

REMITTING POPULISM?

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SHORTER ABSTRACT

This proposal considers the consequences of populism for citizens' attitudes in a double non-standard way. On one hand, it looks at the negative political remittances of non-democratic orientations in host countries, and assesses their consequences on attitudes of those left behind in their country of origin. On the other hand, it discusses the consequences of populism on citizens' attitudes, but in this case it is about citizens of other countries. The empirical data is provided by EVS 2008-2009, EVS 2017-2018 and the EVS Romanian data set, and the paper checks if support for non-democratic ruling in host countries of Romanian migrants is reflected in the view about society of those in contact with migrated friends and relatives. Changing in the impact of the pre-crisis and post-crisis cultures on current-days individual values are also considered.

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Political remittances attracted many scholars in the past decades (Kapur, 2014; Levitt, 1998; Pérez-Armendáriz, 2014; Piper, 2009; Tabar, 2014). The literature is rich in providing evidences on how contact to more democratic societies changes the political landscape at home. Exposure theory (White, 2008) was used to explain how immigrants take social norms from the host society, internalize them, and send them home as remitted social values. This is consistent with institutionalization assumption in value research (Arts, 2011; Gundelach, 1994; Voicu, 2014). However, there is an unexplored niche of non-democratic political remittances.

The aim of this paper is to assess to which extent contact to values of non-democratic type is remitted in the country of origin. I use the case of Romania, and data from European Values Study (EVS). EVS includes a module of support for a societal organization centered around a powerful leader, a military government, around a government of experts, and a democratic rule. Using 2008 and 2017 waves, one may assess societal orientation towards such values. This is the first set of main independent variables.

The second set of independent variables is given by the share of votes for populist parties in European countries in most recent elections.

This two sets of independent variables provide a comparative measure of intensity of populism in European countries. The aim is to assess how they are reflected in a country of origin for immigrants to such countries.

The set of dependent variables is given by the same variables collected in the 2017 EVS wave in Romania. This dataset has the advantage to be collected in a country with an important outmigration directed mainly to Europe, and its country specific items provide information about previous migration experience and

about contact of respondents (Romanian residents) with relatives and friends in other European countries. These countries of mediate exposure play the role of influencers. Therefore, each respondent may be linked to the societal-orientation in the influencers. The research question is to which extent the current raise in autocratic views is reflected in similar attitudes displayed by respondents in the Romanian dataset. In other words, I explore the variation in autocratic views depending on presence of such values in the countries where friends and relatives have migrated. I also test to which extent the presence of such values ten years ago (in 2008) is more or less important than the current ones (measured in 2017-2018). Orientation towards democracy as best organization pattern for a society is used as control. Multiple-Group Membership Multilevel Models (MGMLM) are used for testing.

I expect significant effects, showing the potential for globalization of populism. With the 2008 data, due to the precedence in data collection, endogeneity may be avoided to certain extent.

The implications go beyond the single case of Romania. The final part of the paper discusses of the potential that other diasporas remit similar political values, and ask whether, for instance, the French community in the UK may remit such norms to the home country.