

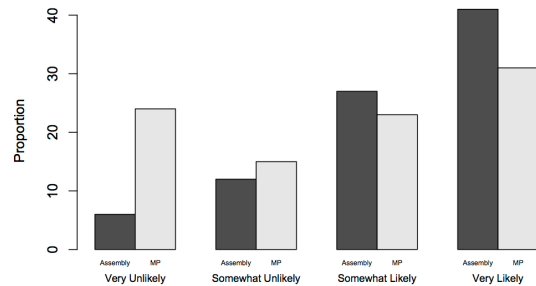
Turning to National or Local Politicians in Ghana

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Studies in African politics often focus on citizen demands placed on national legislators. Using surveys administered to Ghanaian cocoa farmers and non-parametric matching, I investigate characteristics that might lead citizens to prefer local politicians.

1: Afrobarometer Evidence

Rural Ghanaians Who Believe Politicians Will Respond to Them



2: Harvard Cocoa Sample

Ghana | 5 Cocoa Regions | 2800+ Farmers

Brong Ahafo | n=325
female: 25.24%
average age: 51.76

Western
n=610
f:17.06%
a:46.58

Ashanti
n=518
fem: 22.49%
age: 52.34

Central | n=273
fem: 15.38%
age: 52.96

Eastern
n=1073
f:16.97%
a:52.04

3: Theory

Pre-existing factors cause certain otherwise alike citizens to prefer local politicians to national politicians when facing problems.

Group 1

Age
Gender
Ethnicity

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Treatment

Group 2

Age
Gender
Ethnicity

Citizens face a problem!

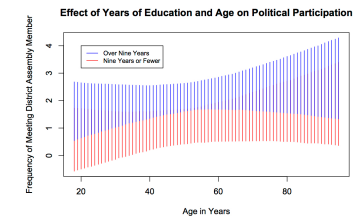
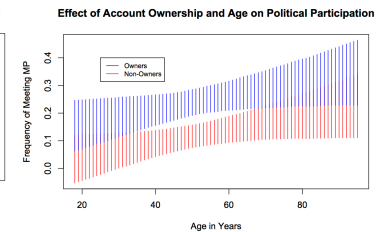
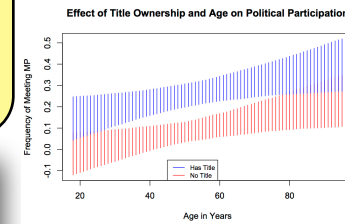
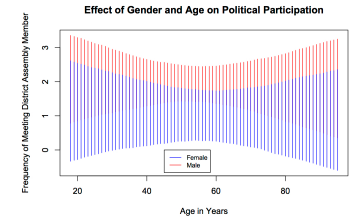
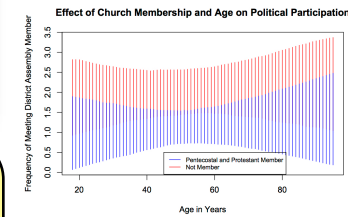
Go to: MP or Local Assembly?

4: Treatments

Size proportional to successful matches.

rooms
ethn
fate
age
susua
interest
farms
elect
religion
sex
group
mem
land
title
education
funeral
expense
bank
acct

5: Select Findings



- Women, young farmers and church members tend not to approach local politicians.
- Political interest and group membership leads citizens to MPs.
- More education corresponds to increased visits to either politician.
- Donor groups should focus on strengthening all political levels.
- There are further results, and this research continues.