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Voting and conformity: Russia, 1993-2016

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Highlights

- This research examines the effect of social conformity on Russian parliamentary elections.
- A mathematical model of the effect of conformity on voting behavior predicts a unique relationship between turnout and the distribution of votes among political parties.
- The analysis tests and estimates the model in a cross-sectional, regression analysis of voting at the regional level in each election.
- Voting in Russia shows a strong effect of social conformity.
- The results raise questions about the role of conformity and unconscious cognition versus rationality in voting decisions.

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