

**Did the parties in the Sipilä government keep their election promises?
A comparative perspective on the fulfilment of electoral pledges in Finland,
2015–2019**

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In election campaigns, parties pledge to advance a number of things. The general public tends to approach electoral pledges with scepticism. However, systematically collected information has been lacking about the extent to which Finnish parties' electoral pledges are fulfilled. In this study, methods that have become established in the international literature on the policy effects of parties' electoral pledges were applied to the pledges included in the manifestos of the parties in Juha Sipilä's government (2015–2019). An electoral pledge was defined as a commitment to an action or outcome that can be clearly determined to have occurred or not. The occurrence or non-occurrence of the things that were pledged was verified using documents and statistics. In the 2015 parliamentary election, the parties that would join the Sipilä government made 319 pledges in total, 45 per cent of which were at least partially fulfilled by the end of the electoral term. The share is rather small compared to results obtained from several other countries. However, if one takes into account the fact that the Sipilä government was a multiparty coalition and the parties differed from each other in terms of their experience of being in government, the share of fulfilled pledges is quite average on international standards.

Keywords: parliamentary elections, political parties, electoral pledges, electoral manifestos

Segregation of living environments and political polarization

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Recently, concerns regarding political segregation and societal polarization have arisen in Finland also. Still, both theoretically and empirically, we lack studies on how these developments have progressed in Finland and how they are potentially challenging the country's contemporary political culture and changing the existing electoral cleavages. This article aims to, first, clarify what is meant by opinion polarization. Second, the main argument presented here is that political polarization must not be understood solely as growing ideological distance between parties and their voters. Instead, the article examines the potential segregation of living environments has both as a cause for political polarization, as well as a result that further amplifies inequalities between different social contexts. Lastly, the article proposes some ways to counter these developments.

Keywords: polarization, attitude, immigration, urbanization, residential segregation