

Summaries

The erosion of the electorate of the (predecessors of the) CDA, 1965-1994

by Rob Eisinga, Albert Felling en Philip Hans Franses

The electoral support for the (predecessors of the) Christian democratic party (CDA) in the Netherlands declined rapidly during the 1965-1994 period dropping from around 50 to 21 per cent of the total votes. This paper examines this decline using a time-series of 30 annual Dutch cross-sections ($N = 876,583$). It attempts to decompose the aggregate changes over time into those arising from behavioral changes, notably depillarization, and those associated with distributional changes in the social compositions of the electorate, religious disaffiliation and aging in particular. The results show that 19-24 percent of the 29-percentage-points decrease was associated with trends in behavior, whereas 5-10 percent was associated with population changes. Depillarization among Catholics, accounting for a 15-22-percentage-points decrease, constituted a major element in the explanation of the decline. Implications of the findings are discussed.

Trends in cultural and economic conservatism in The Netherlands 1970-1992

by Wilma Vollebergh, Jurjen Iedema en Wim Meeus

In this article, trends in cultural and economic conservatism in The Netherlands are analysed in 1970-1992. A very strong trend towards less conservatism was found in the cultural domain, that appeared to be strongest in women. A strong trend towards greater conservatism was found in the economic domain, a trend which is strongest in men. For cultural conservatism very strong cohort-effects were shown, indicating that the trend towards less cultural conservatism is the result of the succession of increasingly libertarian cohorts. In contrast to this, for economic conservatism a very strong period-effect was found within all cohorts, indicating that economic conservatism can be seen as a characteristic of particular historical times.

A reversal in the gender gap was shown, women being more conservative than men in 1970, less conservative than men in 1992. However, when the influence of structural differences in the social position of women and men is taken into account, women appear to be less conservative than men since the seventies. Several explanations for this result are offered.

On networks, neighbours and spatial determinism

by Talja Potters

In March 1996, an article of Terpstra was published in the *Sociologische Gids*, focussing on the question, what can be said about the supposed loss of the homogeneous working class neighbourhoods. His article invited for some thoughts and criticism. Firstly, Terpstra's notion of 'dominant group' used to make generalizations for the whole neighbourhood of his research is questioned. Here the tendency to equal neighbourhood and community, called by Wellman and Leighton spatial determinism, is discussed. Secondly, although Terpstra starts from this, meanwhile he presents material rejecting the restrictions of neighbourhood borders, as the 'pirate'. Thirdly, Terpstra's idea that workingclass culture does not distinguish between public and private is criticized. Lastly, the interpretation of social distinctions people in Terpstra's research make is replenished by an interpretation in which the role of social distinction for defining ones social place is central. However, Terpstra's article remains valuable for understanding the problems in urban neighbourhoods.