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# In-estabilidad Partidista

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## Partidos Políticos, Competitividad y Sistema de Partidos

### Summary

This research contributes to the academic debate on party identification (PID) in Mexico and its stability. The first analyses of this topic in Mexico suggest correlation problems between this identity and voting choice. Recent studies have concluded that PID and voting choice are different; however these analyses allude to the stability of the PID (Estrada, 2005). Denver (2003) concluded that party identification is psychological and that voting is linked to behaviour. In other words, partisan identification is in the mind of the voter and voting is an action.

In Mexico, there have been few studies on the determinants of party attachment (Estrada, 2005; Guardado, 2009). This research incorporates the theories linked to PID (social identity and rational update) in order to define the elements that influence this attachment. Mexican citizens are found to shape their PID on the basis of a constant process of rational update. This investigation is grounded on previous analyses of partisanship dynamism and extends the literature on this topic. Unlike studies of Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Germany, this project focuses on Mexico, a country that is still undergoing democratic formation and consolidation. Until the end of the 1990s, there was little if any electoral competition. In 2000, a president was elected from an

opposition party for the first time.

This paper has three objectives. The first is to find out which of the theories on party identification has the greatest effect on the determination of Mexicans' partisan attachment. In this sense, the rational updating approach is expected to have the most important effect. Bases on these results, we expect PID in Mexico to be a dynamic concept and that the percentage of Mexicans who are movers' to be close to the percentage in consolidated democracies such as Great Britain, the United States, Canada or Germany. The second goal is to calculate the percentages of PID generated by a latent variable controlling for measurement errors, and to investigate the dynamism of this identity. The third aim of this research is to find out which factors change Mexicans' behaviour: the determinants that make a citizen a mover'.

To answer the question of which factors or elements define Mexicans' PID, we used a multinomial logit model. We are now able to use advanced statistical techniques that allow us to analyse the instability of observed variables taking into account the measurement errors generated in the surveys. In this sense, to test hypotheses related to party identification as a latent variable and its instability, a Mover-Stayer model is used (MS). The Mover-Stayer (MS) model is an extension of the Markov chain model for dealing with a very specific type of unobserved hetero-

geneity in the population. Finally, hypothesis 3 is tested using a logit model.

The multinomial logit and logit models are estimated using STATA version 11 and the Mover-Stayer (MS) models are developed with M-Plus version 7.

## **Paper Keywords**

*Party Identification; Political Parties; Party Identification Dynamism*