015		2. No	<i>Often: 1</i> <i>Rarely: n/a</i> <i>Never: 2</i>	

Table A10 – Question wording and recoding strategy for variables on exposure to political information on television

Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy	Notes
Austria	2013	How often do you use the television to learn about political events in Austria?	1. Almost every day 2. Several times a week 3. Several times a month 4. Less frequently 5. Never	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 4, 5	
Denmark	2005	How often: news on [CHANNEL]	1. Every day 2. 5-6 times a week 3. 3-4 times a week 4. 1-2 times a week 5. Less than once a week 6. Never	<i>Always:</i> 1, 2 <i>Often:</i> 3 <i>Rarely:</i> 4 <i>Never:</i> 5, 6	Respondents were asked how often they watched TV news on 3 different channels (TV2 News; DR1; DR2). We have taken the value of the respondent's most watched news channel
Finland	2003 2011 2015	How much attention did you pay to media coverage of the parliamentary elections in television news and current affairs programmes?	1. A great deal of attention 2. A fair amount of attention 3. Only a little 4. Paid no attention at all	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 4	
	2007	How much important information did you get for your voting choice from news and current affairs programmes on television?	1. A great deal of attention 2. A fair amount of attention 3. Only a little 4. Paid no attention at all	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 4	
Germany	2002	How often do you watch news casts on the first or second channel? What is meant here are the news casts of ARD or ZDF, namely Tagesschau, Tagesthemen, Heute and Heute-Journal.	<i>Number of days per week</i>	<i>Always:</i> 7, 6 <i>Often:</i> 5, 4, 3 <i>Rarely:</i> 2, 1 <i>Never:</i> 0	Respondents were asked how often they watched TV news on different channels. We have taken the value of the respondent's most watched news channel
	2009 2013	On average, on how many days of the week did you watch Tagesschau or Tagesthemen on ARD during the election campaign?	<i>Number of days per week</i>	<i>Always:</i> 7, 6 <i>Often:</i> 5, 4, 3 <i>Rarely:</i> 2, 1 <i>Never:</i> 0	Respondents were asked how often they watched TV news on different channels. We have taken the value of the respondent's most watched news channel
Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy	Notes

Greece	1985	Can you tell me how frequently you watch television?	1. Daily 2. 3-4 days a week 3. Once a week 4. Hardly ever 5. Never	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 4, 5	
	1996	During the electoral campaign, how frequently did you follow political news through television?	1. Every day or almost every day 2. 3-4 days a week 3. 1-2 days a week 4. Less frequently 5. Never or almost never	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 4, 5	
Ireland	2007	On a scale 0 - 7, where 0 means never and 7 means every day, how often do you do the following? Watch TV news	<i>Number of days per week</i>	<i>Always:</i> 7, 6 <i>Often:</i> 5, 4, 3 <i>Rarely:</i> 2, 1 <i>Never:</i> 0	
Italy	1985	Can you tell me how frequently you watch television?	1. Every day 2. 3 times a week 3. Once a week 4. Rare 5. Never	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 4, 5	
	1990 2001 2006 2013	Do you usually watch news programs? If so, how frequently?	1. Never 2. Less than once a week 3. 1-2 days a week 4. 3-5 days a week 5. (Almost) Every day	<i>Always:</i> 5 <i>Often:</i> 4 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 2, 1	
	1996	During the election campaign did you happen to see any TV news programmes? If so, how often?	1. Never 2. Less than once a week 3. 1-2 days a week 4. 3-5 days a week 5. (Almost) Every day	<i>Always:</i> 5 <i>Often:</i> 4 <i>Rarely:</i> 3 <i>Never:</i> 2, 1	
Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy	Notes
Netherlands	1986 1989	Could you indicate on this showcard how often you generally watch the [CHANNEL] television newscast?	1. (Almost) daily 2. 3-4 times per week	<i>Always:</i> 1 <i>Often:</i> 2	Respondents were asked how often they watched TV news on different

	1994 1998 2002		3. 1-2 times per week 4. Less than once a week 5. Does not own a TV set	<i>Rarely: 3</i> <i>Never: 4, 5</i>	channels. We have taken the value of the respondent's most watched news channel
	2006 2010	How often do you watch a newscast?	1. (Almost) daily 2. 3-4 times per week 3. 1-2 times per week 4. Less than once a week	<i>Always: 1</i> <i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 3</i> <i>Never: 4, 5</i>	Respondents were asked how often they watched TV news on different channels. We have taken the value of the respondent's most watched news channel
Portugal	1985	Can you tell me how frequently you watch television?	1. Every day 2. 3 times a week 3. Once a week 4. Rare 5. Never	<i>Always: 1</i> <i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 3</i> <i>Never: 4, 5</i>	
	1993	How often do you watch news on television?	1. Less frequently 2. Once or twice a week 3. 3-4 times a week 4. (Almost) every day	<i>Always: 4</i> <i>Often: 3</i> <i>Rarely: 2</i> <i>Never: 1</i>	
	2002	Frequency watching news or programs about politics on television	1. Every day 2. Several times a week 3. Once a week 4. Less than once a week 5. Never	<i>Always: 1</i> <i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 3</i> <i>Never: 4, 5</i>	
	2005 2009 2011 2015	During the electoral campaign, how often did you follow political news on television?	1. Daily/almost every day 2. 3-4 days a week 3. 1-2 days a week 4. Less frequently 5. Never	<i>Always: 1</i> <i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 3</i> <i>Never: 4, 5</i>	
Country	Year	Question wording	Answer scale	Recoding strategy	Notes
Spain	2000 2008 2011	During this electoral campaign, could you tell me how frequently have you followed electoral and political information on the television?	1. Every day or almost every day 2. 4-5 days a week 3. 2-3 days a week 4. Only on the weekends	<i>Always: 1</i> <i>Often: 2</i> <i>Rarely: 4, 5</i> <i>Never: 6</i>	

	2015		5. Rarely	
	2016		6. Never or almost never	
Sweden	1985	How often do you watch Rapport (TV, national channel 2)?	1. 6-7 days a week	<i>Always: 1</i>
	1988		2. 3-5 days a week	<i>Often: 2</i>
	1991		3. 1-2 days a week	<i>Rarely: 3</i>
	1994		4. More seldom	<i>Never: 4, 5</i>
	1998		5. Never	
	2002			
	2006			
	2010			
Switzerland	2007	How many days/week does R watch news on TV	<i>Number of days per week</i>	<i>Always: 7, 6</i>
	2011			<i>Often: 5, 4, 3</i>
				<i>Rarely: 2, 1</i>
				<i>Never: 0</i>
	2015	I would like to know how attentively have you followed, over the last days, political affairs on [television]	1. Not at all attentive	<i>Always: 4</i>
			2. Not very attentive	<i>Often: 3</i>
			3. Rather attentive	<i>Rarely: 2</i>
			4. Very attentive	<i>Never: 1</i>
United Kingdom	1974	How closely do you follow politics on TV?	1. Very closely	<i>Always: 1</i>
	1974		2. Fairly closely	<i>Often: 2</i>
			3. Once in a while	<i>Rarely: 3</i>
			4. Not at all	<i>Never: 4</i>
	2010	On a typical day, how much time do you spend watching television news or programmes about politics and current affairs?	1. None, no time at all	<i>Always: 5, 4</i>
	2015		2. Less than 1/2 hour	<i>Often: 3</i>
			3. 1/2 hour to 1 hour	<i>Rarely: 2</i>
			4. 1 to 2 hours	<i>Never: 1</i>
			5. More than 2 hours	

