

Responsible government parties and unruly opposition:

How government responsibility affects populist communication?

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The inclusion-moderation thesis assumes that when a populist party joins a coalition government, a process of mainstreaming and moderation occurs. However, there is a scarcity of empirical studies examining how the governmental role may impact the utilization of populist communication by right-wing populist parties. Furthermore, prior research has predominantly concentrated on radical right-wing populist parties and has not examined how other parties, typically not categorized as populist, may or may not employ populist communication dependent on their position in government or in opposition. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the extent to which the inclusion-moderation thesis applies to the use of populist communication by both populist and non-populist parties. The study focuses on parliamentary debates from the years 2015 and 2023. According to the findings, being in government significantly influences the rhetoric of so-called non-populist parties. These parties tend to use some populism when they are in the opposition, but when in government, populism rarely manifests. In the case of the radical right-wing party, the Finns Party, there is also a trend towards moderation, although not nearly to the same extent as observed in other parties.

Keywords: populism, moderation, parliament

Two language groups, different levels of trust?

– A comparative analysis of generalized trust
among the Swedish- and Finnish-speaking populations in Finland

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Trust in others is fundamental to social cohesion. Previous research has demonstrated that ethnic minorities often exhibit lower levels of generalized trust. However, the Swedish-speaking population in Finland has emerged as an anomaly in this context, with studies indicating that this group displays higher levels of generalized trust compared to Finnish speakers. Furthermore, recent studies suggest that this difference in generalized trust has diminished over time. This article aims to investigate and compare the levels of generalized trust between Swedish-speaking and Finnish-speaking individuals in Finland, as well as to analyze how socioeconomic and contextual factors influence this trust. The study utilizes two datasets: Barometern (an online panel for Swedish speakers in Finland) and Medborgaropinion (an online panel for Finnish speakers in Finland), both of which are representative of these language groups. The results indicate that Finnish speakers, contrary to previous research, exhibit higher levels of generalized trust than Swedish speakers. Variations within both groups are explained by socioeconomic factors such as education, age, income, employment, and gender, as well as contextual factors like the linguistic composition of the municipality and the degree of urbanization. These findings may have significant implications for the understanding of social cohesion and warrant further investigation to explore their long-term impact on Finnish society.

Keywords: Generalized trust, social trust, social capital, language groups