Negative campaigning in Western Europe: beyond the vote-seeking perspective

Walter, A. S.

*Citation for published version (APA):*

*General rights*
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

*Disclaimer/Complaints regulations*
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
Acknowledgments

The completion of this dissertation would not have been possible without the help and support of numerous people. I would like to take the opportunity here to thank them all.

First of all, I would like to thank the AISSR and the program group Democratic Challenges for financing this dissertation project. I am grateful to my supervisors Wouter van der Brug, Catherine de Vries and Philip van Praag for their time and suggestions over the last three and a half years. Without your guidance this dissertation would not have been finished and I would not be where I am today. I have learned a lot from all of you. Wouter, I would like to thank you for all your comments, practical statistical help and in particular the effort you have put in over the last months to enable me to finish ahead of time and start a new academic adventure. Catherine, thanks for all you have done for me, for your guidance especially at the beginning of my PhD, but also for your friendship. The fact that I could always come and talk to you about anything and that you offered me to come and stay with you in Switzerland when I was experiencing difficulties in life are things that I will not forget. Philip, thanks for sharing your knowledge on election campaigns and Dutch politics with me. I really enjoyed the fact that I could always come by and disturb you from your work just to talk about nothing in particular. I loved sharing my passion for archive material with you when all the number crunchers did not understand my enthusiasm. I hope to continue to make you all proud in the future.

I am also indebted to Joop van Holsteyn and Huib Pellikaan, who inspired me during my earlier studies to pursue a PhD. I am grateful to Joop for helping me find my dissertation topic and over the years reading some of the chapters presented here. Huib, without your endless belief in my research potential and your support, I am not sure that I would have made it this far. The journey towards the completion of my dissertation would not have been half as much fun without my roommates who I have come to consider as my friends and hope to continue to see in the after PhD life. Daphne van der Pas, Elmar Jansen, Eefje Steenvoorde, Marc van der Wardt, Sjef van Stiphout and Sjoerdje van Heerden, it was a pleasure sharing an office with you and I miss you already. It must be quiet, but rather more productive without me. In addition, I would like to thank all my other friends in the political science PhD hallway for supporting me throughout this journey, in particular Bouchra Arbouai, Matthijs Rooduijn, Lutz Hofer, Jasper Blom, Benno Netelenbos and Agnieszka Walczak. I would also like to thank other members of the department who in one way or another contributed to my dissertation, in particular I would like to thank Tom van der Meer, Armen Hakverdian, Sarah de Lange, Laura Sudulich and Joost van Berkhout who I could always approach with my (non) statistical questions and Imke Harbers who was kind enough to arrange for her apartment to be passed onto me, which turned out to be a rather productive workspace.

I would like to thank also the numerous students who have contributed to my data collection as student assistant or coder; Marije Willems, Julie Ruf, Eowyn Castle, Lucas
Bourdrez, Michaela Schmid, Britta Wiessner, Felix Hummel, Anna O’Connor, Eefje Appel, Trinity Walker, Carina van der Wetering and Floor Vreeswijk. I could not have generated this new data set all by myself. I am grateful to the Fulbright Foundation for financing my research stay at the Political Science Department of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. I would also like to thank Liesbeth Hooghe for inviting me and Erica Edwards for helping me out during my stay. I am grateful to Heather Folliard, Krystal Elwing, Jessica Davis and all other members of Encounter at the Hillsong Church Chapel Hill for their friendship when I was abroad, which meant a lot to me. Special thanks goes to Rens Vliegenthart who I co-authored my first article with and Stefaan Walgrave my APSA mentor who was kind enough to organize my first conference panel with me.

I am appreciative to all members of the CPPC PhD club who read my articles, in particular Gijs Schumacher and Annemarie van Elfrinkhof. In addition, I would like to thank several other academic scholars who I am in one way or another indebted to, namely Thijs Bol, Travis Ridout, John Geer, Margaret Scammell, Kees Brants, Emmett Buell, Michael MacKuen, Paul Djupe, Scott Desposato, Justin Kirkland, Christian Elmelund-Praestæker, Michael Meffert, Hajo Boomgaard, Julia Partheymüller and Jan Kleinnijenhuis.

A special thanks to my (non-UVA political science PhD) friends who have helped me to survive the ups and downs of my dissertation by distracting me with the other joys of life, Elisabeth Eenkhoorn, Trineke Palm, Simon Otjes, Sylvia Tidey, Madelijn Corver, Mariken van der Velden, Chantal Rappard, Jasmina Mackic, Janet van Klink, Saskia Rademaker, Nicole Jasperse and Charisse Huber. I might not always show it but I am grateful that we are friends and I hope we will remain so and that I can be there for you in the future. I would like to thank my parents and my (little) sister who have granted me the freedom and supported me in my wish to study political science and to pursue an academic career. I hope I will you make proud. And last but not least I am grateful to my Heavenly Father who has gifted me with the skills and granted me with the opportunities to do so.