

## **Ideologically Divided Party System and the Electoral Support of the Radical Right: An Analysis of the Effects of Contextual Factors on Vote Share Variation**

Varying electoral success of radical right parties across space and time is one of the most puzzling problems of the political science. The paper seeks to evaluate which contextual factors determine the variation of the radical right's vote shares in Europe by presenting a novel theoretical approach and evaluating it against the opposing theoretical propositions. It argues that the ideological division of party systems considering the exclusionary and authoritarian issues contributes to the electoral success of radical right parties. The theories are tested on the pooled cross-sectional time series data set, by systematically contrasting the explanatory power of the proposed model against the models advanced in the literature across both Eastern and Western Europe. The analysis employs a tobit regression model, with a lagged dependent variable and clustered Huber/White/sandwich estimator. The analyses provide evidence for the claim that ideologically divided party systems facilitate the increase in vote shares of radical right parties and demonstrate the limited explanatory power of propositions advanced in the literature.

*Key words: radical right, vote shares, contextual factors, Europe*