

Technocratic attitudes in COVID-19 times: Change and preference over types of experts

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

APPENDIX

Survey Items tapping technocratic attitudes

The ten items included in both survey waves have been taken from Bertou and Caramani (2020) and simply translated into Spanish. The question wording for all of them has the following heading:

¿Cuál es tu grado de acuerdo con cada una de las siguientes frases? Utiliza una escala de 0 a 10, donde 0 significa “Totalmente en desacuerdo” y 10 “Totalmente de acuerdo”
[What is your degree of agreement with each of the following sentences? Use a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means “totally disagree” and 10 “totally agree”]

The text of each of the items reads as follows:

- 1. La gente común no sabe qué políticas son buenas para ellos/as mismos/as*
[Ordinary people don't know what policies are good for them]
- 2. Los líderes políticos deben tomar decisiones de acuerdo con su opinión, no con la voluntad del pueblo*
[Political leaders should make decisions according to their best judgment, not the will of the people]
- 3. Los políticos deben ser como gerentes y arreglar lo que no funciona en la sociedad*
[Politicians should be like managers and fix what does not work in society]
- 4. Los líderes políticos deben tener mayor nivel educativo y estar más capacitados que los/as ciudadanos/as comunes*
[The leaders of my country should be more educated and skilled than ordinary citizens]
- 5. Los problemas sociales deben abordarse teniendo en cuenta la evidencia científica, no las preferencias ideológicas*
[Social problems should be addressed based on scientific evidence, not ideological preferences]
- 6. Los problemas que enfrenta el país requieren de expertos/as para resolverlos*
[The problems facing my country require experts to solve them]

7. *Las mejores decisiones políticas son las tomadas por expertos/as que no son políticos*
[The best political decisions are taken by experts who are not politicians]
8. *Los partidos políticos en vez de ayudar perjudican a la sociedad*
[Political parties do more harm than good to society]
9. *Los políticos solo quieren promover los intereses de quienes los votan y no los intereses de todo el país*
[Politicians just want to promote the interests of those who vote for them and not the interest of the whole country]
10. *Los políticos dedican todo su tiempo a buscar ser reelegidos en lugar de solucionar problemas*
[Politicians spend all their time seeking re-election instead of fixing problems]

Table A.1. Summary statistics for each of the 10 survey items tapping on technocratic attitudes (wave 1 and 2). The sample size for the panel analysis is 1,189, the number of participants in the March 2019 survey that “survived” into the June 2020 wave.

Wave 1: March 2019

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
item 1	1189	5.45	3.03	0	10
item 2	1189	2.22	2.73	0	10
item 3	1189	8.18	2.03	0	10
item 4	1189	7.75	2.36	0	10
item 5	1189	7.42	2.39	0	10
item 6	1189	8.25	1.99	0	10
item 7	1189	7.06	2.26	0	10
item 8	1189	6.64	2.52	0	10
item 9	1189	7.41	2.32	0	10
item 10	1189	8.05	2.24	0	10

Wave 2: June 2020

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
item 1	1189	5.37	3.01	0	10
item 2	1189	2.16	2.60	0	10
item 3	1189	8.14	2.04	0	10
item 4	1189	8.16	2.32	0	10
item 5	1189	8.08	2.15	0	10
item 6	1189	8.59	1.90	0	10
item 7	1189	7.45	2.25	0	10
item 8	1189	6.77	2.53	0	10
item 9	1189	7.38	2.51	0	10
item 10	1189	8.18	2.22	0	10

Figure A.1. Quartiles distribution (boxplot) of 10 survey items tapping on technocratic attitudes and technocratic index (average) in Wave 1.

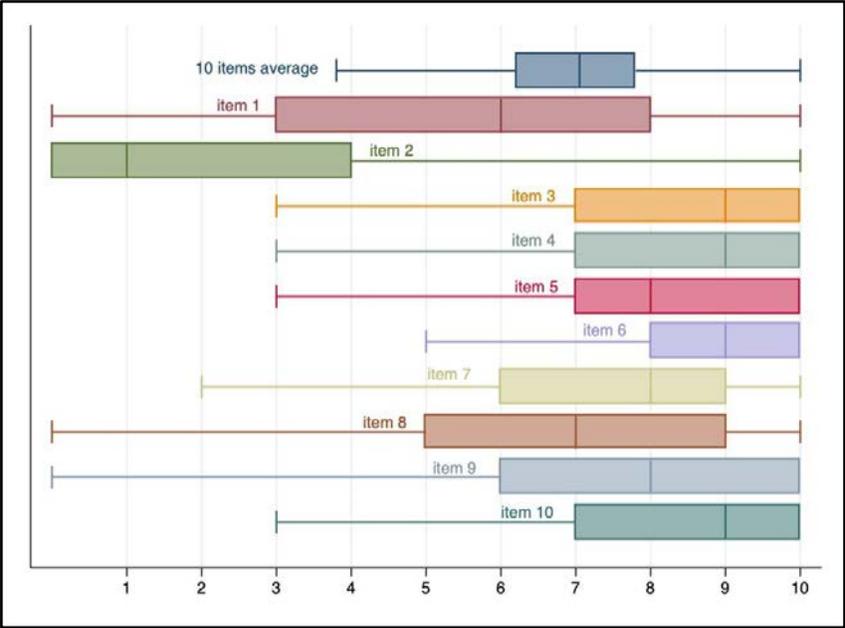


Figure A.2. Robustness check: The impact of candidate’s attributes on the probability of being chosen (AMCE). A comparison of two specifications: models with and without respondent fixed effect.

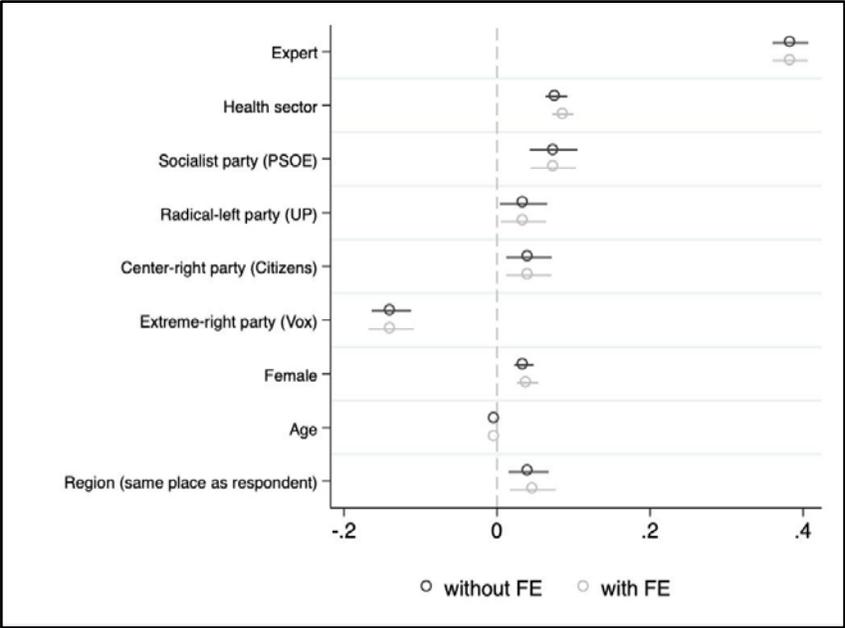


Figure A.3. Robustness check: Regression result with a (Co)Partisanship specification model

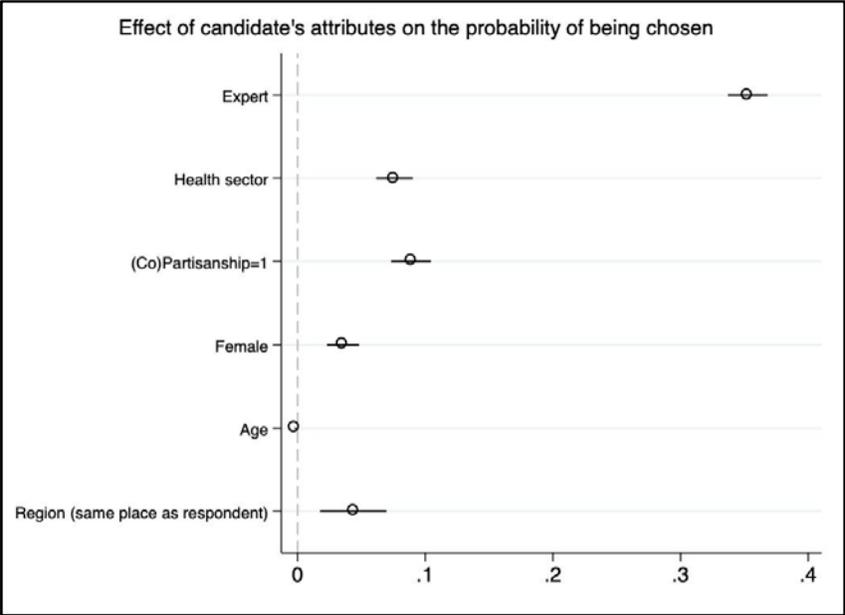


Table A.2. Framing experiment. Statement presented in each experimental condition

Frame type	Statement
<i>Control</i>	In recent weeks we have been experiencing an unprecedented health and economic crisis. Nothing like this has ever happened before in Spain or in the world.
<i>Public health</i>	Control statement <i>plus</i> : We are in the middle of a pandemic caused by a very contagious virus. In just a few weeks, thousands of people have died from it. That is why it is necessary to be responsible, avoid crowds, maintain social distance, use protective masks, and even confine ourselves in case of outbreaks.
<i>Economy</i>	Control statement <i>plus</i> : We are in the midst of an historic recession. In just a few weeks, thousands of businesses have closed and hundreds of thousands of workers have lost their jobs. That is why it is necessary to reactivate the economy, eliminate restrictions on movement, allow companies to get going and reopen businesses.

Table A.3. Regression result (AMCE): triple interaction between manipulation frame, candidate's type (expert vs. politician) and candidate's professional background (public health vs. economy)

Dependent Variable: Being select for the position Chief Officer in the government response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Expert	0.340*** (0.017)
Public health sector	0.057*** (0.016)
Expert * Health sector	0.052** (0.021)
Public health crisis (frame)	-0.032** (0.013)
Economic crisis (frame)	0.039*** (0.015)
Expert * Public health crisis (frame)	-0.017 (0.023)
Expert * Economic crisis (frame)	0.020 (0.024)
Health sector * Public health crisis (frame)	0.078*** (0.023)
Health sector * Economic crisis (frame)	-0.056** (0.023)
Expert * Health sector * Public health crisis (frame)	-0.003 (0.030)
Expert * Health sector * Economic crisis (frame)	-0.082*** (0.031)
(Co)Partisanship	0.089*** (0.008)
Female	0.035*** (0.006)
Age	-0.002*** (0.000)
Region (same place as respondent)	0.044*** (0.013)
Constant	0.347*** (0.017)
Observations	20,360
R-squared	0.167

Robust standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

REPLICATION MATERIAL

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“Technocratic attitudes in COVID-19 times: Change and preference on types of experts”

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CODEBOOK

1. PANEL DATA (“LRF_data_for_replication_panel.dta”)

Variable	Description
idpanelista	Identification code for each respondent in the survey.
wave	Survey wave number. Wave 1: March 2019; Wave 2: June 2020.
tecno_1 / tecno_10	Degree of agreement with each of the 10 survey questions tapping on technocratic attitudes (0-10). For the wording of each item check the main text.
tecno_average	Average value of the 10 items on technocratic attitudes.
tecno_diff	Difference in the average of technocratic attitudes between Wave 1 and Wave 2.

2. SURVEY EXPERIMENT (“LRF_data_for_replication_survexp.dta”)

Variable	Description
idpanelista	Identification code for each respondent in the survey. Each code is repeated 10 times in the database because it is structured at the respondent-vote-candidate level.
voted_candidate	Dummy variable for respondent’s selected candidates during the conjoint experiment. 1=selected, 0=not selected.
candprofile	Dummy variable for candidate’s type in the conjoint experiment. 1= Expert, 0= Politician.
candpolicyarea	Dummy variable for candidate’s professional background in the conjoint experiment. 1= Public health, 0= Economy.
candparty	Categorical variable for candidate’s party affiliation in the conjoint experiment. 1= Conservative party (PP), 2= Socialist Party (PSOE), Radical-left party (UP)= 3, Center-right party (Citizens)= 4, Radical-right party (Vox)= 5, None= 6.
candsex	Dummy variable for candidate’s sex. Female= 1, Male= 0
candage	Continuous variable for candidate’s age.
co_region	Dummy variable to match the region of origin of the respondent and the candidate. 1= Matched, 0= Unmatched.
co_partisanship	Dummy variable to match the voting intention of the respondent and the party affiliation of the candidate. 1= Matched, 0= Unmatched.
priming	Categorical variable for the frames on the type of crisis that COVID-19 represents. 1= Control, 2 =Public health crisis, 3= Economic crisis.