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# Small-World Conservatives and Rigid Liberals: Attitudes Towards Sharing in Self-Proclaimed Left and Right\*

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## Abstract

We experimentally explore the way political preferences shape giving behavior. We find no difference in average giving between the Left and the Right in a Dictator game environment. However, we find the reasons for giving to be different. Right-leaning individuals give according to a norm-dependent utility that takes into account the beliefs of the receiver. The behavior of left-leaning individuals is not shaped by such an interaction between norms and beliefs. We conclude that right-wingers choose in accordance with a “small world” view, where giving is shaped by social interaction, while left-wingers appear rigid in their reaction to social context.

*JEL classifications: C91, C92, D03, D64*

*Keywords: experimental economics, social norms, liberals, conservatives, sharing*

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