

Sammendrag

Sofi Granö og Johannes Bergh, forsker I ved Institutt for samfunnsforskning: *Causal Effects on Voter Turnout: Evidence from the Nordic Countries*

Sammendrag: This article reviews Nordic research on the causal determinants of voter turnout. Focusing on peer-reviewed studies from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, it synthesizes evidence from randomized field experiments, quasi-experiments, and fixed-effects designs using administrative turnout data. Organizing the literature by substantive domain, the review shows that mobilization, administrative costs, social context, life events, and economic shocks all causally affect turnout, although effect sizes are often modest in high-participation contexts. The Nordic evidence also highlights the importance of household spillovers and life-course disruptions, while challenging simple resource-based models of participation. Taken together, the review shows how Nordic data infrastructures have strengthened causal inference in turnout research and clarifies which factors robustly shape electoral participation.

Jonas Linde, professor ved Institutt for sammenliknende politikk, UiB: *Beyond Winners and Losers: A Longitudinal Analysis of Relative Electoral Success and Democratic Satisfaction in Sweden, 1996–2025*

Sammendrag: A large body of research documents a gap in satisfaction with democracy between electoral winners and losers, yet little is known about how this gap evolves over time within a single political system undergoing party system transformation. This study examines the development of the winner-loser gap in Sweden between 1996 and 2025, a period marked by the electoral breakthrough and increasing political influence of the Sweden Democrats (SD), a populist radical right party. We extend the traditional winner-loser framework by theorizing the concept of relative winners, capturing parties that achieve electoral advancement without entering government. Using repeated cross-sectional data from the SOM Institute, we analyse how satisfaction with democracy varies across winners, losers, and relative winners over time. The results show that the winner-loser gap remains persistent but narrows in recent years. Relative electoral success is associated with increased satisfaction among supporters of previously marginalised parties, particularly when it entails policy influence. Moreover, we find indications of spillover effects: satisfaction increases among those whose policy preferences align with SD, even when they do not support the party. These findings suggest that electoral outcomes are experienced not only in absolute but also in relative terms, and that the incorporation of previously excluded actors may reshape patterns of political support.

Peter Egge Langsæther, forsker II ved Institutt for samfunnsforskning: *Working class demobilization in a social democratic welfare state*

Sammendrag: This study investigates patterns of class non-voting, with an emphasis on the working class' declining electoral participation, which remains under-theorized and under-explored empirically. By utilizing unique micro-level data spanning more than half a century, the study investigates changes in workers' resources, perceptions of the political system and its actors, and political participation (beyond turnout) in Norway, expanding the understanding of class non-voting beyond the previously studied contexts of Great Britain and the United States. Different theoretical models are presented, including a re-evaluation of the resource model and alternative explanations related to political changes. The findings align more with the political party change model than with the resource model, offering important insights into the dynamics of class non-voting and laying important groundwork for future causal identification work. The findings have important implications for democratic theory and legitimacy.

Stine Hesstvedt, forsker II ved Institutt for samfunnsforskning og **Sara Seehuus**, forsker II ved Institutt for samfunnsforskning: *Rising tide in reverse? Attitudes to gender equality across generations and genders*

Sammendrag: Inglehart and Norris famously described a "rising tide" of growing support for gender equality across the industrialized world. Recent commentary suggests this trend may be reversing, with claims that younger generations—and young men in particular—are becoming less supportive of gender equality, pointing toward a new polarization along generational and gender lines. In this research note, we examine whether the rising tide is indeed in reverse. Drawing on repeated cross-sectional survey data on gender-equality attitudes in Norway from 1985 to 2025, we track aggregate change over time and disaggregate by birth cohort and gender. We assess whether recent cohorts depart from the long-run trend of rising support, and whether a widening gap between young men and young women is emerging. The findings speak to debates about generational value change, backlash, and the durability of egalitarian attitudes in advanced democracies.