



Partisan Independence in Mexico and Latin America

Partisan identification is important for explaining individual political opinions, attitudes, and behaviors in democracies. However, little is known about its counterpart: partisan independence. In Latin America, independent voters comprise of 62 percent of the electorate while in Mexico they are close to 80 percent.

This course will explain the growing trend of independent voters in Mexico and Latin America by taking into consideration different theoretical approaches that have been developed for its analysis. Questions that will be discussed during the course are the following:

- a. What are the causes and consequences of the increase in partisan independence in democracies?
- b. Who are the independent voters in Mexico and more widely in Latin America?
- c. What are their social and economic features?
- d. What are their political attitudes and behaviors?
- e. Which factors affect their voting decision?
- f. What political content (issues) support their political decisions?

The course structure can be divided into four. Firstly, theories of partisan identification and partisan independence will be explored. Secondly, evidence from Mexico, Latin America and other parts of the world will be compared and contrasted. Thirdly, an explanation focusing on the ideological features of independent voters will be analyzed. Lastly, the scope and limitations of the aforementioned theories will be discussed alongside possible future research agendas on the topic.

Classes will consist of a series of lectures and presentations by the tutor and guided discussions of set texts led by students.