

Abstract

The populist radical right parties, along with their political successes in the 21st century, have also gained considerable academic interest. Given the significant geographic variation in support of these parties, the attention is also turning to the geographical aspects of this phenomenon. These aspects are the focus of this thesis. It aims to map the intensity and shape of the clustering of electoral support for the Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD) movement in the 2017 and 2021 parliamentary elections and to further examine geographical differences in the explanatory factors of this electoral support. The thesis uses the method of spatial autocorrelation and multiscale geographically weighted regression to achieve these objectives. The statistical units are the municipalities of the Czech Republic, and the explanatory variables are socio-demographic indicators, conceptualized according to three categories of explanatory support for the populist radical right: economic grievances, cultural grievances, and anomie. Particular attention is paid to the theory of anomie, based on theories of mass society and social capital. Earlier analyses of this theory have led to ambivalent results and this thesis tests a potential explanation for this in terms of the geographical non-stationarity of the theory's effect. The results of this thesis confirm geographic variation in the incidence, clustering, and explanation of support for the populist radical right in Czechia. The stable cluster of high support is the Moravian region, while the stable cluster of low support is the wider area around Prague. Geographic variation in SPD support is best explained by variables measuring education, age, and divorce rates. Spatial non-stationarity is higher for variables measuring anomie. The methodological innovation of this thesis is to combine the results of geographically weighted regression with the cluster analysis method. This procedure leads to a regionalization of the Czech territory according to differences in predictors of electoral support for the populist radical right. Their demarcation coincides with the cluster analysis of support for the SPD movement. Thus, the regions in Silesia and Eastern Moravia, then Inner Bohemia and Outer Bohemia together with South Moravia are delimited. These regions are specific both in terms of different explanations of support and the influence of the local context or the degree of electoral support for the SPD and its clustering.

Keywords: *Anomie, Czechia, populist radical right, spatial autocorrelation, cluster analysis, social capital, mass society theory, electoral geography, multiscale geographically weighted regression.*