Kobe Political Science Seminar



スピーカー

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講演内容

Party Roles, Coalition Conflict, and Perceived Policy Clarity in Multi-party Governments

Whether citizens follow and make sense of parties' policy offerings has important implications for democratic representation and electoral accountability. However, in coalition governments where policy-making is shared and policy responsibility is blurred, it is difficult for voters to assess the clarity of a party's policy objectives. In this paper, we study whether and how voters assess the clarity of political parties' policy goals in coalition settings. Drawing insights from prior work, we suggest that voters use party roles and coalition conflict as informational shortcuts to gauge the clarity of coalition parties' policy offerings. We suggest that government status and the PM post bring a clarity bonus to parties. Specifically, we hypothesize that voters tend to perceive government parties as having greater levels of policy clarity than opposition parties and that the PM party has clearer policy goals than her ruling partners in a coalition. Additionally, we contend that this government and PM bonus in voter perceptions diminishes when voters perceive higher levels of coalition conflict. To test our arguments, we conducted an original survey in five Western European countries where coalition governance is the norm. Our empirical analyses reveal evidence consistent with our expectations. These findings shed some light on how voters comprehend coalition governance and have implications for future research on political representation in multiparty governments



主 催: Quantitative Methods of International Studies 科研費基盤『議会委員長の政策への影響力:連立相手・野党委員長 による政府の監視』(PI:藤村直史) 問合せ: fujimura@emerald.kobe-u.ac.jp

