

Electoral Context I: The Role of the Electorate in Selecting Minority Candidates: Public Opinion and Electoral Preferences

Tuesday 13th April 2010

Seminar Room G, Department of Sociology, Manor Road Building, Manor Road, University of Oxford

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.

10.00-10.30 Start – Refreshments

10.30-11.50 Session 1

Racial and religious prejudice in politics

Prof Marc Swyngedouw, University of Leuven, - Anti-immigrant feeling and Islamofobia in the Belgian Flemish and Francophone electorate compared: 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.

11.50-12.10 Q&A – General discussion

12.10-1.00 Lunch

13.00-14.20 Session 2

Minority electoral behaviour

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

Dirk Jacobs, University of Brussels – Ethnic voting in Brussels. Voting Patters among Ethnic Minorities in Brussels (Belgium) during the 2006 Local Elections

Discussant: Prof Chris Wlezien, Temple University.

14.20-14.40 Q&A – General discussion

14.40-14.50 Refreshments

14.50-16.10 Session 3 Impact of diversity on political attitudes

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

Dr Lauren McLaren, University of Nottingham - Diversity and Trust in Politics in Britain

Discussant: Prof Anthony Heath, University of Oxford.

16.10-16.30 Q&A – General discussion

