

## Comments on Basil and Argote: “Unpacking the Voting Gender Gap”

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## Overview

- ▶ Linking (interactive) phenomena of gender and education gap in vote choice
- ▶ → Key idea: college education as social identity
- ▶ → Liberalizing effect of college stronger among women
- ▶ ANES time series and 2024 correlational data supportive, own survey in planning stages

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- 
- ▶ Bringing together two *extremely* important and interesting topics/gaps
  - ▶ Obvious real world importance
  - ▶ Intriguing social identity approach
  - ▶ ANES limited → *Nailing own survey will be crucial!*

## Comments

### The role of college

- ▶ Interesting thought of college as social identity – how can we think of its importance (or strength) vis-à-vis gender, age, race/ethnicity, class, geography, ...?
  - ▶ Any helpful information in ANES?
  - ▶ Perhaps something to consider for your own survey?

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- ▶ Progressive and equal experience for women, but backlash among men – some might generally say that about much of (Western) society at the moment (Disney, mainstream media, professional sports, gender quotas, Lego, ...)
  - ▶ Is there something unique about college? Or does it “only” magnify some of these general trends?

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  - ▶ Hooghe et al. (APSR; SSRN) study effects of *field* of education: cultural-communicative vs economic-technical
  - ▶ More detail on what exactly happens at college would be really interesting (like Hooghe and own ideas on support etc.) → *theory + own survey*

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### The role of college

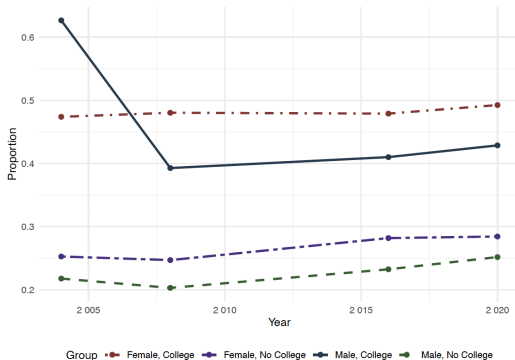
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### Causality

- ▶ Difficult to establish, but at the very heart of the question
- ▶ Discuss potential reverse causality (selecting into college)
- ▶ Any individual-level panel data available?
- ▶ Make sure not to over-claim

# Comments

## ANES analysis – figures



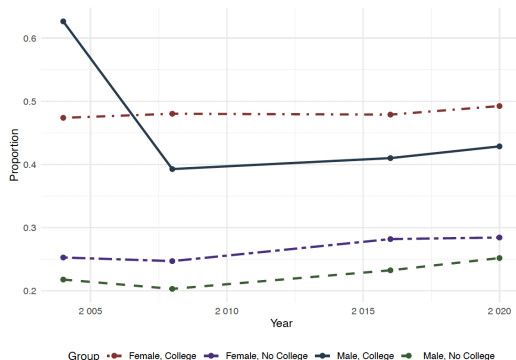
- ▶ 25 pp drop for Male/College biggest single drop in the whole paper, but not mentioned at all

Figure 4: Identification with Liberal Ideas 2008-2020 Among Under 30  
Source: ANES Time Series Data



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## ANES analysis – figures



- ▶ 25 pp drop for Male/College biggest single drop in the whole paper, but not mentioned at all
- ▶ Figures 3+4 not discussed in general
- ▶ Lines difficult to read even if not color blind, reconsider colors and perhaps also different symbols

Figure 4: Identification with Liberal Ideas 2008-2020 Among Under 30  
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## ANES analysis – tables

Table 2: Effect of College and Gender on Social and Economic Attitudes, by Age Group

<b>Panel A: Abortion</b>	Full	Age > 40	Age < 40
College or more	0.45***	0.46***	0.43***
Male	-0.08	-0.11	0.01
College × Male	-0.09	-0.10	-0.08
<b>Panel B: Redistribution</b>			
College or more	0.167***	0.190***	0.108
Male	-0.03	0.00	-0.11
College × Male	-0.04	-0.10**	0.13
<b>Panel C: Government Health</b>			
College or more	-0.05	-0.01	-0.12**
Male	-0.12***	-0.07	-0.24***
College × Male	0.05	-0.01	0.19**
<b>Panel D: Trans Bathroom</b>			
College or more	0.227***	0.223***	0.242***
Male	-0.01	0.00	-0.06
College × Male	-0.07**	-0.10***	0.00

- For all models: what is N (especially for subsets)? Are any controls included?
- Consider incorporating time: trends, year FEs, potentially interactions?

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- ▶ Table 2: “the notable exception is transgender bathroom policy” – but it looks like redistribution (and most of Table 1)? Gov’t health more of an outlier?

## Comments

### More minor comments

- ▶ Front end is still very literature review-y (instead of theory); different chunks feel somewhat disconnected
- ▶ “Wolf (2025) argues that the empathy activation explains how men and women are socialized into policy preferences in college” – appears in gender section, perhaps better in “linking” section?
- ▶ Table 1: “We do not, however, observe that young men are particularly more conservative” – but in 2/4 models they seem to be
- ▶ Conclusion: “Importantly, these gaps are not evident among non-college respondents, suggesting that the divergence is not simply a function of gender, but of differential experiences within higher education” – but in many models we see gender gaps among non-college respondents too