**Online appendix A**

The number of our 2014 Danish respondents that were given the support party option was fairly small. Consequently, we followed this survey up with another survey in Denmark in 2015 where all respondents had the support party option. This survey was again administered by SSI, and went into the field in the days leading up to the 2015 Danish general election with the government being the same as when our 2014 Danish survey went into the field. These data thus allow us to replicate the results in Table 3 in the main paper with a larger sample.

The results from the 2015 analysis are presented in Table 1a and they are very similar to those presented in Table 3 in the main paper. To be sure, the information environment appears to have been different in 2015 relative to 2014 such that more respondents gave the “don’t know” answer in the 2015 survey, but our inferences concern differences in classifications between parties at a given time point rather than within them over time. Or, put differently, what we care about is whether Danish citizens are more likely to classify SF and EL as support parties than other parties. The results clearly suggest that they were in 2015 as a majority of respondents classified SF and EL as support parties, which was much more than for any other party. Much like the results in Table 3, the results presented here thus suggest that most Danish voters can correctly classify support parties as a separate category when given the option to do so.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Table 1a: Respondent Classifications of Party Roles, Denmark 2015 (with support party option)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Party | True role | PM | Cabinet Partner | Support party | Opposition | Not in Parliament | Don’t know |
| Socialdemokraterne | PM | 0.80  (0.78, 0.82) | 0.03  (0.03, 0.04) | 0.02  (0.01, 0.03) | 0.01  (0.01, 0.02) | 0.01  (0.01, 0.02) | 0.12  (0.10, 0.14) |
| Det Radikale Venstre | Cabinet partner | 0.03  (0.02, 0.04) | 0.64  (0.61, 0.66) | 0.08  (0.07, 0.09) | 0.06  (0.04, 0.07) | 0.02  (0.01, 0.02) | 0.17  (0.15, 0.19) |
| Socialistisk Folkeparti (SF) | **Support** | **0.02**  **(0.01, 0.02)** | **0.20**  **(0.17, 0.21)** | **0.56**  **(0.53, 0.58)** | **0.03**  **(0.03, 0.04)** | **0.02**  **(0.02, 0.03)** | **0.18**  **(0.16, 0.20)** |
| Enhedslisten (EL) | **Support** | **0.01**  **(0.01, 0.02)** | **0.09**  **(0.08, 0.10)** | **0.64**  **(0.61, 0.66)** | **0.06**  **(0.05, 0.08)** | **0.02**  **(0.01, 0.03)** | **0.17**  **(0.15, 0.19)** |
| Venstre | Opposition | 0.03  (0.02, 0.04) | 0.05  (0.04, 0.06) | 0.03  (0.02, 0.04) | 0.73  (0.71, 0.75) | 0.02  (0.01, 0.03) | 0.14  (0.12, 0.16) |
| Dansk Folkeparti | Opposition | 0.01  (0.01, 0.02) | 0.05  (0.04, 0.06) | 0.07  (0.06, 0.08) | 0.69  (0.67, 0.72) | 0.02  (0.01, 0.03) | 0.16  (0.14, 0.18) |
| Liberal Alliance | Opposition | 0.01  (0.003, 0.01) | 0.03  (0.02, 0.04) | 0.06  (0.05, 0.08) | 0.64  (0.61, 0.66) | 0.06  (0.05, 0.07) | 0.20  (0.18, 0.22) |
| Det Konservative Folkeparti | Opposition | 0.01  (0.01, 0.02) | 0.04  (0.03, 0.05) | 0.06  (0.05, 0.07) | 0.69  (0.67, 0.72) | 0.02  (0.01, 0.03) | 0.18  (0.16, 0.20) |
| Kristendemokraterne | No seats | 0.01  (0.003, 0.01) | 0.03  (0.02, 0.03) | 0.06  (0.05, 0.08) | 0.08  (0.07, 0.10) | 0.58  (0.56, 0.61) | 0.24  (0.22, 0.26) |
| Alternativet | No seats | 0.01  (0.01, 0.02) | 0.02  (0.01, 0.03) | 0.12  (0.10, 0.13) | 0.05  (0.04, 0.06) | 0.59  (0.56, 0.61) | 0.22  (0.20, 0.24) |

Note: Table entries are the proportions of respondents perceiving that a given party had a particular party role with 95% confidence intervals in parentheses. The number of respondents is 1385

Furthermore, as an additional robustness check, we replicate Table 5 in the main paper using the 2015 sample. The responsibility scores are slightly higher in Table 2a than in Table 5 because the respondents were given a 1-6 responsibility scale instead of a 1-5 responsibility scale, but the rank-ordering of the parties is the same in the two tables. Specifically, the two support parties were attributed much less policy influence than the two government parties, slightly less than the two largest opposition parties, and slightly more than the two smallest opposition parties. This correspondence is encouraging in that it suggests we have tapped into something persistent (and previously unknown) in the Danish electorate, and something that is different from the Dutch electorate.

**Table 2a: Responsibility attribution to Danish parties in 2015**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Party | True role | True legislative seat share | Average policy responsibility | Number of observations |
| Socialdemokraterne | PM | 24.6 | 4.81  (4.75, 4.86) | 1,151 |
| Det Radikale Venstre | Cabinet partner | 9.5 | 4.30  (4.23, 4.37) | 1,122 |
| Socialistisk Folkeparti (SF) | **Support** | **8.9** | **3.20**  **(3.14, 3.27)** | **1,122** |
| Enhedslisten (EL) | **Support** | **6.7** | **3.05**  **(2.99, 3.11)** | **1,119** |
| Venstre | Opposition | 26.3 | 3.63  (3.57, 3.69) | 1,141 |
| Dansk Folkeparti | Opposition | 12.3 | 3.28  (3.22, 3.35) | 1,139 |
| Liberal Alliance | Opposition | 5 | 2.39  (2.33, 2.45) | 1,074 |
| Det Konservative Folkeparti | Opposition | 4.5 | 2.53  (2.47, 2.59) | 1,108 |
| Kristendemokraterne | No seats | 0 | 1.56  (1.50, 1.62) | 972 |

Table entries are the average responsibility (bounded between 1 and 6) attributed to the different parties with 95 percent confidence intervals in parentheses. The number of observations varies because “don’t know” answers for the responsibility attribution question are treated as missing. Respondents were not given the option to give a response to the responsibility attribution question for the new party “Alternativet”, so it is excluded from the table.

1. Another interesting finding is that 12 percent of all respondents considered Alternativet a support party. This party was formed in 2013, and got the required signatures to participate in general elections in 2015. The party is a green post-materialist party, and the results for this party in Table 1a may suggest that some Danes formed the reasonable expectation that Alternativet would have supported a Social Democratic government had they had representation in the Danish Parliament. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)