



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.

**Voter behavior, government capture and accountability in Sub-Saharan
African States:
A comparative analysis based on cross-country estimations of probabilistic
voting models**

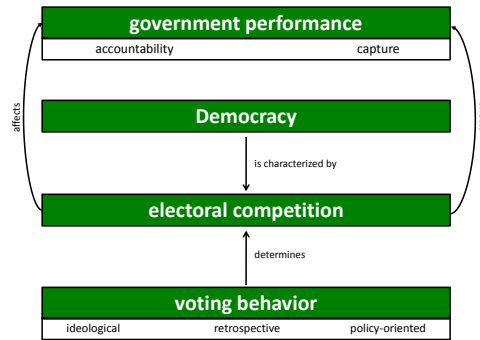
Christian Henning and Laura Seide
Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kiel
chenning@ae.uni-kiel.de, lseide@ae.uni-kiel.de

**Poster prepared for presentation at the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's 2012
AAEA Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, August 12-14, 2012**

Copyright 2012 by Christian Henning and Laura Seide. All rights reserved. Readers may make verbatim copies of this document for non-commercial purposes by any means, provided that this copyright notice appears on all such copies.

INTRODUCTION

We analyse the impact of voting behavior on governmental performance, in particular on governmental accountability and capture.



THEORY

Different voting motives are distinguished: ideological voting, retrospective voting and policy-oriented voting

ideological voting

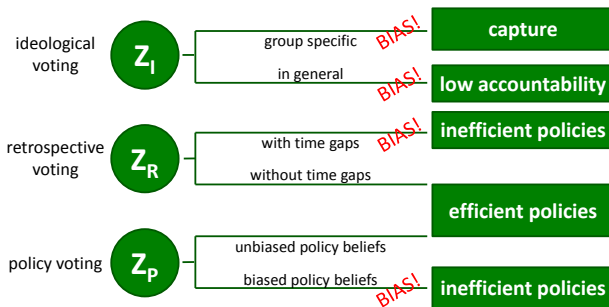
- non-policy voting, based on personal attributes like appearance, charisma, ethnicity etc.

retrospective voting

- past performance is evaluated and leads to voting decision

policy-oriented voting

- vote choice is determined by policy positions of voters and parties



For further information, please contact the author:
chenning@ae.uni-kiel.de, lseide@ae.uni-kiel.de

METHODOLOGY

1 Probabilistic voting model

The random utility model (RUM) is used to analyze voting behavior. It assumes that decision makers are utility maximisers. Furthermore the RUM presumes that error terms are distributed iid extreme value, which results in the following logit probabilities:

$$P_{ip} = \frac{e^{U_{ip}}}{\sum_q e^{U_{iq}}} \quad (1)$$

Utility of voter i if he votes for party p results in:

$$U_{ip} = \alpha_p + \beta_I Z_I + \beta_R Z_R + \beta_P Z_P \quad (2)$$

α_p is the ideological constant, β the coefficients and Z the variables (I =ideological, R =retrospective, P =policy oriented).

Finally voter i decides to vote party p , if p provides the highest utility.

$$P_{ip} = \text{Prob}(U_{ip} > U_{iq} \quad \forall j \neq i) \quad (3)$$

2 Ideology indicator

The indicator is supposed to measure non-policy voting within a single number. Including retrospective and policy oriented voting the indicator results in the following formula:

$$\frac{|\Delta\alpha_p + \delta\Delta ID_{ip}|}{|\Delta\gamma_p| + |\beta|} = \lambda_{ip} \quad (4)$$

λ measures how much policy distance and presidential approval have to be changed to compensate for non-policy differences between parties.

REFERENCES

Afrobarometer(2008) Afrobarometer Round 4 , Available at: <http://next.pls.msu.edu/>

Freedom House 2012 Freedom in the World 2005-2009, available at: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-world>

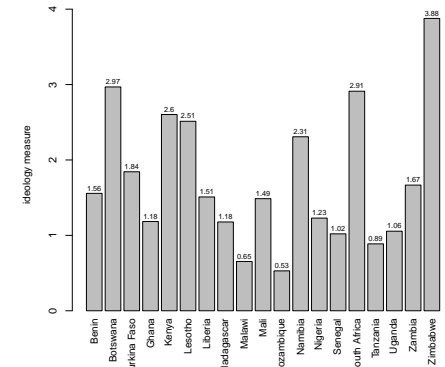
Keefer, Philip and Khemani, S. (2005) Democracy, Public Expenditures, and the Poor: Understanding Political Incentives for Providing Public Services, The World Bank Research Observer, 20(1), 1-27

Marshall, Monty G., Jagers, K. and Ted Robert Gurr (2010) Polity IV Project, Political Regime Characteristics and Transition, 1800-2010 available at: <http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscr/inscr.htm>

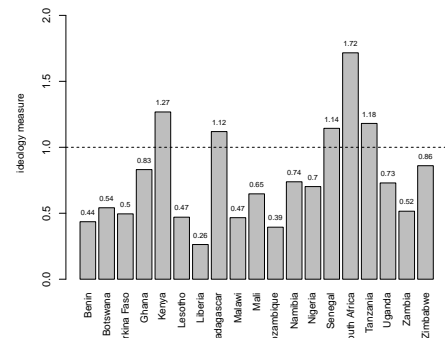
Persson, T. and Tabellini, G. (2000) Political Economics - Explaining Economic Policy Cambridge, MIT Press, 2000

RESULTS

Ideology indicator for 19 African countries



Ratio between rural and urban ideology indicator



CONCLUSION

- ⇒ A regression of macro indicators on the ideology index resulted in ideological voting being more important in countries with a lower freedom index (Freedom House 2012) and with higher GDPs per capita (The World Bank 2010)
- ⇒ Greater ideological voting implies less governmental accountability
- ⇒ Differences between rural and urban regions can be found in all countries

- In most countries urban regions vote more ideological than rural ones
- This implies, that in these countries the government is captured by the rural population