

**Supplementary Appendices for
“The Causal Effect of Media-Driven Political Interest on Political Attitudes and
Behavior”**

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Appendix A

Table A gives the demographic trends by linguistic region over the period included in our survey. One of the reasons to look at these trends is the concern that our instrument might be affecting who takes the survey, and not necessarily the level of political interest of Swiss citizens (and thereby cast doubt on the independence assumption). While the data shows several trends, they all tend to be linear: fewer respondents who are married, increasing levels of education, and decreasing numbers of individuals who self identify as being Catholic and Protestant. While these trends do occur there are two reasons why this does not necessarily cause concern for the independence assumption. First, these demographic trends tend to be linear, but the values of the instrument are not (see Figure 1). Since the values of the instrument are, if anything, more U-shaped, it is unlikely that the instrument is causing the differences in who takes the survey. Second, the trends are similar across the regions, despite the fact that the regions vary in terms of the relative value of the instrument over time. In looking at the trends, one important thing to note is that the sample for the Italian speakers is often quite small, including 40 or fewer individuals, causing the sample means to vary more from year to year than the other regions.

Table A. Over-time Demographic Trends by Linguistic Region

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percent Female</u>			<u>Percent Married</u>			<u>Percent Unemployed</u>		
	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>I</u>
1971	52.8	53.5	56.9	71.9	70.9	76.5	0	0	0
1975	56.1	48.8	51.2	70.9	74.4	61.0	1.8	0.5	2.5
1979	.	53.4	.	.	71.6	.	.	0.1	.
1987	51.9	49.3	46.9	54.1	66.4	61.2	0	0	0
1991	47.6	49.7	52.5	57.5	61.8	65.0	0	0	0
1995	57.5	52.0	57.6	53.5	57.9	55.4	4.1	1.2	2.8
1999	56.7	53.0	57.7	50.2	54.1	58.1	1.8	0.7	1.7
2003	58.3	54.4	53.6	52.0	56.1	53.1	1.4	1.4	1.3

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percent Protestant</u>			<u>Percent Catholic</u>			<u>Percent Other Religion</u>		
	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>I</u>
1971	42.0	56.6	48.0	51.7	40.4	40.0	1.1	1.6	4.0
1975	48.4	55.6	4.9	46.2	41.1	90.2	1.1	1.0	0
1979	.	54.1	.	.	41.0	.	.	1.1	.
1987	46.4	52.6	14.6	40.7	39.8	83.3	5.3	1.9	0
1991	40.6	52.7	0	48.6	37.6	100.0	2.4	3.1	0
1995	39.4	48.6	7.1	44.8	39.2	79.8	3.7	3.6	3.3
1999	36.1	48.6	7.5	45.8	36.1	82.1	4.3	3.6	2.2
2003	32.7	41.1	6.4	31.6	37.2	67.5	4.9	5.9	3.7

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percent with High Education Level</u>		
	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>I</u>
1971	31.0	14.4	37.3
1975	34.2	18.0	22.2
1979	.	27.8	.
1987	32.9	22.6	12.2
1991	20.6	25.1	10.0
1995	44.8	36.7	42.4
1999	53.0	37.6	45.8
2003	51.8	40.4	49.8

Appendix B

Table B: Years when Elections for National Elective Office are held in France, Germany, and Italy, 1968-2003

French Elections: June 1969; Mar 1973; May 1974; Mar 1978; Apr-June 1981; Mar 1986; Apr-May 1988; Mar 1993; Apr-May 1995; May-June 1997; Apr-June 2002
German Elections: Sept 1968; Nov 1972; Oct 1976; Oct 1980; Mar 1983; Jan 1987; Dec 1990; Oct 1994; Sept 1998; Sept 2002
Italian Elections: May 1968; May 1972; June 1976; June 1979; June 1983; June 1987; April 1992; Mar 1994; Apr 1996; May 2001

Notes: For Germany and Italy this list only includes national/federal parliamentary elections and for France it includes both the parliamentary and presidential elections. Elections on national referendum are not included.

Appendix C: Binary Version of Political Interest

In this appendix, we present the results when coding political interest in a binary manner. In particular, we created the dummy variable *high level of political interest* to take a value of 1 for those who indicating that they were either rather interested, or very interested in politics and a value of 0 for those who indicated that they were either not interested at all or rather not interested in politics. Table C gives the first stage results and Table D, the second stage results. All of the same substantive conclusions are reached as presented in the paper.

Table C. OLS Estimate of Political Interest using Binary Political Interest Measure

	High Level of Political Interest
Log(Months Since Previous Election)	-0.09 (0.01)
Month of Swiss Election	0.08 (0.01)
Female	-0.12 (0.01)
Age	0.004 (0.000)
Higher education	0.20 (0.01)
Married	0.03 (0.007)
Protestant	-0.04 (0.02)
Catholic	-0.04 (0.02)
Other religion	-0.004 (0.02)
Unemployed	-0.14 (0.05)
Canton fixed effects?	Yes
Observations	22,399
Number of Clusters	189
R-squared	0.11
F-Stat, Instrument	43.2
p-value, Instrument	<0.0001

Notes: Robust clustered standard errors in parentheses. The data used in the analysis comes from the Swiss National Election Studies cumulative file (Fontana, Selb, and Lachar, n.d.). These results represent the first stage regression for our instrumental variable analysis and were estimated using OLS regression.

Table D. IV Estimates of Political Interest's Effect using Binary Political Interest Measure

	Participation	Identify with Party	Knew vote all along
High Level of Political Interest	0.63 (0.11)	-1.41 (0.12)	-1.56 (0.36)
Month of Swiss Election	0.000 (0.01)	0.15 (0.03)	0.03 (0.05)
Female	0.006 (0.01)	-0.31 (0.02)	-0.26 (0.02)
Age	0.000 (0.000)	0.01 (0.001)	0.007 (0.001)
Higher education	-0.005 (0.02)	0.44 (0.02)	0.16 (0.06)
Married	0.06 (0.007)	0.15 (0.02)	0.02 (0.03)
Protestant	0.03 (0.01)	0.04 (0.04)	-0.07 (0.04)
Catholic	0.02 (0.01)	0.01 (0.05)	-0.09 (0.04)
Other religion	-0.02 (0.02)	-0.01 (0.05)	-0.01 (0.06)
Unemployed	0.05 (0.03)	-0.34 (0.09)	-0.35 (0.14)
Canton fixed effects?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	19,926	21,856	12,977
Number of Clusters	165	189	164

Notes: Robust clustered standard errors in parentheses. The data used in the analysis comes from the Swiss National Election Studies cumulative file (Fontana, Selb, and Lachar, n.d.). All of the models were all estimated using either 2SLS or IV-Probit regression models.

Appendix D: IV Results without Covariates

Here we present the first stage (Table E) and second stage (Table F) results when no covariates are included in the empirical models. While the magnitudes of the coefficients are typically slightly smaller, the same substantive conclusions are reached in each case.

Table E. OLS Estimate of Political Interest when no Covariates are Included

	Political Interest
Log(Months Since Previous Election)	-0.18 (0.05)
Canton fixed effects?	No
Observations	22,777
Number of Clusters	190
R-squared	0.01
F-Stat, Instrument	12.2
p-value, Instrument	0.001

Notes: Robust clustered standard errors in parentheses. The data used in the analysis comes from the Swiss National Election Studies cumulative file (Fontana, Selb, and Lachar, n.d.). These results represent the first stage regression for our instrumental variable analysis and were estimated using OLS regression.

Table F. IV Estimates of Political Interest's Effect when no Covariates are Included

	Participation	Identify with Party	Knew vote all along
Political Interest	0.30 (0.06)	-0.63 (0.08)	-0.90 (0.14)
Canton fixed effects?	No	No	No
Observations	20,254	22,209	13,154
Number of Clusters	166	190	165

Notes: Robust clustered standard errors in parentheses. The data used in the analysis comes from the Swiss National Election Studies cumulative file (Fontana, Selb, and Lachar, n.d.). All of the models were all estimated using either 2SLS or IV-Probit regression models.

Appendix E. Coding of Referenda used in Canton-level Turnout Analysis

For the analysis using aggregate canton-level turnout data, we coded whether the referenda on the ballot for each Election Day focused only on domestic issues such as the welfare state, labor laws, political rights, and social issues or if at least one of the referendum on the ballot deal with an international issue such as trade, immigration or international organizations such as the United Nations or the European Community. Here we report the subject of each referendum on each ballot by Election Day (we used the website http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/pore/va/vab_2_2_4_1.html to identify the subject of these referenda). Below we list the Election Date along with our coding regarding international issues on the ballot.

In addition to ballots with international referenda, we also coded whether our decision regarding an army related ballot could have affected how the variable was coded (i.e., this indicates ballots with an army-related referendum that have no referenda on other international issues). In our analysis we report the results with and without the army-related ballots from the analysis.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Included International Issue?</u>	<u>Would Army-related Issue Affect Coding?</u>
Feb 7, 1971 Referenda: Suffrage for women	No	No
June 6, 1971 Referenda: Protecting the environment Federal financial regulations	No	No
Mar 5, 1972 Referenda: Formation of a housing trust Protections for renters	No	No
June 4, 1972 Referenda: Stabilizing the construction market Protection of the currency	Yes	No
Sept 24, 1972 Referenda: Referendum on increasing arms control and an arms export ban	Yes	No
Dec 3, 1972 Referenda: Petition for a change in the National Pension and the Federal Constitution in the field of old-age, survivors and disability insurance Agreements with the European Economic Community and the member states of the European Coal and Steel	Yes	No
Mar 4, 1973 Referenda: Modification of the federal constitution relating to the education The promotion of scientific research	No	No
May 20, 1973 Referenda: Abolition of the Jesuit monastery and articles 51 & 52 of the Constitution	No	No
Dec 2, 1973 Referenda: Federal decision monitoring of prices, wages and profits Federal Decision on measures in the areas of credit Measures to stabilize the building market	No	No

	On the protection of animals	
	Limiting the tax-depreciation in the income tax from the federal government, cantons and municipalities	
Oct 20, 1974	Yes	No
Referenda:	Petition against alienation and over-population of Switzerland	
Dec 8, 1974	No	No
Referenda:	Referendum on changes in social health insurance Federal budget issues (2 referenda)	
Mar 2, 1975	No	No
Referenda:	Federal decree on the business article of the federal constitution	
June 8, 1975	Yes	No
Referenda:	Protection of the currency. Financing national highways. Change in general customs tariff Budget and tax issues (2 referenda)	
Dec 7, 1975	Yes	No
Referenda:	Water management Getting Swiss Residency Importing and exporting agricultural products	
Mar 21, 1976	No	No
Referenda:	Workers role in business operation Taxes	
June 13, 1976	Yes	No
Referenda:	Spatial planning Loan agreement between Switzerland and the International Development Association Defining unemployment	
Sept 26, 1976	No	No
Referenda:	Radio and television Liability insurance for motor vehicles and motorcycles	
Dec 5, 1976	Yes	No
Referenda:	Monetary and credit policy Price controls A 40 hour work week	
Mar 13, 1977	Yes	No
Referenda:	Immigration Restriction on naturalization Regarding treaties with foreign countries	
June 12, 1977	No	No
Referenda:	Sales taxes Tax harmonization	
Sept 25, 1977	No	No
Referenda:	Air pollution by vehicles Renter's protection Increasing the number of signatures for referendum	

	Increasing the number of signatures for constitutional initiatives	
	Abortion	
Dec 4, 1977	No	No
Referenda:	Taxes	
	Federal act on political rights	
	Establishment of civilian alternative service	
	Balancing the federal budget	
Feb 26, 1978	No	No
Referenda:	National roads	
	Law and old age survivors insurance	
	The retirement age	
	The business article in the constitution	
May 28, 1978	Yes	No
Referenda:	Customs and Tariffs	
	Federal Law regulating the time in Switzerland	
	Abortion	
	Higher education and research	
	Initiative for traffic free Sundays	
Sept 24, 1978	No	No
Referenda:	Establishment of the canton Jura	
Dec 3, 1978	No	No
Referenda:	Dairy decision	
	Animal welfare	
	Police tasks	
	Vocational training	
Feb 18, 1979	No	No
Referenda:	Voting rights for 18 year olds	
	Trails and hiking paths	
	Drug advertising	
	Nuclear facilities	
May 20, 1979	No	No
Referenda:	Sales taxes	
	Atomic energy	
Mar 2, 1980	No	No
Referenda:	The separation of church and state	
	Concerning the new regulations of the country's supplies	
Nov 30, 1980	No	No
Referenda:	Road safety	
	Sharing of stamp duties	
	Redistribution of Federal Alcohol Administration revenues	
Apr 5, 1981	Yes	No
Referenda:	Foreign policy	
June 14, 1981	No	No
Referenda:	Women's rights	
	Consumer rights	
Nov 29, 1981	No	No

Referenda:	Federal budget	
June 6, 1982	Yes	No
Referenda:	Aliens Act of 1981	
	Penal code regarding violent crime	
Nov 28, 1982	No	No
Referenda:	Price regulation	
Feb 27, 1983	Yes	No
Referenda:	Duties on fuel	
	Energy rule in federal constitution	
Dec 4, 1983	Yes	No
Referenda:	Civil rights legislation	
	Simplification of naturalization	
Feb 26, 1984	No	Yes
Referenda:	Heavy goods vehicle tax	
	Toll roads	
	Community service in place of compulsory military service	
May 20, 1984	No	No
Referenda:	Bank secrecy	
	Home ownership	
Sept 23, 1984	No	No
Referenda:	Nuclear power	
	The energy supply	
Dec 2, 1984	No	No
Referenda:	Maternity insurance and maternity leave	
	Radio and television	
Mar 10, 1985	No	No
Referenda:	Waiver of fees for primary education	
	Paying for federal health care	
June 9, 1985	No	No
Referenda:	Abortion	
	Sharing stamp duty revenues	
	Redistribution on income from the fiscal burden of spirits	
	Support for self-sufficiency in food grain	
Sept 22, 1985	No	No
Referenda:	Timing of school year	
	Innovation risk for business	
	Changes to the Swiss civil code	
Dec 1, 1985	No	No
Referenda:	Vivisection	
Mar 16, 1986	Yes	No
Referenda:	Joining the United Nations	
Sept 28, 1986	No	No
Referenda:	Federal cultural initiative	
	Job training	
	Domestic sugar industry	
Dec 7, 1986	No	No

	Referenda: Renters rights		
	Tolls for heavy vehicles		
Apr 5, 1987	Yes		No
	Referenda: Asylum Act		
	Law on the residence and residence of aliens		
	Rules for initiatives on military spending		
Dec 6, 1987	No		No
	Referenda: Train system		
	Protecting natural environment		
	Federal health insurance		
June 12, 1988	No		No
	Referenda: Coordinated transport policy		
	Retirement age		
Dec 4, 1988	Yes		No
	Referenda: Land speculation		
	Reducing working hours		
	Immigration		
June 4, 1989	No		No
	Referenda: Animals farming		
Nov 26, 1989	No		Yes
	Referenda: Abolition of army		
	Speed limits and traffic safety		
Apr 1, 1990	No		No
	Referenda: Road Projects		
	Highways between Murten and Yverdon		
	Highway in Knonauer		
	Highway between Biel and Solothurn/Zuchwil		
	Wine-growing		
	Organization of the Federal judiciary		
Sept 23, 1990	No		No
	Referenda: Phasing out nuclear energy		
	Stopping nuclear power stations		
	Federal energy		
	Road traffic		
Mar 3, 1991	No		No
	Referenda: Voting rights for 18 years old		
	Promoting public transport		
June 2, 1991	No		Yes
	Referenda: Reorganizing federal financing		
	Altering the military criminal code		
Feb 6, 1992	No		No
	Referenda: Health insurance		
	Experimentation on animals		
May 17, 1992	Yes		No
	Referenda: Joining Bretton Woods agreement (2 referenda)		
	Protection of water (2 referenda)		

	Genetic engineering	
	Service for conscientious	
	Swiss criminal military criminal law	
Sept 27, 1992	No	No
Referenda:	Swiss railway	
	Commerce issues	
	Law on stamp duties	
	Law on rural land rights	
	Compensation & contributions for members of parliament (2 referenda)	
Dec 6, 1992	Yes	No
Referenda:	Federal decision on the European Economic Area (EEA)	
Mar 7, 1993	Yes	No
Referenda:	Fuel duties	
	Gambling ban	
	Animal testing	
June 6, 1993	No	Yes
Referenda:	Buying military weapons (2 referenda)	
Sept 26, 1993	No	No
Referenda:	About use of weapons	
	Connection of Bernese districts running in the county of Basel Country	
	Adding Federal work holiday	
	Cost of health insurance	
	Unemployment	
Nov 28, 1993	No	No
Referenda:	Financial regime (2 referenda)	
	Social security	
	Federal excise taxes	
	Popular initiative "for the prevention of alcohol-related problems"	
	Popular initiative "for the prevention of tobacco-related problems"	
Feb 20, 1994	No	No
Referenda:	Road tolls (3 referenda)	
	Initiative "for the protection of alpine regions against transit traffic"	
	Air Navigation Act	
June 12, 1994	Yes	Yes
Referenda:	The promotion of art	
	Naturalization	
	The peacekeeping operations of Swiss troops	
Sept 25, 1994	Yes	Yes
Referenda:	Abolishing the reduced domestic wheat prices financed by tariffs	
	Military penal code	
Dec 4, 1994	Yes	No
Referenda:	Federal Health Insurance (2 referenda)	
	Federal law on coercive measures on rights of foreigners	
Mar 12, 1995	No	No
Referenda:	Agricultural laws (3 referenda)	
	Stopping federal spending	

June 25, 1995	Yes	No
Referenda:	Law on Old Age and Survivors Insurance (2 referenda)	Law on Acquisition of land by persons abroad
Mar 10, 1996	Yes	No
Referenda:	Federal decree on the revision of the constitutional article on languages	Transferring the Bernese municipality of the canton of Jura Vellerat
	Abolishing the cantonal authorities for the acquisition of military equipment staff	Waiver of duties on certain equipment
	Federal funding for railway construction project	
June 9, 1996	No	No
Referenda:	Agricultural industry	Organization of government administration
Dec 1, 1996	Yes	No
Referenda:	Immigration	Labor laws
June 8, 1997	Yes	No
Referenda:	Joining the EU	Banning the export of war materials
	Decision on lifting the powder shelf	
Sept 28, 1997	No	No
Referenda:	Unemployment insurance	Popular initiative "Youth without drugs"
June 7, 1998	No	No
Referenda:	Measures to balance the budge	Genetic engineering
	Changing police status	
Sept 27, 1998	No	No
Referenda:	Levy on heavy goods traffic	Popular initiative 'for cheap food and organic farms'
	Retirement pensions	
Nov 29, 1998	No	No
Referenda:	Constructing and financing infrastructure projects of public transport	Agricultural policy
	Swiss people's initiative 'for a sensible drug policy'	Labor law
Feb 7, 1999	No	No
Referenda:	Eligibility for serving on the federal council	Health care
	Incentivizing home ownership	Spatial planning
Apr 18, 1999	No	No
Referenda:	New federal constitution	
June 13, 1999	Yes	No
Referenda:	Laws regarding asylum (2 referenda)	Medical prescription of heroin

	Law on Disability Insurance		
	Law on maternity		
Mar 12, 2000		No	No
Referenda:	Decision on judicial reform		
	Laws regarding popular initiatives (2 referenda)		
	Genetic engineering		
	Reducing traffic		
May 21, 2000		Yes	No
Referenda:	Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community		
Sept 24, 2000		Yes	No
Referenda:	Promoting renewable energy (2 referenda)		
	Immigration		
	Referenda		
Nov 26, 2000		No	Yes
Referenda:	Retirement age (2 referenda)		
	Spending on domestic defense		
	Health care costs		
	Personnel act		
Mar 4, 2001		Yes	No
Referenda:	Joining EU		
	Lowering costs of prescription drugs		
	Road safety		
June 10, 2001		Yes	Yes
Referenda:	Changing military laws (2 referenda)		
	Cancellation of the permit requirement for the establishment of dioceses		
Dec 2, 2001		No	Yes
Referenda:	Federal debt		
	Funding retirement		
	Abolishing the army		
	Federal popular initiative 'Solidarity creates security for Voluntary Service for Peace (SCP)		
	Capital gains tax		
Mar 3, 2002		Yes	No
Referenda:	Joining the EU		
	Reduced work hours		
June 2, 2002		No	No
Referenda:	Abortion (2 referenda)		
Sept 22, 2002		No	No
Referenda:	Federal Decree on the initiative "to fund the payment of AVS excess gold reserves of the Swiss National Bank (Initiative on gold)"		
	Law on Electricity Market		
Nov 24, 2002		Yes	No
Referenda:	Asylum		
	Unemployment insurance		
Feb 9, 2003		No	No

Referenda: Revision of popular rights
Health care

May 18, 2003 **Yes** **Yes**

Referenda: Changing law on military
Federal Law on the Protection of the Population and Civil Protection
Popular initiative for "Fair rents"
Initiative for car free Sundays
Health care
Rights for the disabled
