**Appendix**

Table A1. Descriptive statistics.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Health** | Obs. | | Mean | | Std. d. | Min | Max |
| Government Evaluation | 40 | | .36 | | .05 | .29 | .48 |
| Opposition Criticism | 38 | | .20 | | .14 | .02 | .60 |
| Social problems | 40 | | .28 | | .09 | .11 | .44 |
| Media attention | 40 | | .03 | | .02 | .01 | .06 |
| Public salience | 38 | | .14 | | .06 | .05 | .24 |
| Government approval | 38 | | .46 | | .19 | .10 | .90 |
| **Crime** |  | |  | |  |  |  |
| Government Evaluation | 64 | | .37 | | .04 | .28 | .46 |
| Opposition Criticism | 62 | | .25 | | .16 | .00 | .61 |
| Social problems | 64 | | .50 | | .30 | .01 | .98 |
| Media attention | 64 | | .06 | | .07 | .01 | .30 |
| Public salience | 62 | | .19 | | .19 | .01 | .66 |
| Government approval | 62 | | .35 | | .21 | .03 | .90 |
| **Unemployment** |  |  | |  | |  |  |
| Government Evaluation | 98 | .34 | | .05 | | .22 | .44 |
| Opposition Criticism | 98 | .13 | | .18 | | .00 | .83 |
| Social problems | 98 | .49 | | .36 | | .00 | .98 |
| Media attention | 98 | .09 | | .12 | | .00 | .47 |
| Public salience | 98 | .41 | | .29 | | .03 | .89 |
| Government approval | 98 | .36 | | .18 | | .03 | .90 |
| **Asylum/immigration** |  | |  | |  |  |  |
| Government Evaluation | 73 | | .25 | | .06 | .18 | .41 |
| Opposition Criticism | 71 | | .07 | | .08 | .00 | .40 |
| Social problems | 73 | | .52 | | .20 | .28 | .98 |
| Media attention | 73 | | .03 | | .05 | .00 | .22 |
| Public salience | 71 | | .32 | | .21 | .03 | .93 |
| Government approval | 71 | | .36 | | .20 | .03 | .90 |
| **Total** |  | |  | |  |  |  |
| Government Evaluation | 275 | | .32 | | .07 | .18 | .48 |
| Opposition Criticism | 269 | | .15 | | .16 | .00 | .83 |
| Social problems | 275 | | .47 | | .29 | .00 | .98 |
| Media attention | 275 | | .06 | | .09 | .00 | .47 |
| Public salience | 269 | | .30 | | .25 | .01 | .93 |
| Government approval | 269 | | .37 | | .20 | .03 | .90 |

All variables are measured on a 0-1 scale.

Table A2. Correlation matrix for all observations as well as for each issue.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Health** | ΔGovernment Evaluation | ΔOpposition Criticism | ΔSocial problems | ΔMedia attention | ΔPublic salience |
| ΔOpposition Criticism | -0.20 |  |  |  |  |
| ΔSocial problems | 0.06 | -0.20 |  |  |  |
| ΔMedia attention | 0.15 | 0.07 | -0.01 |  |  |
| ΔPublic salience | -0.34\*\* | 0.50\*\*\* | -0.07 | -0.22 |  |
| ΔGovernment approval | 0.19 | -0.03 | 0.11 | -0.10 | 0.07 |
| **Crime** |  |  |  |  |  |
| ΔOpposition Criticism | -0.12 |  |  |  |  |
| ΔSocial problems | 0.03 | -0.15 |  |  |  |
| ΔMedia attention | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.15 |  |  |
| ΔPublic salience | -0.29\*\* | 0.03 | 0.12 | 0.53\*\*\* |  |
| ΔGovernment approval | 0.41\*\*\* | -0.02 | -0.21 | -0.26\*\* | -0.24\* |
| **Unemployment** |  |  |  |  |  |
| ΔOpposition Criticism | 0.04 |  |  |  |  |
| ΔSocial problems | -0.02 | 0.07 |  |  |  |
| ΔMedia attention | -0.02 | -0.06 | 0.01 |  |  |
| ΔPublic salience | 0.07 | 0.15 | 0.26\*\* | -0.17\* |  |
| ΔGovernment approval | 0.42\*\*\* | 0.05 | 0.02 | -0.07 | 0.13 |
| **Asylum/immigration** |  |  |  |  |  |
| ΔOpposition Criticism | -0.02 |  |  |  |  |
| ΔSocial problems | 0.17 | -0.14 |  |  |  |
| ΔMedia attention | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.25\*\* |  |  |
| ΔPublic salience | -0.13 | -0.05 | 0.12 | -0.05 |  |
| ΔGovernment approval | 0.05 | -0.06 | 0.02 | 0.16 | 0.34 |
| **Total** |  |  |  |  |  |
| ΔOpposition Criticism | -0.04 |  |  |  |  |
| ΔSocial problems | 0.05 | -0.07 |  |  |  |
| ΔMedia attention | 0.00 | -0.00 | 0.07 |  |  |
| ΔPublic salience | -0.06 | 0.11\* | 0.12\*\* | -0.07 |  |
| ΔGovernment approval | 0.30\*\*\* | -0.00 | 0.02 | -0.04 | 0.12\* |

Table A3. The search strings for media attention to each of the issues.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Health | Health\* OR NHS OR Hospital\* OR "Waiting list" OR GP\* OR Nurse\* OR Cancer\* OR Patient\* OR Medicin\* OR Medical\* OR Disease\* OR Doctor\* OR Dentist\* OR Midwife\* OR health\* OR nhs OR hospital\* OR "waiting list" OR gp\* OR nurse\* OR cancer\* OR patient\* OR medicin\* OR medical\* OR disease\* OR doctor\* OR dentist\* OR midwife\* |
| Crime | crime\* OR criminal\* OR anti-social\* OR violen\* OR drug\* OR police\* OR Crime\* OR Criminal\* OR Anti-Social\* OR Violen\* OR Drug\* OR Police\* |
| Unemployment | unemploy\* OR employ\* OR job\* OR Unemploy\* OR Employ\* OR Job\* |
| Asylum/Immigration | immigrant\* OR immigration\* OR refugee\* OR asylum\* OR detention\* OR deportation\* OR Immigrant\* OR Immigration\* OR Refugee\* OR Asylum\* OR Detention\* OR Deportation\*) |
| Total number of articles (the denominator) | a\* OR A\* OR In\* OR in\* OR of\* OR NEWS OR at\* OR on OR under |

Table A4. The effect of opposition criticism and social problems on the government’s competence evaluation across four issues in Britain. Alternative social indicators.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| (A) ΔSocial problems i,t-1 | -0.003 (0.02) | -0.012 (0.02) | -0.009 (0.02) | -0.002 (0.01) |
| (B) ΔOpposition criticism i,t-1 | -0.032 (0.04) | -0.032 (0.03) | -0.024 (0.03) | -0.018 (0.05) |
| A x B | -1.350\*\*\* (0.44) | -0.484\* (0.30) | -0.460\* (0.28) | -1.031\*\* (0.46) |
| Y i,t-1 | -0.120\*\*\* (0.03) | -0.111\*\*\* (0.03) | -0.115\*\*\* (0.03) | -0.087\*\*\* (0.02) |
| Constant | 0.038\*\*\* (0.01) | 0.040\*\*\* (0.01) | 0.039\*\*\* (0.01) | 0.027\*\*\* (0.01) |
| Alternative indicator for: | Immigration1 | Crime2 | Crime3 | Health4 |
| Observations | 217 | 216 | 216 | 289 |

Note. The dependent variable is the voters’ government evaluations. Standard errors are in the parentheses. \* *p* < 0.10, \*\* *p* < 0.05, \*\*\* *p* < 0.01. A first order autoregressive AR(1) model with panel-corrected standard errors and fixed effects is used. The panels are issues in countries.1Number of asylum seekers. 2Reported violence. 3Reported number of burglaries, robberies, and crimes related to vehicles. 4Waiting time to MR and CT scanning.

Table A5. The effect of opposition criticism and social problems on the government’s competence evaluation across four issues in Britain. One issue excluded at a time.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| (A) ΔSocial problems i,t-1 | 0.000 (0.02) | 0.001 (0.02) | -0.004 (0.02) | -0.015 (0.01) |
| (B) ΔOpposition criticism i,t-1 | -0.038 (0.06) | -0.046 (0.04) | -0.036 (0.05) | -0.012 (0.03) |
| A x B | -0.891\* (0.50) | -1.045\*\* (0.48) | -1.401\*\*\* (0.46) | -1.204\*\*\* (0.35) |
| Y i,t-1 | -0.114\*\*\* (0.03) | -0.111\*\*\* (0.03) | -0.125\*\*\* (0.04) | -0.082\*\*\* (0.02) |
| Constant | 0.018\*\* (0.01) | 0.040\*\*\* (0.01) | 0.030\* (0.02) | 0.018\*\* (0.01) |
| Issue excluded | Health | Crime | Immigration | Unempl. |
| Observations | 215 | 191 | 182 | 159 |

Note. The dependent variable is the voters’ government evaluations. Standard errors are in the parentheses. \* *p* < 0.10, \*\* *p* < 0.05, \*\*\* *p* < 0.01. A first order autoregressive AR(1) model with panel-corrected standard errors and fixed effects is used. The panels are issues in countries.

Table A6. The effect of opposition criticism and social problems on the government’s competence evaluation across four issues in Britain. One issue at a time.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| (A) ΔSocial problems i,t-1 | -0.008 (0.04) | -0.026 (0.03) | 0.008 (0.02) | 0.012 (0.03) |
| (B) ΔOpposition criticism i,t-1 | 0.023 (0.06) | -0.004 (0.11) | 0.105\*\* (0.04) | -0.139 (0.14) |
| A x B | -2.116\*\* (1.04) | -1.723\* (0.97) | 0.963\* (0.59) | -1.719\* (1.02) |
| Y i,t-1 | -0.010 (0.06) | -0.105\*\*\* (0.04) | -0.083\*\*\* (0.02) | -0.191\*\*\* (0.07) |
| Constant | -0.004 (0.02) | 0.038\*\* (0.02) | 0.028\*\*\* (0.01) | 0.079\*\*\* (0.02) |
| Issue included | Health | Crime | Immigration | Unempl. |
| Observations | 34 | 58 | 67 | 90 |

Note. The dependent variable is the voters’ government evaluations. Standard errors are in the parentheses. \* *p* < 0.10, \*\* *p* < 0.05, \*\*\* *p* < 0.01. A first order autoregressive AR(1) model with panel-corrected standard errors and fixed effects is used. The panels are issues in countries.

Table A7. The effect of opposition criticism and social problems on the government’s competence evaluation across four issues in Britain at the quarterly level of analysis.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| (A) ΔSocial problems i,t-1 | 0.022 (0.05) | 0.026 (0.05) |  | 0.001 (0.05) | 0.054 (0.04) | 0.023 (0.05) |
| (B) ΔOpposition criticism i,t-1 |  | 0.032 (0.02) | 0.031 (0.02) | 0.045\*\* (0.02) | 0.008 (0.03) | 0.025 (0.03) |
| A x B |  |  |  |  | -0.876\*\* (0.43) | -0.6881 (0.44) |
| ΔMedia attention i,t-2 |  |  |  | -0.062\* (0.03) |  | -0.053\* (0.03) |
| ΔPublic Saliency i,t-2 |  |  |  | 0.033 (0.03) |  | 0.034 (0.03) |
| Y i,t-1 | -0.321\*\*\* (0.05) | -0.313\*\*\* (0.06) | -0.311\*\*\* (0.06) | -0.303\*\*\* (0.06) | -0.294\*\*\* (0.05) | -0.289\*\*\* (0.06) |
| Constant | 0.100\*\*\* (0.02) | 0.096\*\*\* (0.02) | 0.096\*\*\* (0.02) | 0.092\*\*\* (0.02) | 0.090\*\*\* (0.02) | 0.118\*\*\* (0.02) |
| Observations | 85 | 85 | 85 | 84 | 85 | 84 |

The dependent variable is the voters’ government evaluations. Standard errors are in the parentheses. \* *p* < 0.10, \*\* *p* < 0.05, \*\*\* *p* < 0.01. A first order autoregressive AR(1) model with panel-corrected standard errors and fixed effects is used. The panels are issues in countries. Unit of analysis: quarters across years. 1 *p* < 0.12.

Table A8. The effect of opposition criticism and media attention on the government’s competence evaluation across four issues in Britain.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (1) |
| (A) ΔOpposition criticism i,t-1 | -0.006 (0.01) |
| (B) Media attention i,t-1 | -0.008 (0.01) |
| A x B | -0.129\* (0.07) |
| Y i,t-1 | -0.090\*\*\* (0.02) |
| Constant | 0.020\*\*\* (0.01) |
| Observations | 360 |

Note: Standard errors in parentheses. \* *p* < 0.10, \*\* *p* < 0.05, \*\*\* *p* < 0.01. A first order autoregressive AR(1) model with panel-corrected standard errors and fixed effects is used. The panels are issues in countries. The model includes controls for social problems and a variable that counts the distance to the next election. In the analysis, media attention is lagged one month (like opposition criticism) to test if media attention related to opposition criticism (i.e. at the same time) influence government evaluations.