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They did it!

The content, effects, and mechanisms of blame attribution in populist communication

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Citation for published version (APA):

Hameleers, M. (2017). *They did it! The content, effects, and mechanisms of blame attribution in populist communication.*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many would start this section by arguing how hard it can be to complete a PhD project. To be honest, finishing my dissertation has not been the biggest challenge life presented me with so far. Of course, I have experienced some ups and downs over the past two and a half years. And yes, times of frustration came by and passed on. But this is all part of the deal. I have enjoyed working on my dissertation so much that the good times significantly and substantially outweigh the bad times. One of the key explanatory factors of this positive outcome is the support of a great number of people. In hypothetical conditions in which these people are absent, the PhD project would be a – again significantly and substantially – greater challenge. I may not be able to include all names in my model, but I will now mention those who I would like to thank in particular.

First of all, I would like to thank the five members of my dissertation committee: Frank Esser, Jan Kleinnijenhuis, Sarah de Lange, Rens Vliegthart and Bert Bakker. These scholars have all worked on highly relevant, inspiring research that sparked my own interests and clarified various concepts in political communication and populism. It is therefore a great honor that these scholars are willing to be part of the defense committee.

Next, I would like to thank my two supervisors: Linda Bos and Claes de Vreese. Over the last years, Linda and Claes have provided me with excellent feedback on my work, motivated me to come up with solutions to various issues, and supported me when things did not go as planned. Although I may have overloaded them with long e-mails with a number of documents as attachments (three draft manuscripts at some points), they remained patient and provided me with valuable feedback time after time. Linda has always provided me with detailed and sharp feedback on the paragraphs of this dissertation. Next to this, she introduced me to the topic of populism, and all the conceptual confusion surrounding its presence. Her expertise in the field of populism is inspiring, and sparked many ideas presented in this dissertation. I want to thank Claes for his clear vision on how kitchen sinks can be transferred into streamlined papers, keeping an eye on the bigger structure while not losing sight of the relevant details. His guidance and trust have contributed to my growth and confidence as a researcher in the last years. Moreover, his knowledge in the field of political communication science, and the fluency in which he speaks the academic language, have left me with a toolbox full of skills I can apply in the years to come. Next to this, both he and Linda have always motivated (and allowed) me to pursue my various side-projects, which allowed me to further develop my own research interests next to the core task of the dissertation. Still, these are only

a few examples of the many ways in which Linda and Claes have contributed to my dissertation, and I thank the both of them for guiding me so well during this project.

Over the past years, I experienced the privilege of being part of the renowned ASCoR family. On an institutional level, ASCoR has provided me with optimal working facilities, research and conference budgets, inspiring lectures, superb methods courses, good coffee, and, albeit a bit less excellent, PowerPoint templates. The role of the environment in which I worked, and the tools provided to me, should not be underestimated. I was spoiled with all intellectual and material privileges provided to me, and I would not have been able to complete my dissertation without these resources.

But of course, it is the people within this institution that really made the difference, and I owe a lot to many people working at ASCoR. Starting in a more or less chronological order, Rens introduced me to the Political Communication department at ASCoR. As a Research Master student, I had the privilege to be supervised by Rens. Thanks to his enthusiasm and knowledge on framing research, I became interested in political communication, and academic research more generally. Because he hinted at a vacancy for a PhD position on populism and the media, I was introduced to ASCoR.

I had the pleasure of being surrounded by a wonderful and supportive group of fellow PolComm/CorpComm PhD candidates. In a non-particular order of appearance, I want to mention Guus, Tom P, Sjoerd, Jasper, Sabine, Alyt, Toni, Anne, Jelle, Jeroen, Bas, Carlos, Björn, Nadine, Anna, and Tom D. Because of their presence, the office environment on the 8th floor really felt like home. Not only did they provide me with excellent feedback in the PhD Clubs, their support and friendship exceeded the working environment, such as at the many occasions in which we had drinks after work. Therefore, it is an honor that Sjoerd and Tom are supporting me and this work as my paranymphs.

Of course, I would also like to thank all the other colleagues working at Political Communication in particular and ASCoR more generally. If I forgot to mention names here, it is not because I take their support for granted. It is because even I sometimes finish some work very last minute. I would like to emphasize that all of them have contributed to a warm, very supportive working environment. I am looking forward to working with and among many of these people in the years to come.

During my PhD, I was introduced to an international network of communication science scholars in the COST Action on populist communication. It was a great experience to participate in conferences, working groups, dinners, drinks, and all other social and academic events in a number of beautiful European cities. Specifically, I would like to thank Desirée Schmuck and Jörg Matthes for hosting me

at my Short Term Scientific Mission at the University of Vienna. In general, I would like to thank all Action Members for sharing their knowledge and insights, and for being such good companionship. It has been an honor to be part of this network.

I want to thank my friends and family for supporting me both during and way before this PhD project. I could not have started, let alone finish, this project without the unlimited love and support of my family. My mother has always allowed me the freedom to do what I liked most, giving me unbounded support whilst never judging my decisions or over-optimistic plans. Although my father and sister have not been able to see me working on this project, I will carry their love, wisdom and guidance with me wherever I go. I am sure they would have been proud of me, and I am grateful for all the time we had together. It is because of them that I was able to develop myself the way I did. They have provided me with the best environment I could wish for whilst growing up. My memory of their presence and love will never fade away, and will continue to guide me on the paths I take in life.

I would like to thank Koen and Gijs for being such great friends for more than 10 years already. The many hours we have spent in cinemas provided the perfect distraction from the PhD project. I thank Jeroen and Dewi for always offering a listening ear and a good conversation. Their companionship has contributed to my motivation and ability to write this dissertation. I am looking forward to the many years of solid friendship to come.

I am deeply thankful for all the support I received from Hanneke, Peter and Nikha, and Victor. Over the last five years, they welcomed me with open arms into the family, and provided me with helpful advice on many occasions.

Finally, and most of all, I would like to thank Jasne. Without her unlimited love, encouragement, understanding and advice I would not have been able to write this dissertation. She has always encouraged me to continue when I felt like giving up. She believed in me when I lost confidence. She could feel my pain when I was not even able to vocalize it. When I was lost, she found a way out. No matter how far the light seemed to be. Her love gives me strength in the darkest days. She is the love of my life. For these and many other reasons, I have dedicated this dissertation to her. It should finally be emphasized that none of the persons mentioned here are responsible for any possible errors or shortcomings in this dissertation – only I am.

Michael Hamelers,
Amsterdam, April 2017.