

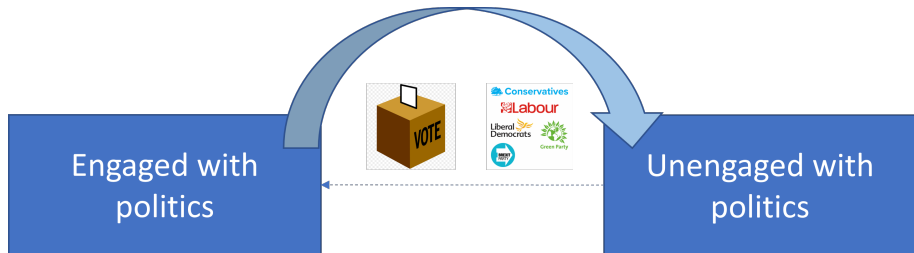
The Rise of the No Party in England

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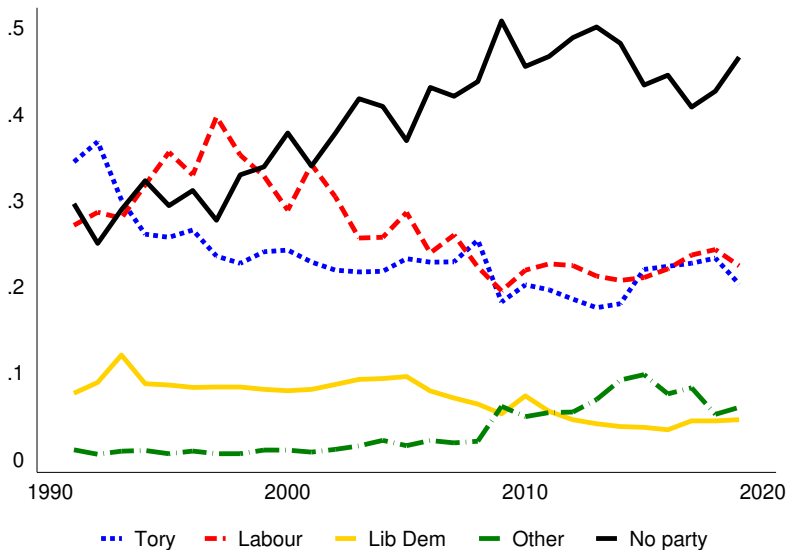
²University of Cambridge, Trinity College

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Disengagement with political parties in many old and new democracies.

Trend in identification with political parties



Why do we care?

- **Disengagement** \Rightarrow exclusion and political inequality.
- **Political parties** \Rightarrow safety rails of democracy.
- \Rightarrow **polarization, conflict and democratic backsliding.**

Why the rise of the no party?

The potential drivers

- **Demographics (Age effects):** The political behaviour of an individual changes with age over the life-cycle.
- **Political generations (Cohort effects):** The lasting effect on a cohort's political behaviour of shared experiences in the formative years.
- **Secular trend (Period effects):** The change that happen in the political behaviour of **all** individuals at a given point in time or period.

The **P**eriod **A**ge **C**ohort problem

Period

Age

Cohort

The **P**eriod **A**ge **C**ohort problem

Period

Age

Cohort

2000

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The **P**eriod **A**ge **C**ohort problem

Period

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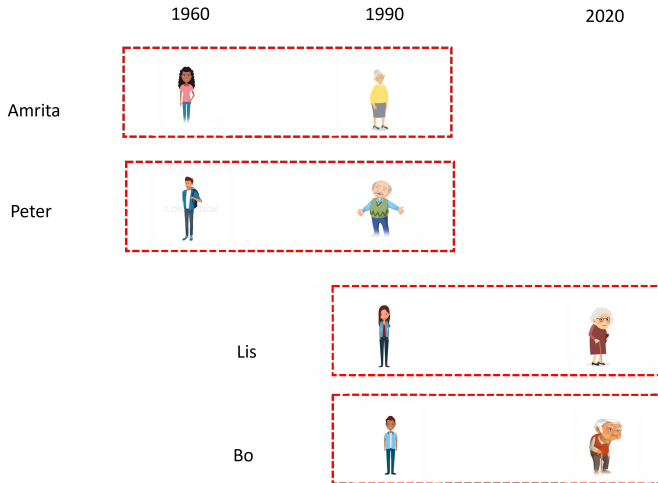
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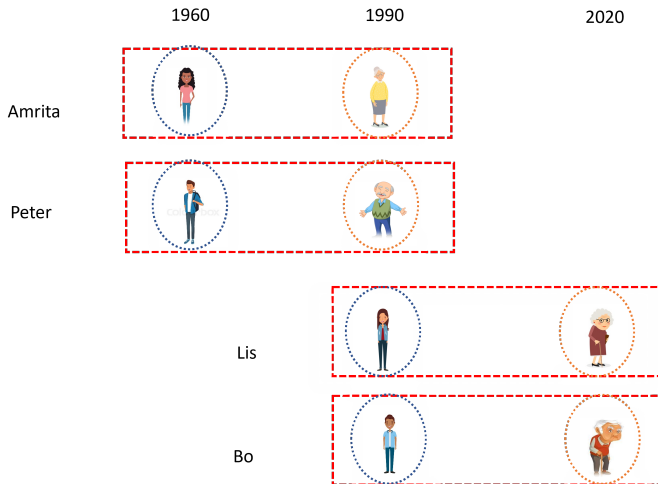
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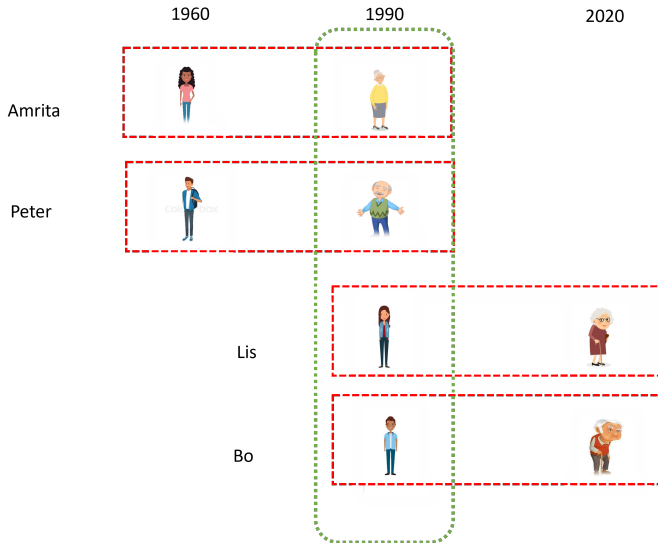
Our solution to the Period Age Cohort problem



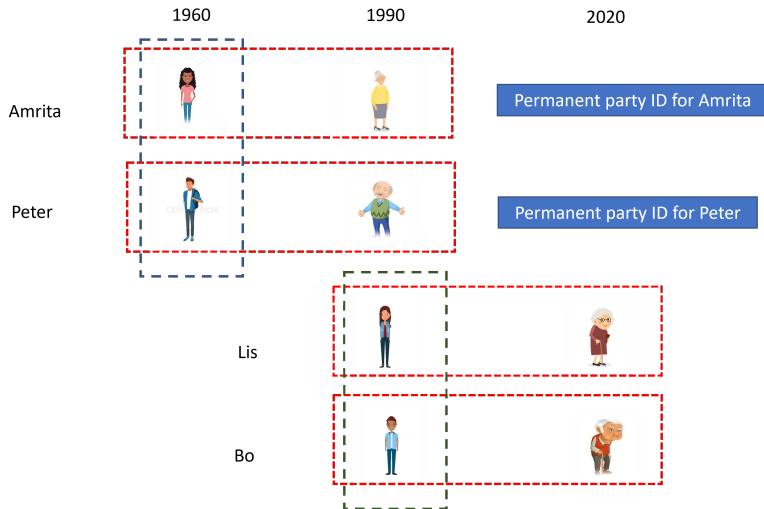
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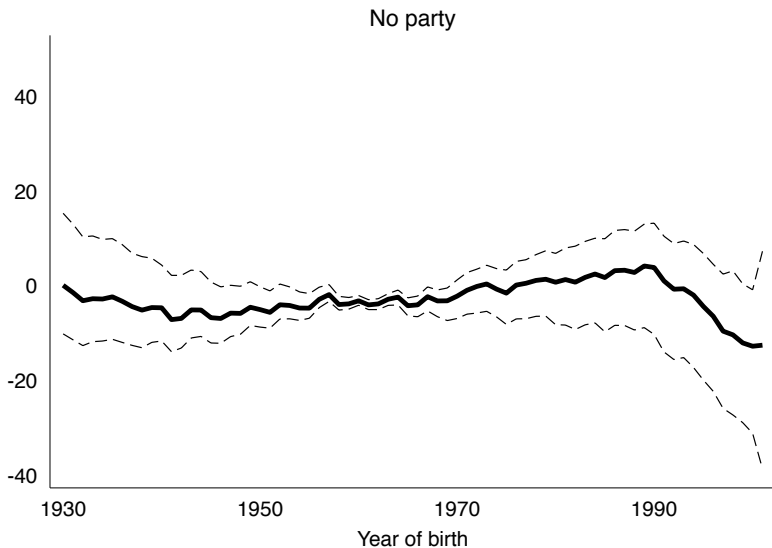


Our solution to the Period Age Cohort problem

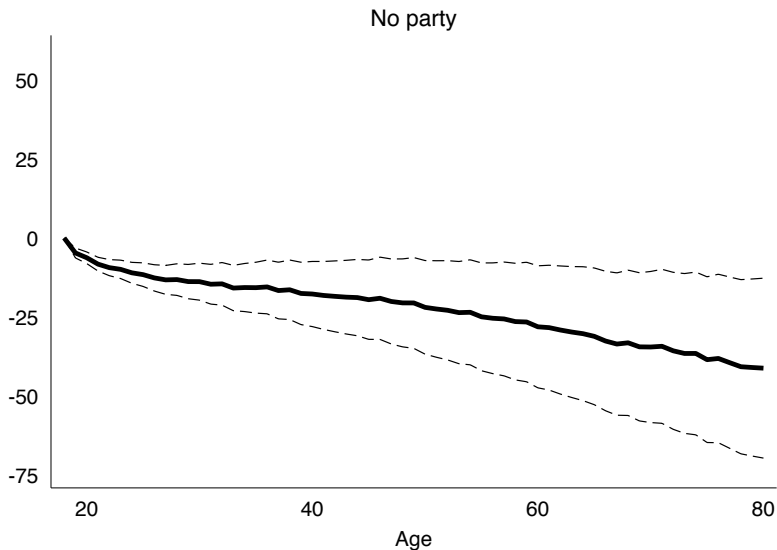


What do we find?

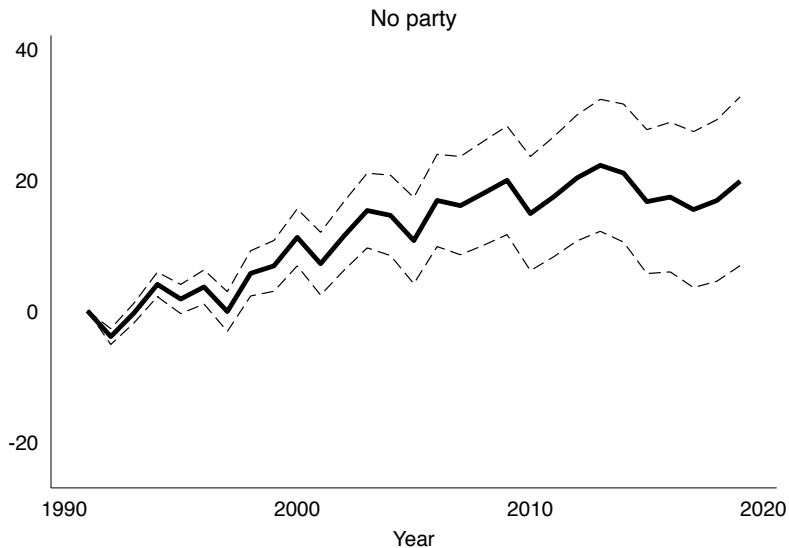
Cohort effects for the 'no party'



The political age effect for the 'no party'



Period effects: Secular trends for the 'no party'.



What did we learn from this?

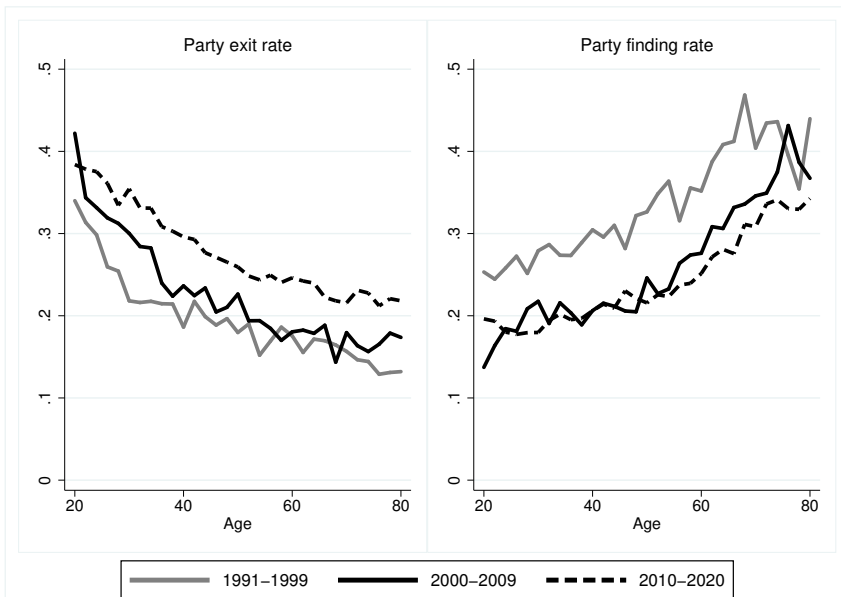
1. **Secular disengagement:** secular trend, slowed down by age effects, but not related to cohort effects.

Is the 'no party' a stepping
stone to a new political identity
or a permanent destination?

Has the move to the no party become more persistent?

- **The party exit rate:** The movement **from** the main parties **to** the no party.
- **The party finding rate:** The movement **from** the no party **to** a main party.

Transition dynamics over the life-cycle



What did we learn from this?

1. **Secular disengagement:** secular trend, slowed down by age effects, but not related to cohort effects.
2. **Persistence:** 'permanent state', not a 'stepping stone'.

What did we learn from this?

1. **Secular disengagement:** secular trend, slowed down by age effects, but not related to cohort effects.
2. **Persistence:** **Persistence:** 'permanent state', not a 'stepping stone'.
3. **Next step:** What causes the secular trend? Who are the no party supporters? International comparative perspective?