Who Supports Gender Quotas?
Evidence from the 2015 General Election

Peter Allen & David Cutts
p.allen@qmul.ac.uk / d.j.cutts@bath.ac.uk

IGS, University of California, Berkeley
September 2nd 2015
What we know, what we don’t

- We know a lot about the implementation of quotas, and other gender equality measures, worldwide (Krook 2013; Murray 2015)
- We know an increasing amount about their impact (Krook et al. 2012; Beaman et al. 2010; Allen et al. 2014; Clayton 2014)
- We know basically nothing about individual-level support for these measures
Research questions

- Why do people think women are numerically under-represented in politics?
- Who supports which kind of equality measure to try and fix this?
  - Sex differences?
  - Social/political explanations
Research design

- YouGov survey (national panel) with standard weights
- $N=1664$
- Fieldwork 3rd-4th May 2015
- Thanks to PSA/EPOP for funding
Expectations

- That higher levels of education, being female, identifying as a member of an ethnic minority, being younger, and being a left-party identifier would correlate with blaming structural, institutional, and societal issues for women’s u/r & favouring heavy-handed action to remedy this.

- That the opposite would correlate with blaming women & favouring little/no action.
Who is to blame for women’s u/r?

“Which of the following, if any, do you think are the three main reasons that there are fewer female than male MPs? Please rank your top three reasons in order of importance.”
Who is to blame for women’s u/r?

1. Because of stereotypes about women not being suited to politics (for example, not being tough enough)
2. Because politics is dominated by men who do not value women's skills enough
3. Because political parties do not do enough to encourage more women to enter politics
4. Because women are less likely to be interested in a political career
5. Because women are more interested in local than national politics
6. Because the media pay less attention to women than men during election campaigns
7. Because women are tend to be made candidates in unwinnable seats
8. Because politics is not a family-friendly profession
9. Other reasons
Who is to blame for women’s u/r?

1. Women
2. Political parties
3. Political culture
4. Society
5. Political institutions
6. No problem/do nothing
Who is to blame? (i)

Blame by Sex, % of each category

- Women
- Parties
- Political Culture
- Society
- Institutions
- Do Nothing
- Full Sample

Men

Women
Who is to blame? (ii)

Blame by Age, % of each category

- 18-29
- 30-44
- 45-59
- 60+

Categories:
- Women
- Parties
- Political Culture
- Society
- Institutions
- Do Nothing
- Full Sample
Who is to blame? (iii)

Blame by Social Grade, % of each category

- Professional/managerial (AB)
- Routine non-manual (C1)
- Skilled manual (C2)
- Semi/unskilled manual (DE)
Who is to blame? (v)
Who is to blame? (vi)

Blame by Party ID, % of each category

- Labour
- Conservative
- Lib Dem
- Lib Dem
- Nationalist
- UKIP
- Green
- All Others
- No Party ID

Categories:
- Women
- Parties
- Political Culture
- Society
- Institutions
- Do Nothing
- Full Sample
### BLAME WOMEN

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### BLAME PARTIES

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### Model Fit

- **LR Chi-Square**: 249.51**
- **Log-Likelihood**: -2354.81
- **AIC**: 4889.63
- **N**: 1509

* = Significant <0.05; Base Category = Blame Society
Blame model highlights

- predicted probability of blaming women is 0.23 higher for Conservative Party Identifiers than all other party identifiers and 0.18 higher for UKIP Party Identifiers than all other party identifiers.

- predicted probability of blaming political culture is 0.10 higher for Women than Men.

- For a standard deviation increase in age, the probability of blaming institutions increases by 0.07.

- predicted probability of blaming institutions is 0.07 higher for Lib Dem Identifiers than all other party identifiers.
What is the solution to women’s u/r?

“And which of the following measures, if any, do you think would be the most effective way to increase the number of women elected as MPs?”
What is the solution to women’s u/r?

<1> Asking political parties to include 50% women on their shortlists of potential candidates before elections
<2> Imposing gender quotas, such as all-women shortlists, by law
<3> Introducing financial penalties for political parties who have less than a certain percentage of women candidates
<4> Offering more training and support to encourage women to take part in politics
<5> Introducing job-sharing for MPs to make politics more family-friendly
<6> Limiting the hours that MPs need to be at Parliament to make politics more family-friendly
<6> Other (please write in)
<7> Don't know
What is the solution to women’s u/r?

1. Unsure/DK
2. Do Nothing
3. Political Culture
4. Training for Women
5. Political Parties
6. Legal Reform
What is the solution? (i)

Solution by Sex, % of each category

- Men
- Women

Categories:
- Unsure/DK
- Do Nothing
- Political Culture
- Training for Women
- Political Parties
- Legal Reform
- Full Sample
What is the solution? (ii)

Solution by Age, % of each category

18-29 30-44 45-59 60 plus

Unsure/DK
Do Nothing
Political Culture
Training for Women
Political Parties
Legal Reform
Full Sample
What is the solution? (iii)

Solution by Social Grade, % of each category

Unsure/DK

Do Nothing

Political Culture

Training for Women

Political Parties

Legal Reform

Full Sample

Professional/managerial (AB)

Routine non-manual (C1)

Skilled manual (C2)

Semi/unskilled manual (DE)
What is the solution? (v)

Solution by Education, % of each category

- No Qualifications
- GCSE/Secondary level
- Other qualifications
- A-Level
- Professional Qualifications
- Degree/Postgraduate

Categories:
- Unsure/DK
- Do Nothing
- Political Culture
- Training for Women
- Political Parties
- Legal Reform
- Full Sample
What is the solution? (vi)

Blame by Party ID, % of each category

- Labour
- Conservative
- Lib Dem
- Lib Dem
- Nationalist
- UKIP
- Green
- Labour
- All Others
- No Party ID

Categories:
- Unsure/DK
- Do Nothing
- Political Culture
- Training for Women
- Parties
- Legal Reform
- Full Sample
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* = Significant <0.05; Base Category = Solution – Women Training

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<td>N</td>
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Solution model highlights

- predicted probability of the solution being political culture is **0.11 higher** for those who read broadsheet newspapers than all other/no newspaper readers.
- predicted probability of the solution being political culture is **0.20 higher** for LD Identifiers than all other party identifiers.
- predicted probability of the solution being political culture is **0.10 higher** for Women than Men.
- predicted probability of the solution being do nothing is **-0.04 lower** for Women than Men (all other predictors held at their mean).
Reflections

- Low overall support for quotas, c.9% think they are the solution
- Low overall support for idea that parties will solve the issue, 11%
- Only 14% blamed parties
- Not an endorsement of any of the equality measures seen in Britain in past 20+ years
What next?

- Cross-national analysis
- Contextual focus - role of women’s representation, and women’s economic status on attitudes?
- Improve the survey items - more precision, tighter categorisation