

Economic and Social Research Council Seminar Series

The Social and Economic Foundations of Ethnic Minority Political Representation

Tuesday 13th April 2010

Seminar Room G, Department of Sociology, University of Oxford

Electoral Context I: The role of the electorate in selecting minority candidates: public opinion and electoral preferences

This seminar will assess the impact of racial and anti-immigrant prejudice on white majority voters in Britain and elsewhere, nowadays and in the historical perspective. It will examine whether public acceptance of ethnic minorities has changed over time and if so what is driving this rise. It will examine the broad political impact of diversity and prejudice on the electorates: from political trust to acceptance of party messages.

It will also consider the methodological challenges presented by efforts to measure racial attitudes, where prevailing social norms may encourage dishonest responses. For example, new experimental survey techniques have begun to find subtle ways to get round these norms and measure racial stereotypes and prejudices implicitly.

The seminar will also turn the lens on ethnic minorities as voters and examine the extent to which they are incorporated into mainstream electoral politics. How do they differ (or not) from the white population in terms of voting, partisanship and political preferences and what are their effects (if any) on prospects for ethnic minority candidates, particularly in marginal seats?

Racial and religious prejudice in politics

Prof Marc Swyngedouw, *University of Leuven*: Anti-immigrant feelings and Islamophobia in the Belgian Flemish and Francophone electorates: 1991 – 2007

Dr Rob Ford, *University of Manchester*: The political mobilisation of prejudice; a survey experiment on the role of messages and messengers

Discussant: **Dr Scott Blinder**, *University of Oxford*

Minority electoral behaviour

Dr Maria Sobolewska, *University Oxford*: Ethnic mobilisation and electoral participation of ethnic minorities in Britain

Prof Dirk Jacobs, *University of Brussels*: TBC

Discussant: **Prof Chris Wlezien**, *Temple University*

Impact of diversity on political attitudes

Prof Miles Hewstone, *University of Oxford*: Impact of diversity on social and political attitudes: Social-psychological insights.

Prof Lauren McLaren, *University of Nottingham*: Diversity and Trust in Politics in Britain

Discussant: **Prof Anthony Heath**, *University of Oxford*

If you are interested in attending this free seminar, please book your place at www.manchester.ac.uk/socialchange

