

Immigration in the Party Political Agenda: A Comparative Analysis of Party Manifestos in Six European Countries

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Politicization of Immigration

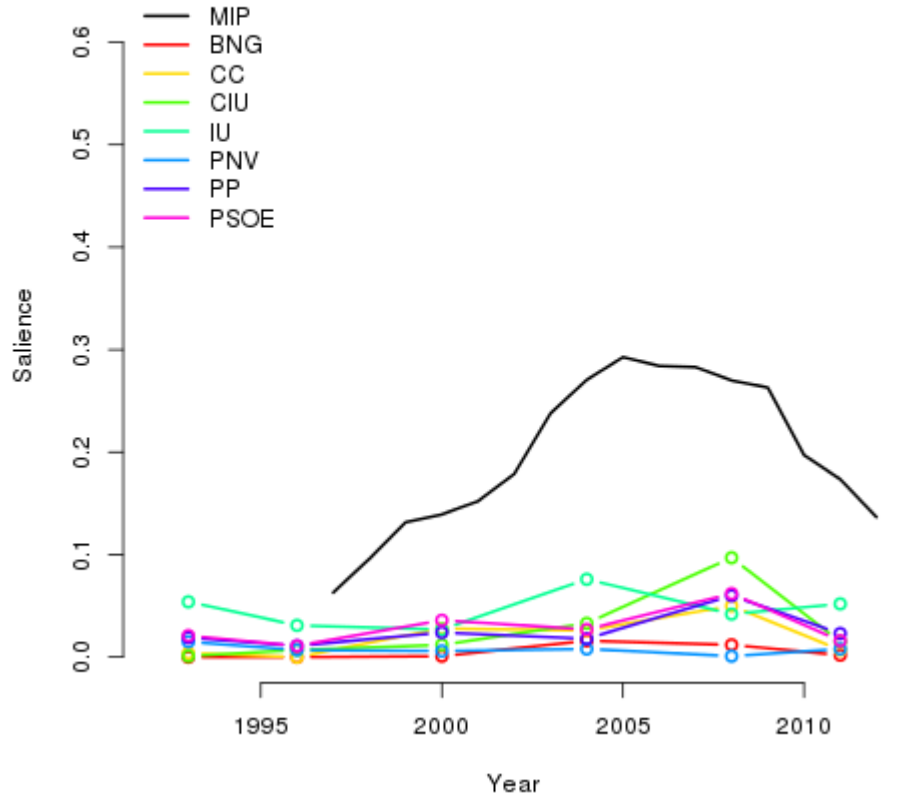
- Increasing numbers and diversity
- Political debates on immigration
- Spatial competition vs. directional competition (issue ownership)
- Silence not an option
 - If issue is politicized

Data

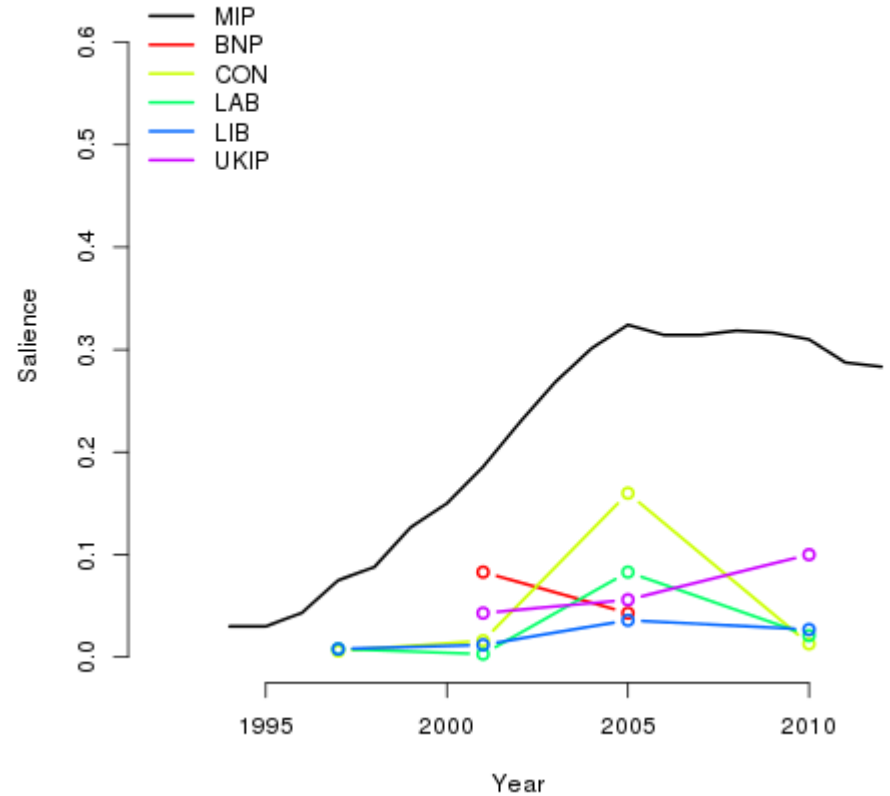
- 193 party manifestos
 - 6 countries, 1992-2012
 - 35 elections
 - Manually coded
- Public opinion
 - MIP
 - Immigration bad for the economy

Saliience → Saliience (bivariate)

ES



UK

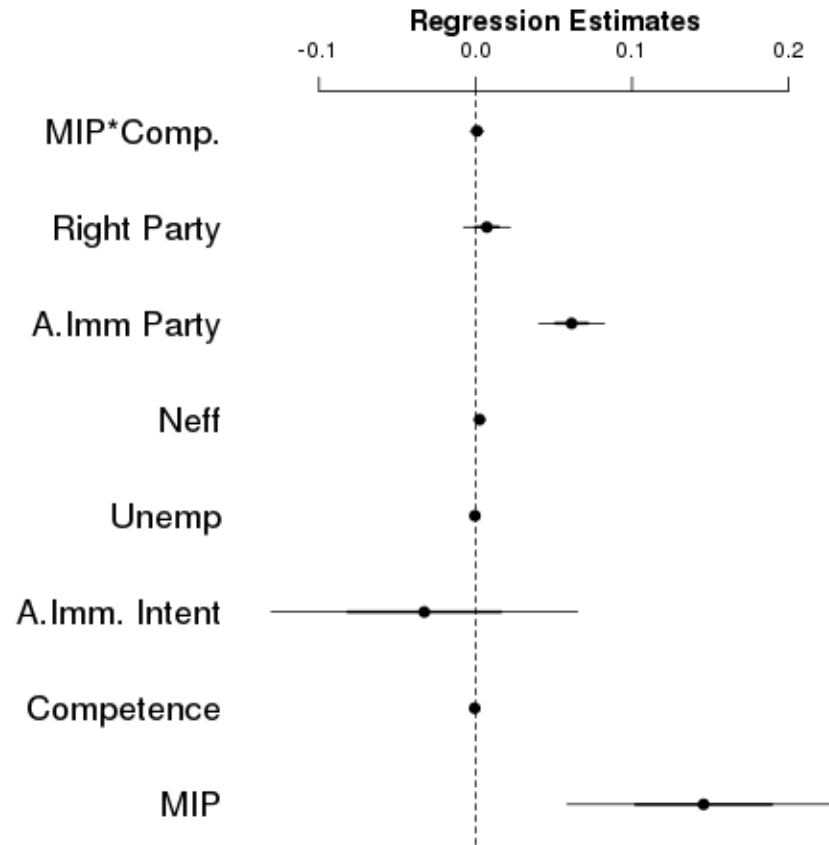


- Limited evidence; ES, UK, CH, (FR), AT?

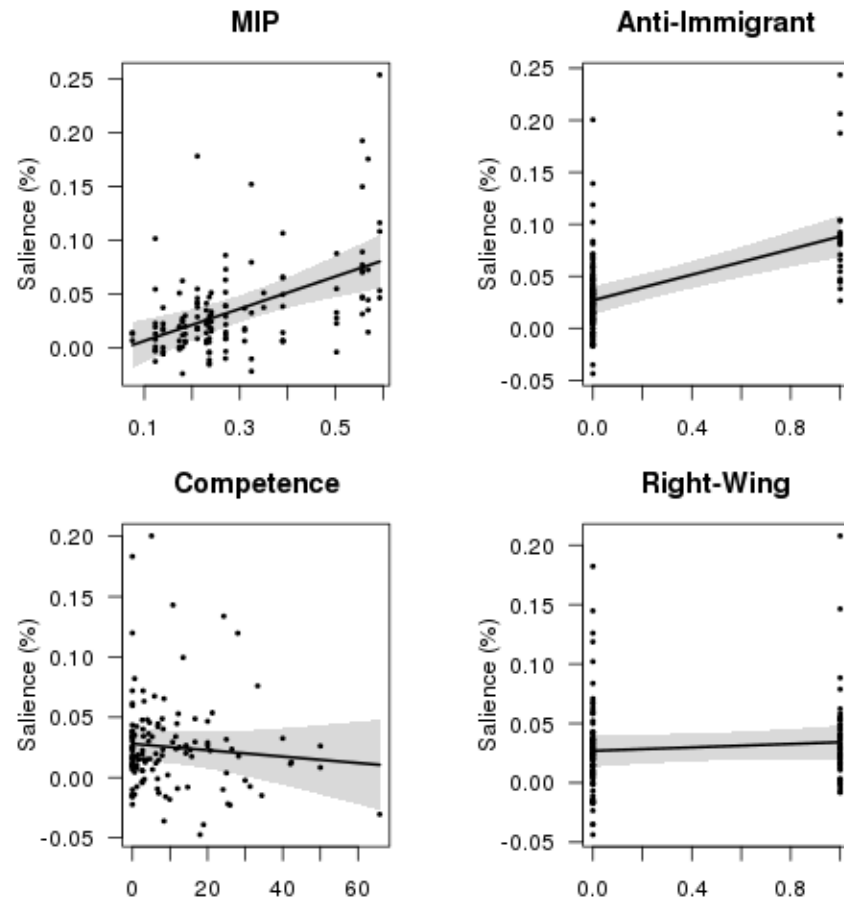
Position → Position (bivariate)

- Some support in AT, ES, FR, esp. UK
 - Relatively stable in ES, FR
- Not all parties react as predicted
 - BE (stable; PSC-CDH)
 - CH (SVP; FDP)

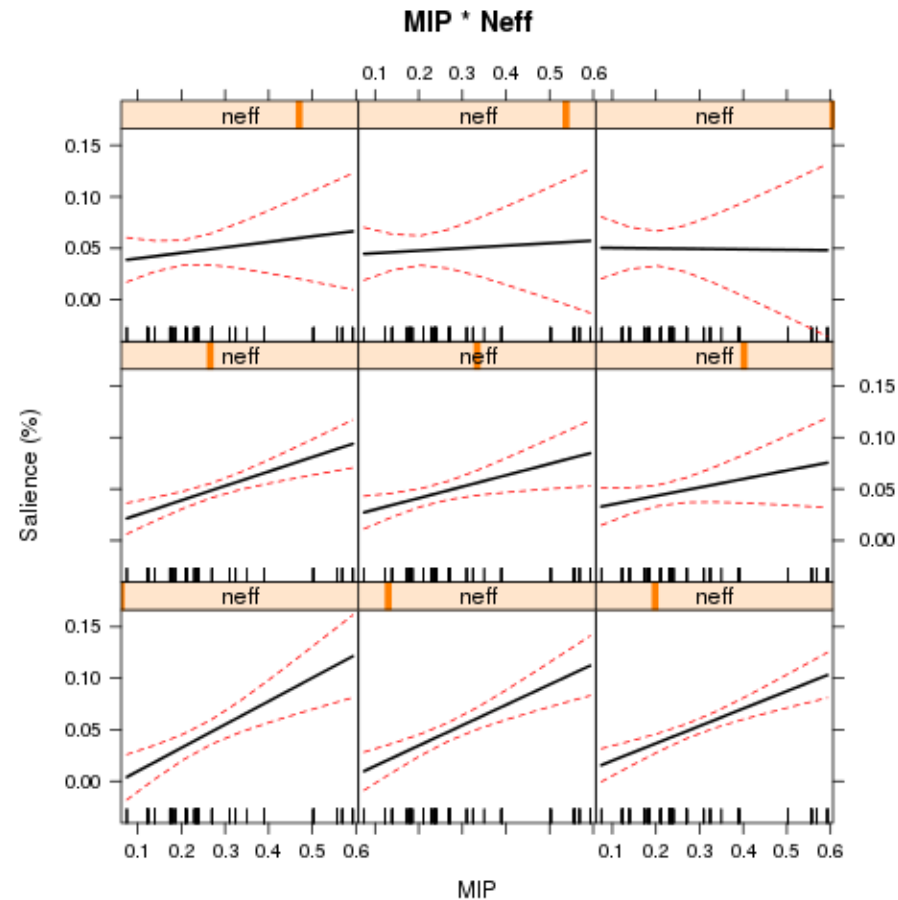
OLS Model: DV=Salience



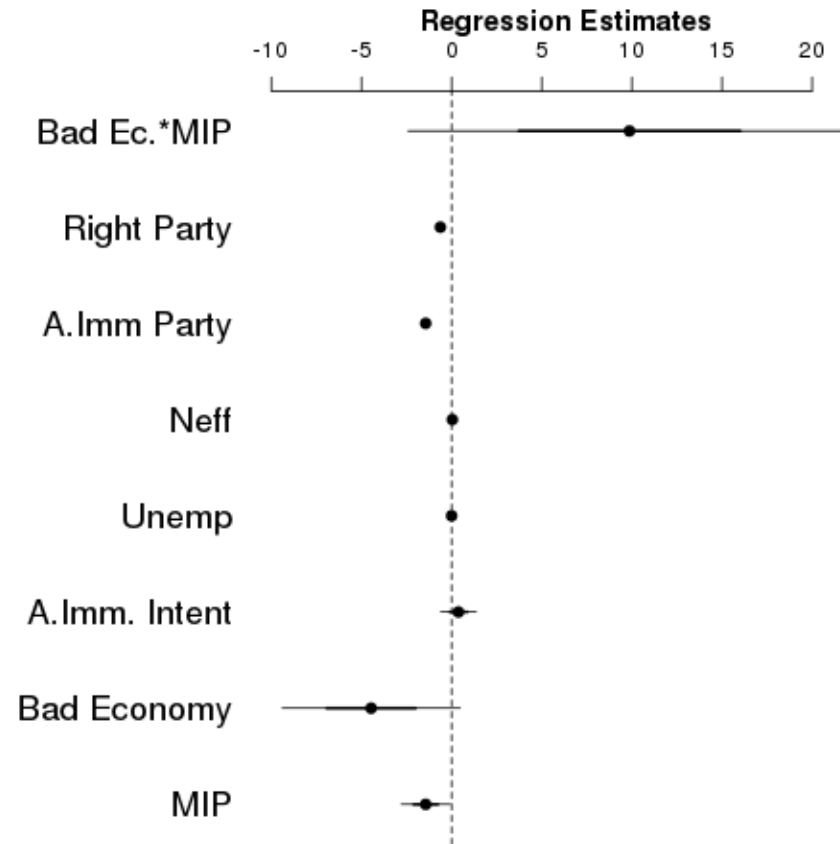
OLS Model: DV=Saliency



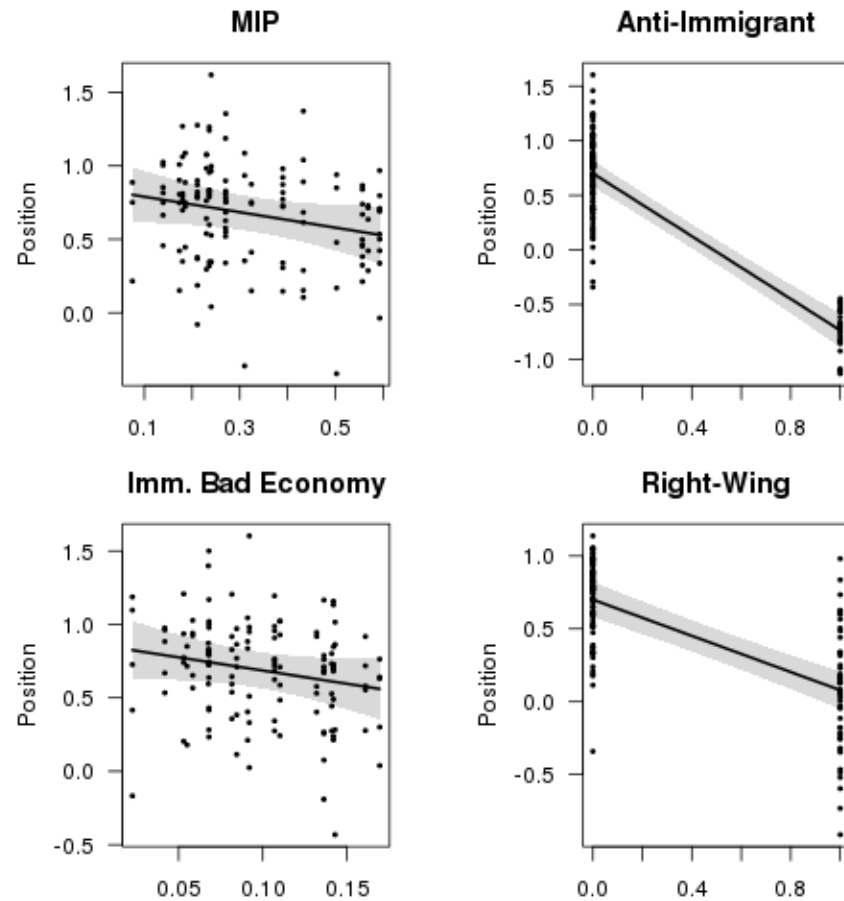
Party Fragmentation: Neff*MIP



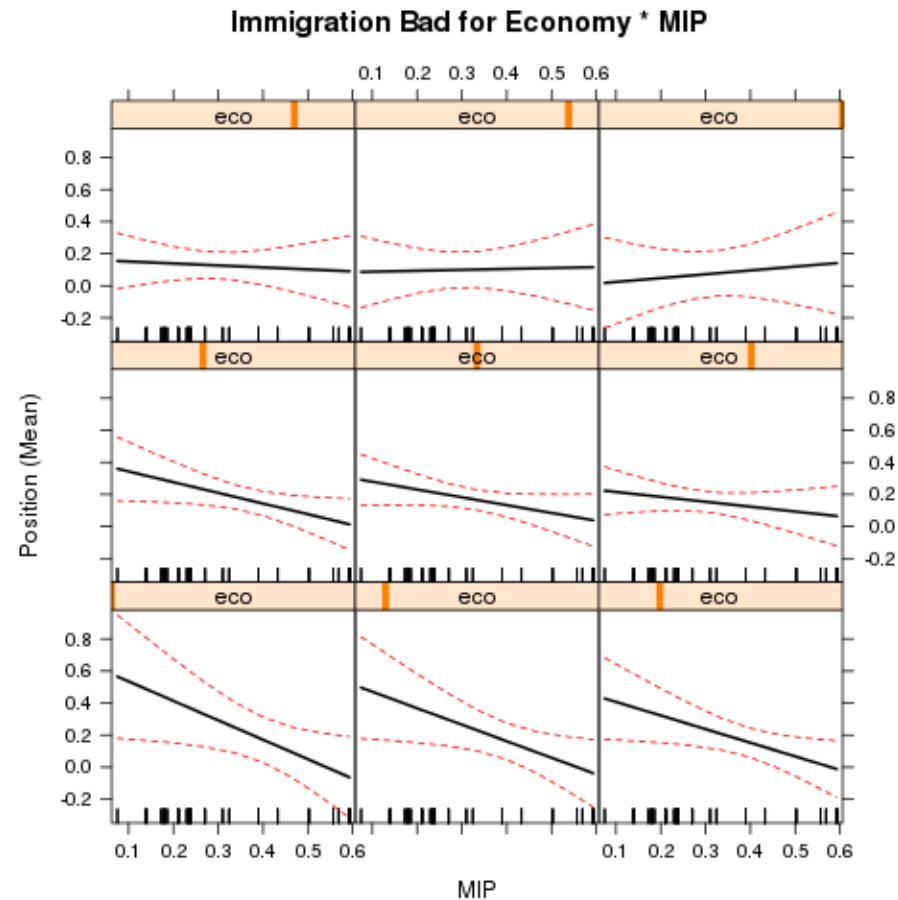
OLS Model: DV=Position



OLD Model: DV=Position



Highly Politicized: Bad.Ec*MIP



Conclusion

- Spatial competition
 - ‘All’ parties react
 - Not just centre/right-wing; or: most competent
 - Convergence: responsiveness
- Silence is not an option
 - Spain 2008
 - Parties feel compelled to take a position
 - Limits when *not* or *highly* politicized