Classifying rural attitudes

Political alienation, rurality and attitudes towards the Swedish wolf policy

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Aim

To what extent can attitudes towards the political system predict attitudes towards the wolf policy?

- Attitudes towards wolf policy and rurality will matter when classifying respondents according to political attitudes.

- Alienated political attitudes should be more common in the groups that want to decrease the wolf policy.
Theory of political alienation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political trust</th>
<th>Attitudes towards the political system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the system fair</td>
<td>Low efficacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the system acting in your best interest</td>
<td>Low trust</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Efficacy

- Do you have a say
- Can you affect the system

Finifter, Ada. 1970. Dimensions of political alienation
Methods and measurements

Using survey data I:

1. Measure political trust and efficacy
   - How content are you with how democracy works in your municipality?
   - How content are you with how democracy works nationally?

2. Group respondents

3. Examine these groups in relation to other variables
   - Political trust
   - Efficacy
     - Which party do you prefer?
     - Are you a convinced follower of this party?
Model

Reality (measured in number of inhabitants)

Attitude to the wolf policy (decrease, increase, accept)

Controls:
Income
Sick leave
Unemployment
Age
Gender
Hunter in family
Results and implications

- Wolf policy was important for low income respondents.
- And for middle income respondents in smaller communities.
- In groups that favoured a decrease of the policy, alienated attitudes were more common.

The Rurality and the golf policy are issues that are issues that matters in a broader context.

Either the wolf policy is important enough to create general discontent.

Or attitudes towards wolf policy are symptomatic of a more general political discontent that needs to be dealt with.
Thank you

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