

Are We There Yet?

Political Participation in Transitional Democracies

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Research Question

Why does turnout fall so rapidly in many transitional democracies?

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Research Question 3

If not, what are the implications for democratic consolidation and are there any lessons for developed democracies?

Literature Gap

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Contribution

Through the utilization of multiple surveys, we demonstrate that the lived experiences of the citizens in new democracies are at least partially responsible for the steep decline in turnout witnessed during the transition.

Hypothesis

Economic experiences of transitional citizens have an effect on turnout calculus.

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Hypothesis 3

The turnout decline in the new democracies is qualitatively of a different nature and thus has potential consequences for consolidation.

Dependent Variables

- Turnout intention
- Turnout in last election
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- Political interest
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- Public capital bonds
- Job satisfaction
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- Living standards satisfaction
- Home ownership
- Poverty and prospects

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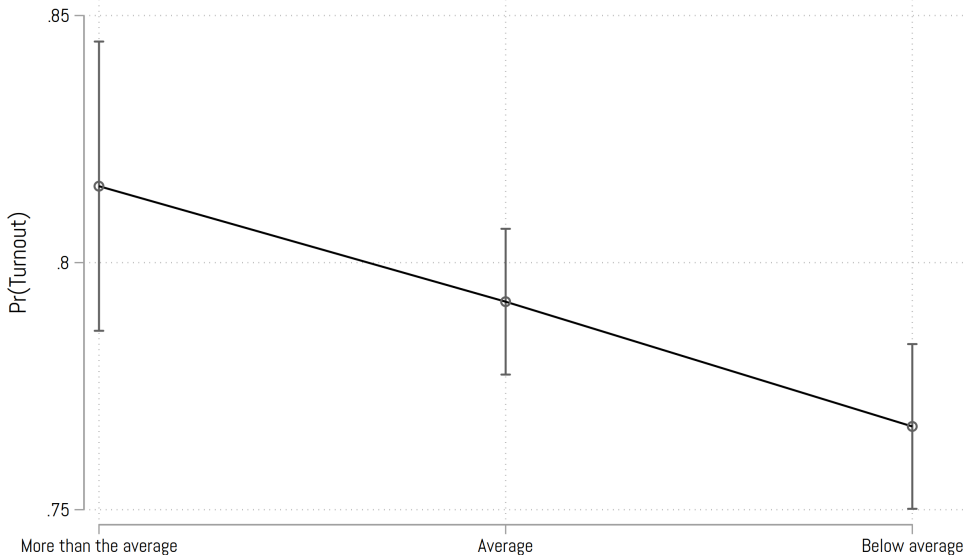
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- Poverty and prospects

- Dataset includes 25 surveys completed between 1990-2000.

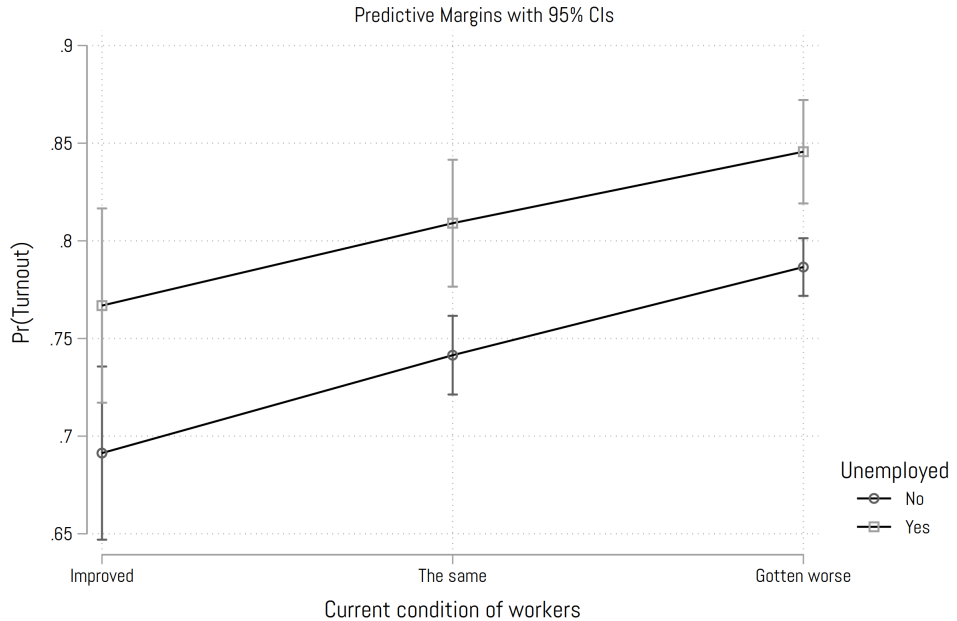
Results

Predictive Margins with 95% CIs

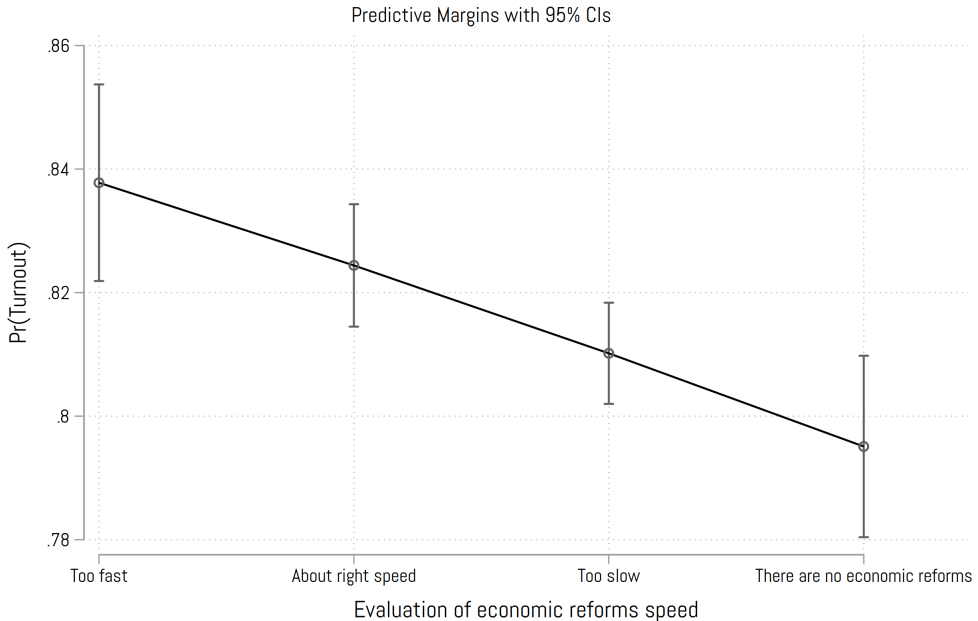


Monthly income compared to average

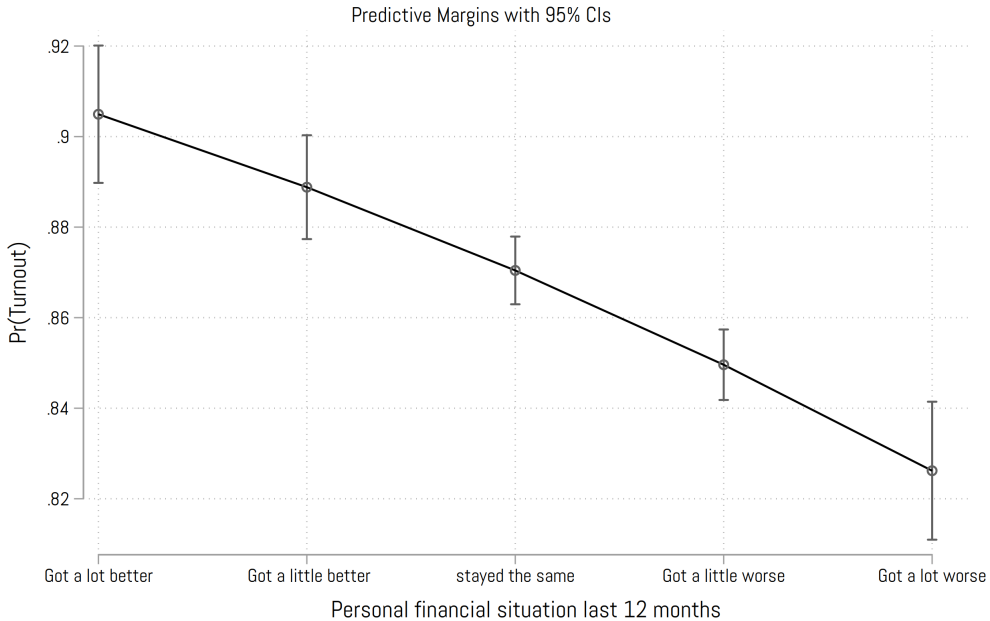
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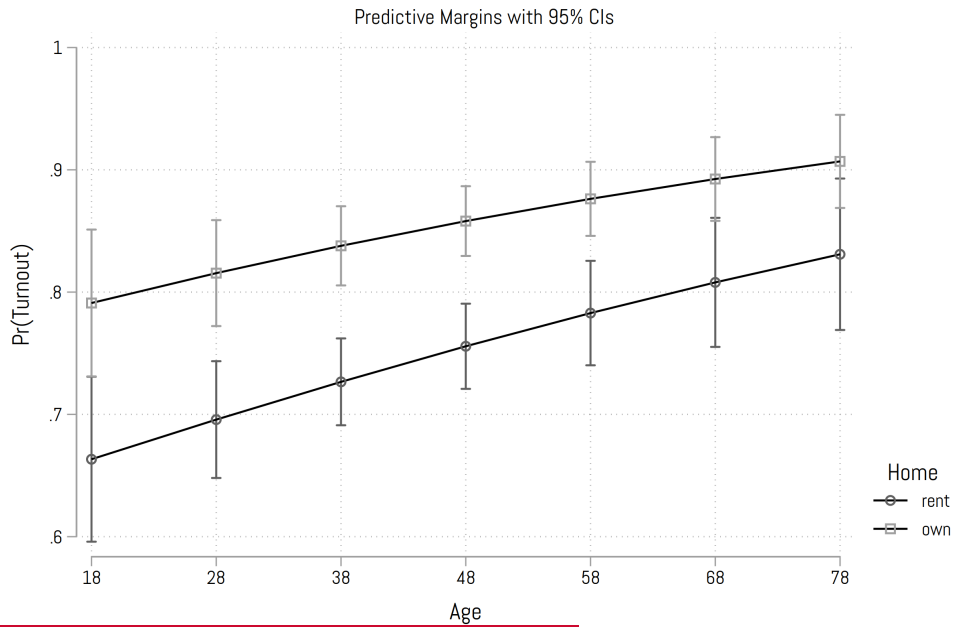
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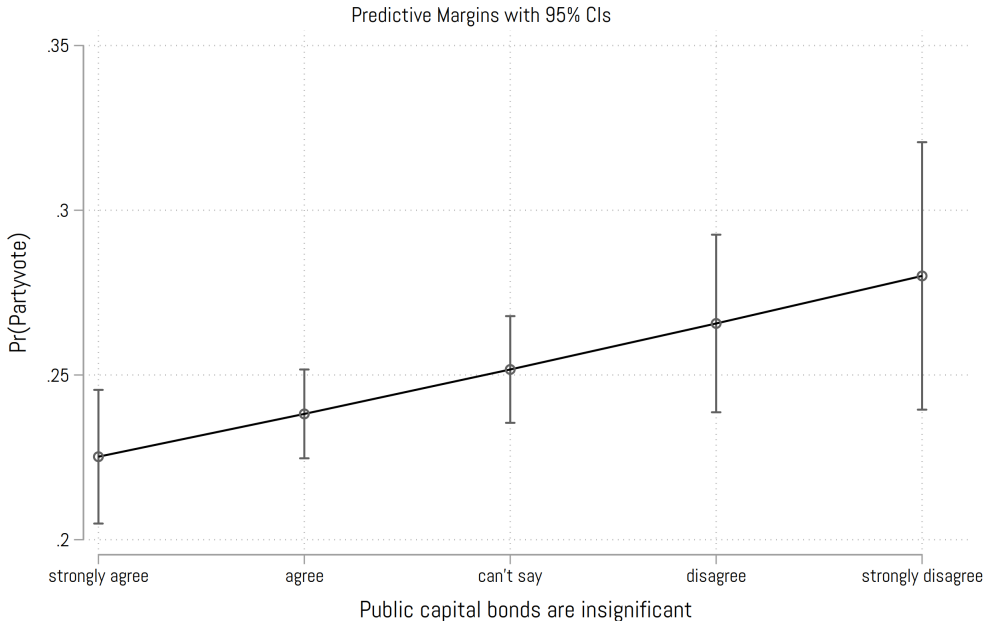
Results



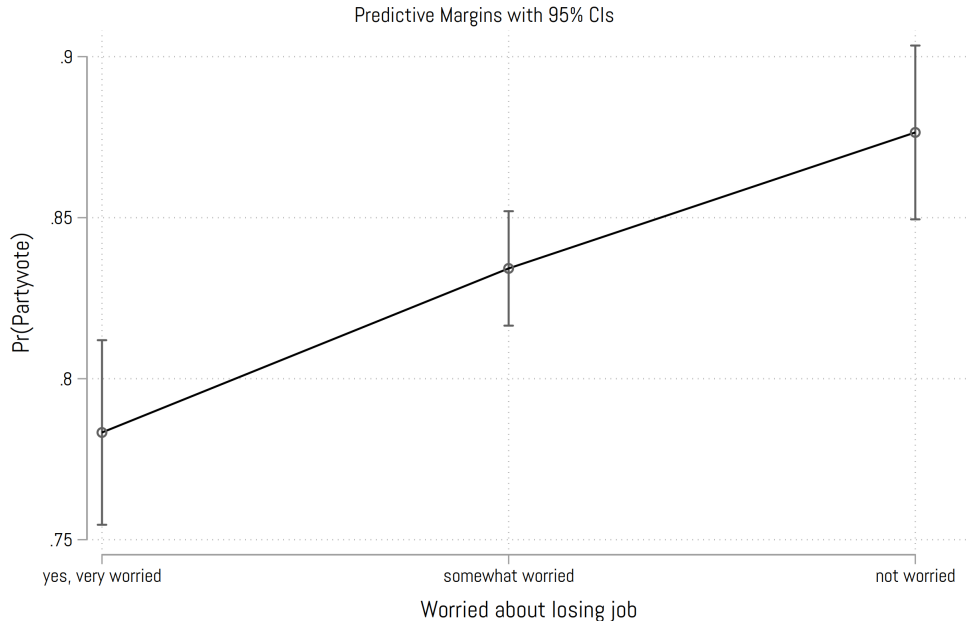
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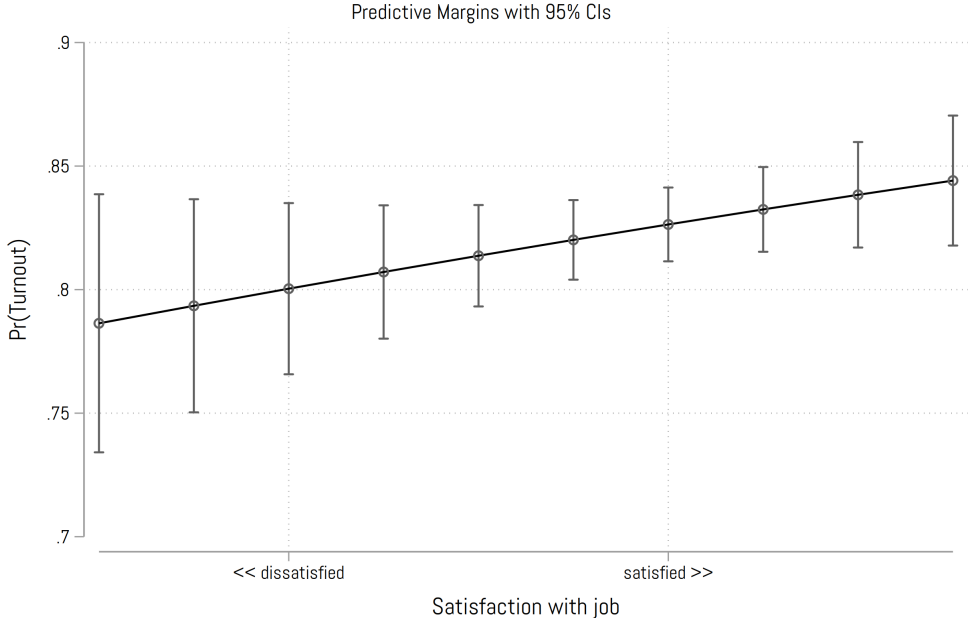
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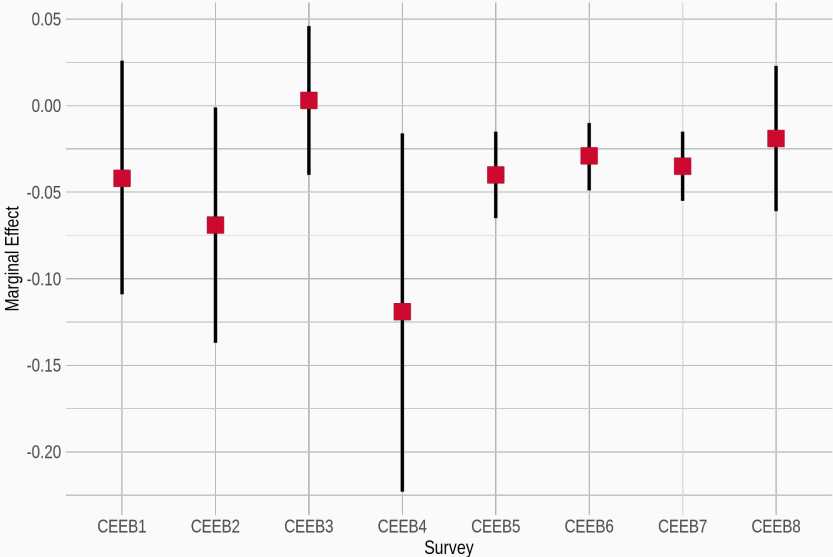


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Marginal Effect of Unemployment



Limitations, Implications, and Future Work

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As the institutional frameworks show continuity, a heuristic assessment of the data enables a teasing out of the causal effect of the variables of interest on turnout and turnout decline.

III

The pattern of turnout decline and the effects we displayed during the first decade of transformation point to potential consequences for democratic consolidation. Withdrawal of diffuse support from the democratic system is one of the factors facilitating democratic backsliding.

IV

We will further aggregate the results for the first decade through possible pooling of survey series. We will extend the scope of the study to compare and contrast the immediate aftermath that is the period we investigate here with the second decade and beyond to analyze any enduring effects of citizen experiences on the very status of democracy. Some countries that are the subject of this study achieved the status of liberal democracy only to experience significant democratic backsliding in a span of 25 years. We hold this fact to be of fundamental importance as an outcome to analyze.

Thank you!

