

RSAEM

RESEARCH SEMINAR IN APPLIED ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

ANNA MARIA KOUKAL

POLITICAL DEVALUATION? LESSONS FROM EMANCIPATING WOMEN IN POLITICS

In the last century women conquered both many professions and the political sphere. However, research on the effects of feminization has mainly focused on labour market outcomes. The so called devaluation hypothesis states that professions experiencing an inflow of female workers react with a decrease of pay and status. We investigate if a similar devaluation is also relevant for the political sphere. In our empirical analysis we make use of the staggered introduction of Swiss women's suffrage in Switzerland. The Swiss setting provides a unique laboratory to compare if and how men change their evaluation of politics after women are enfranchised.

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