

**‘Revisiting the politicization of the EU in  
light of citizens’ attitudes’**

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- The analytical framework for the MAPLE ERC project
- EU politicisation is occurring (albeit disagreement of the extent, where, how). Is it good or bad for the future of the EU and national democracy? We contend that that will depend on the way in which media and parliamentary debates connect to citizen attitudes and behaviours.

# Chapter Structure

- An overview of the state of the art of the research on EU-politicization, highlighting the unexplored questions that we propose to investigate.
- How the recent Eurozone crisis has opened an important chapter in the sixty years-long history of European integration, affecting politicization thereby as well.
- The importance of citizen political attitudes and voting behavior to understand EU politicisation.
- Research agenda for a multidimensional study connecting the formation of political narratives, attitudes and behavior.

# EU Politicization-State of the Art

- A lot of recent research(Kriesi, 2012, Hutter and Grande, Grande, Statham and Trezz, 2013, Wilde, 2010, Wilde and Zürn, 2012, Green-Pedersen, 2012).
- Magnitude.
- From a unitary to a multifaceted definition.
- Doubts on the main drivers
- Little on Consequences.
- Do not take seriously the idea that domestic politics and citizen attitudes must be integrated into the post-functional theory of European integration.

# The Eurozone Crisis and Politicization

- The Eurocrisis has learning consequences for citizens
- The Eurocrisis has widened the spheres of competence of European institutions (Laffan 2014)
- Consequences for political debates, attitudes and behaviour

# Taking Citizens Attitudes and Behaviours Seriously

- How can the impact of the politicization of the EU be conceptualised in domestic electoral behavior?
- As an alternative cleavage to the left-right one (Eijk and Franklin 2004, 2007), OR
- Not as a proper cleavage, but as an issue (de Vries (2007)
  - how attitudes towards the EU shape the vote for Eurosceptic parties
  - how they shape the vote anti-mainstream parties and in favour of populist parties
  - to understand whether the EU issue voting is stronger in contexts where the EU has gained media and parliamentary salience to a greater extent.
- To think of the EU as having an indirect effect on the vote through economic or leadership variables on the vote and more widely on political attitudes (Lobo and Lewis-Beck, 2012).

# Moving forward: a more encompassing study of EU-politicization

- Following the idea that contestation over EU-matters plays out in different dynamics in different countries, we expect it to have different sets of consequences for citizens' vote calculus.
- map the different modalities with which the EU has been politicized in different parts of Europe in media and parliamentary debates.
- Subsequently creates a web-panel survey with questions about citizens' perception of how the EU affects their electoral choices.
- The three dimensions – media, parliament and citizens – will provide indicators of EU-politicization at different stages of the democratic cycle.