

Does Political and Social Commitment Transform People's Mind?

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At what time do activists synchronize their mind?

Research question:

- Activists have synchronized views on politics and common good (Passy & Monsch)
- Do they synchronize them BEFORE or AFTER they start commitment?

Core concepts:

- Political and social commitment
- Mind (Politics and common good)
- Synchronization

Why this question?

- Why do these people maintain their commitment?



Why this question?

Ambivalent results in the literature:

- From structure to mind plasticity (from Parsons to Macrae and Bodenhaus 2000)
 - Human mind changes during the whole life
- Ambivalent results in research on social movement and volunteering
 - No impact (Van Deth 2000, Van der Meer and Van Ingen 2009, etc.)
 - Impact, sometimes even strong impact (Munson 2009, Blee 2002, Flanagan 2004, Beckwith 2016, etc.)
- Variation at stake: A differentiated socialization

Differentiated socialization

Variation according to:

- Type of organization?
 - Unionism vs environmentalism vs charitable organizations
- Type of commitment?
 - One-shot vs durable; Active vs passive commitment
- Type of worldviews?
 - E.g. low vs high level of social trust
- Type of people?
 - Gender, education, social networks, age, social class



Data and methods

- SHP waves 1999 - 2009
 - SHP I: 11 waves; SHP II: 6 waves
- Three types of commitment
 - Unions, environmental organizations, charitable organizations
- Mind
 - Political interest and social trust
 - More to come...
- Analyses
 - Comparison: Before (t-1) and after (t+1) commitment

Commitment patterns

Years	Unions %	Environment %	Charity %	All %
0	75	69.8	56	41.4
Pattern	Unions %	Environment %	Charity %	All %
Never	75	69.8	56	41.4
One-shot	10.2	12.2	17.1	20.2
Durable	14.8	18	26.9	38.4
Total	15'136	15'135	15'134	15'139
9	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.3
10	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.5
11	0.8	1.2	0.5	2.0
Total	15'136	15'135	15'134	15'139



Social Trust



Social trust

All respondents included (general trust in people, 1-10, 2002-2009)

Pattern	Unions Means (SD) <i>n</i>		Environment Means (SD) <i>n</i>		Charity Means (SD) <i>n</i>		All Means (SD) <i>n</i>	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Never	5.65 (2.1) 9'353		5.53 (2.1) 8'584		5.42 (2.2) 6'658		5.31 (2.2) 4'810	
One-shot	6.30 (2.1) 403	6.27 (2.1) 403	6.06 (2.4) 501	6.21 (2.4) 501	5.94 (2.4) 695	6.18 (2.3) 695	5.88 (2.4) 645	6.07 (2.3) 645
t-test	ns		ns		-2.77**		-1.98*	
Durable	5.80 (2.6) 316	6.27 (2.4) 316	6.03 (2.3) 366	6.53 (2.2) 366	6.02 (2.2) 641	6.39 (2.2) 641	5.59 (2.5) 620	6.11 (2.3) 620
t-test	-3.93***		-4.65***		-4.72***		-5.91***	

Social trust

Differentiated socialization with low social trust?

Pattern	Unions Means (SD) <i>n</i>		Environment Means (SD) <i>n</i>		Charity Means (SD) <i>n</i>		All Means (SD) <i>n</i>	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
One-shot	2.50 (1.5) 54	3.93 (2.4) 54	1.97 (1.7) 88	4.15 (2.7) 88	2.31 (1.5) 143	4.45 (2.5) 143	2.38 (1.6) 143	4.46 (2.4) 143
t-test	-4.08***		-7.56***		-9.57***		-9.71***	
Durable	2.01 (1.6) 76	3.83 (2.4) 76	2.25 (1.5) 67	4.30 (2.5) 67	2.25 (1.6) 105	4.35 (2.3) 105	1.96 (1.6) 141	4.05 (2.3) 141
t-test	-6.59***		-6.06***		-9.20***		-9.83***	

Social trust: Summary table

Differentiated socialization according to social groups?

➤ One-shot and durable members together

T-tests	Unions		Environment		Charity		All	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Man	-2.07*		-2.65**		-2.84**		-2.70**	
Woman	ns		-2.98**		-4.32***		-4.80***	
Tertiary	-2.02*		-3.42**		-4.48***		-4.81***	
Non-tertiary	ns		-2.77**		-3.40**		-3.47**	
Another member	ns		-2.48*		-3.22**		-3.37**	
No member	ns		-3.13**		-4.00***		-4.23***	
≤ 22	ns		ns		ns		ns	
23+	-2.08*		-4.02***		-5.18***		-5.08***	
Socio-cultural	ns		-2.54*		-2.95**		-3.05**	
Other classes	ns		-2.61**		-3.12**		-3.08**	

Political Interest

Political interest

All respondents included (Interest in politics, 1-10, 1999-2010)

Pattern	Unions Means (SD) <i>n</i>		Environment Means (SD) <i>n</i>		Charity Means (SD) <i>n</i>		All Means (SD) <i>n</i>	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Never	4.98 (2.7) 11'232		4.84 (2.7) 10'449		4.64 (2.7) 8'361		4.41 (2.7) 6'154	
One-shot	5.79 (2.8) 618	5.77 (2.6) 618	5.74 (2.7) 761	5.91 (2.7) 761	5.44 (2.7) 1'026	5.49 (2.7) 1'026	5.13 (2.8) 949	5.20 (2.7) 949
t-test	ns		-2.52*		ns		ns	
Durable	5.96 (2.6) 702	6.18 (2.5) 702	6.08 (2.5) 910	6.34 (2.4) 910	5.99 (2.5) 1'626	6.15 (2.5) 1'626	5.61 (2.6) 1'602	5.81 (2.6) 1'602
t-test	-3.28**		-4.16***		-3.62***		-4.08***	



Political interest

Differentiated socialization with low political interest?

Pattern	Unions Means (SD) <i>n</i>		Environment Means (SD) <i>n</i>		Charity Means (SD) <i>n</i>		All Means (SD) <i>n</i>	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
One-shot	2.02 (1.6) 167	3.25 (2.3) 167	2.13 (1.6) 210	3.36 (2.3) 210	2.06 (1.6) 308	3.12 (2.4) 308	1.99 (1.6) 330	3.15 (2.4) 330
t-test	-7.43***		-8.45***		-7.99***		-9.38***	
Durable	2.01 (1.5) 153	3.25 (2.5) 153	2.29 (1.4) 191	3.82 (2.2) 191	2.35 (1.5) 370	3.54 (2.3) 370	2.17 (1.5) 438	3.39 (2.3) 438
t-test	-7.02***		-9.43***		-11.52***		-12.08***	

Political interest: Summary table

Differentiated socialization according to social groups?

➤ One-shot and durable members together

T-tests	Unions Means (SD) <i>n</i>		Environment Means (SD) <i>n</i>		Charity Means (SD) <i>N</i>		All Means (SD) <i>n</i>	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Man	ns		-2.02*		ns		-2.54*	
Woman	ns		-4.56***		-2.88**		-2.81**	
Tertiary	ns		ns		ns		ns	
Non-tertiary	ns		-4.41***		-3.19**		-3.77***	
Another member	ns		-2.96**		-2.27*		-3.60***	
No member	ns		-3.85***		-2.26*		ns	
≤ 22	ns		-2.09*		ns		-2.75**	
23+	-2.03*		-4.30***		-3.11**		-2.85**	
Socio-cultural	ns		-3.13**		ns		ns	
Other classes	ns		-3.12**		-2.09*		-2.90**	

Conclusions

- Activists synchronize before AND after they start commitment
- First results confirm the thesis of a differentiated socialization
- Most affected by commitment: Durable members and individuals with low levels of social trust and political interest