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Harteveld, E.

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The Radical Right is the most successful party family to have emerged in the last decades. By now, research has painted a coherent picture of the characteristics and motivations of the citizens supporting these parties. In spite of these insights, one of the most consistent and universal characteristics of the Radical Right electorate has remained puzzling: *the considerable overrepresentation of men among these parties' voters in virtually all countries and at all elections.* This so-called 'gender gap' – which can substantially constrain parties' electoral success – could only be partially explained by typical models of Radical Right voting. Not only does this leave us puzzled about a structural pattern in the support for the Radical Right, it also suggests that conventional accounts do not fully grasp all aspects of electoral behavior.

*Daring to vote right* aims to systematically investigate the causes of the overrepresentation of men in the Radical Right electorate, in a range of European countries, from the point of view of various models of voting behavior. The chapters in this book demonstrate that men's and women's differing socio-economic conditions play a role in shaping the gap, but mainly so among those Radical Right parties that strongly cater to the needs of economically precarious voters. Furthermore, no evidence was found that suggests that men are more likely to agree with a range of central features of the Radical Right's ideology. New data collection does show, however, that men are less likely than women to be deterred by both the social stigma and the ongoing association with prejudice that surround many Radical Right parties. Indeed, the last chapter shows that men are systematically more likely to vote for extreme or stigmatized parties of any political color.

*Daring to vote right* proposes that we can better comprehend gendered voting patterns and further increase our understanding of the Radical Right electorate by combining socio-structural, attitudinal and socio-psychological models. The findings suggest that a key factor constraining the size and nature of the Radical Right's electoral fortunes is the perceived legitimacy of the messenger, rather than merely the level of public support for its message.

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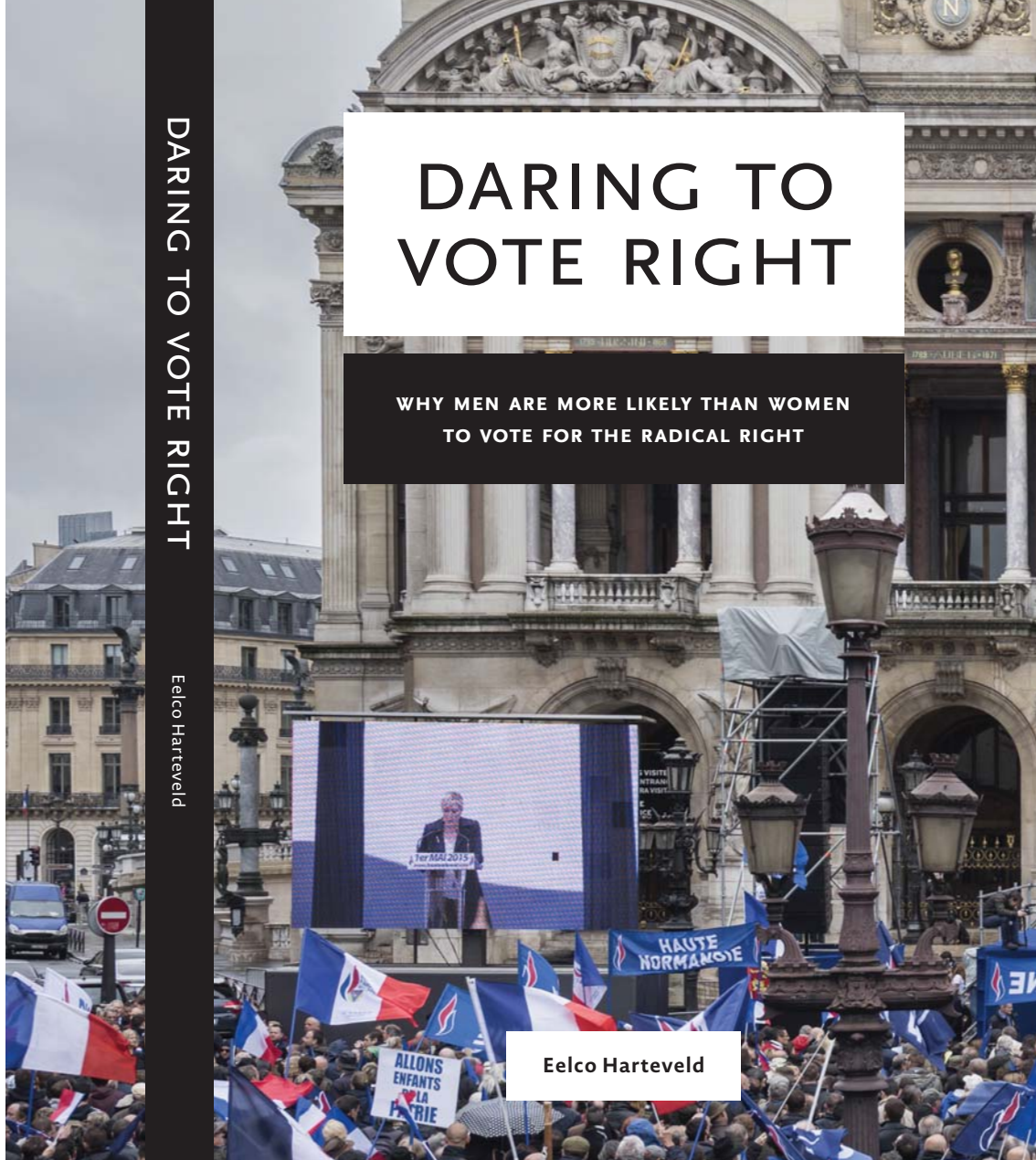
DARING TO VOTE RIGHT

Eelco Harteveld

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TO VOTE FOR THE RADICAL RIGHT

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# DARING TO VOTE RIGHT

WHY MEN ARE MORE LIKELY THAN WOMEN TO VOTE  
FOR THE RADICAL RIGHT

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

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Promotor: prof. dr. W. van der Brug      Universiteit van Amsterdam  
Copromotor: dr. S. Dahlberg              Göteborgs universitet

Overige leden: prof. dr. W.G.J. Duyvendak      Universiteit van Amsterdam  
                  prof. dr. E. Gidengil              McGill University, Montreal  
                  dr. E. Ivarsflaten                      Universitetet i Bergen  
                  dr. L.M. Mügge                      Universiteit van Amsterdam  
                  prof. dr. R. Vliegenthart              Universiteit van Amsterdam

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	11
Introduction	13
<b>PART I SOCIO-STRUCTURAL AND ATTITUDINAL EXPLANATIONS</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	
Angry white (wo)men? Socio-economic status, discontent, and policy preferences	33
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	
Welfare chauvinism, nativist Enlightenment: party programs	55
<b>PART II SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS</b>	
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	
“A party one simply does not vote for...” The role of social cues	75
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	
Toxic triggers: the role of anti-prejudice motivations	93
<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	
Daring to vote right: Party reputations	107
Conclusions	123
Appendices	135
Nederlandstalige samenvatting	155
References	165





# LIST OF TABLES

Table I.1	Theoretical framework	18
Table I.2	Overview of chapters	27
Table 1.1	Overview of parties and their gender gap (2009)	42
Table 1.2	Regression models with propensity to vote for the Radical Right as the dependent variable	46
Table 1.3	Separate regressions for men and women	48
Table 1.4	Size of the gender gap in 'East' and 'West'	51
Table 2.1	Full regression model	68
Table 3.1	Measure 1: subjective sensitivity to others when voting	81
Table 3.2	Measure 2: perceived acceptability of vote choices	81
Table 3.3	Vignettes (in English)	85
Table 3.4	The three conditions for a Radical Right-like party C	86
Table 4.1	Overview of cases	98
Table 4.2	Measures of Motivation to Control Prejudice	100
Table 4.3	Difference between average MCP among men and women (in SD)	103
Table 4.4	Regression models, UK and Sweden	104
Table 4.5	Regression models, Norway	105
Table 5.1	Analysis per party family	119
Table C.1	Categorization of Radical Right parties	128



# LIST OF FIGURES

Figure I.1	Percentage of Radical Right voters among men and women	16
Figure 1.1	Average scores of men and women on socio-structural indicators	43
Figure 1.2	Average scores of men and women on attitudinal indicators	44
Figure 1.3	Percentage of the gender gap that can be explained by each of the models	49
Figure 2.1	Occupations and classes by gender	61
Figure 2.2	Relation between GAL-TAN, Immigration (A) and Social Lifestyle Intolerance (B) position	64
Figure 2.3	Relation between gender gap, GAL-TAN position and Social Lifestyle Intolerance position	65
Figure 2.4	Relation between size of the gender gap and the salience of Social Lifestyle	66
Figure 2.5	Relation between size of the gender gap and Economic position	67
Figure 2.6	Marginal effects of female dummy, over economic positions	70
Figure 2.7	Gender and explained variance by socio-structural variables	71
Figure 3.1	Mean scores, among men and women, on the measure of vote sensitivity	83
Figure 3.2	Mean scores, among men and women, on the perceived acceptability of a SD vote	83
Figure 3.3	Effects of perceived acceptability on voting for a party, among men and women	84
Figure 3.4	Mean PTV for different conditions	88
Figure 3.5	Average PTV for different conditions, among men and women	89
Figure 4.1	Gender differences in MCP and restrictive immigration preferences (women's average score minus men's average score, in SD)	102
Figure 5.1	Marginal effect of gender for different values of the three party characteristics (all parties)	115
Figure 5.2	Effect size of gender for various models	117



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