
Values; Attitudes and Political Participation in Mexico

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Overview

This investigation examines if the country's democratic culture has changed. This question is posed with the understanding of democratic culture as the values and attitudes that influence the political participation of citizens

Summary

In Mexico, little attention has been taken to the transformation of the values of distinct generations that are shaped by key events in the political, economic and social development of the country.

This study uses the material and postmaterial values described by Inglehart (1977) and applies the methods developed by Schwartz(1992) to identify distinct dimensions of human values in the Mexican case. This paper focuses on materialist and postmaterialist values; humans values and the effect these values have on instrumental and symbolic political participation.

The analysis also investigates the implications of birth cohort for political participation and the impact of attachment to distinct values within generations on those two forms of political action. This suggests a change in the country's democratic culture or, at least, suggests a democratic

political culture which is distinctly larger than that observed in the post-revolutionary era.

This research uses the data published by the World Values Survey. The construct variables (values variables) are generated using Exploratory (EFA) and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA), because this is necessary to explore the relationship between operational indicators and theoretical constructs. The EFA determines the minimum number of latent variables; on the other hand, the CFA establishes the relations between the variables.

Having generated these constructs we will answer hypothesis 1 using a logit (Wooldridge 2002, 2003); for hypothesis 2 we use a main effect analysis (Mitchell and Chen, 2005); and for hypotheses 3 we will use a multigroup logit model (Muthén and Muthén, 2010).

The EFA, CFA and multigroup logit models were estimated using M-Plus version 7. The main effect analysis and the logit models were estimated using STATA version 11.

Paper Keywords

Political Values; Attitudes; Political Participation