

Party Discipline in the Legislative Yuan: 1993-1995

Fang-yi Chiou 邱訪義

Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

中央研究院政治學研究所籌備處

Although Krehbiel's (1993, 2000) have illustrated the difficulties of distinguishing ideological preferences from party effects in explaining legislative behavior and the problems with the existing measures of partisanship, such as unity scores and cohesion scores, his insights have been largely ignored in studying party discipline in the Taiwanese legislature. Using item response theory and information other than roll call votes, this paper proposes a new method to simultaneously estimate party pressure, party effects, and preferences for the second term of the Taiwanese legislature. I find that ignoring party effects results in serious biased measurements of moderate legislators, exaggerating party polarization in the legislature. Also, the extent of party effects hinges on electoral and party organizational structures. Finally, the paper contributes to our understanding on ideological preferences and party pressure between 1993 and 1995 and their implications for how parties discipline their members. The availability of the pure preference measurement will facilitate future empirical studies on the Taiwanese legislature.