



The Swedish National
Election Studies

Swedish National Election Study 2018: Call for proposals

August 21, 2017

This is an open call to the research community for proposals of survey instruments to be included in the next large scale National Election Study in Sweden, carried out in conjunction with the general elections September 9th 2018. The proposals will be subject to evaluation by members of the Swedish National Elections Studies (SNES) advisory board and the primary investigators of the SNES team. Proposals are due **November 15th 2017.**

The election studies in Sweden are run by the Swedish National Election Studies Program. The voter survey conducted at each election since 1956 is financed directly by the Swedish government and fielded in collaboration with Statistics Sweden (SCB). The study includes a time series component and a longitudinal component – both of which are considered parts of the core questionnaire and takes up most of the available space for questions. Many of the key indicators of electoral behavior and the well-being of electoral democracy constitute vital parts of the official Swedish democracy statistics. The data collections have resulted in a number of publications in Swedish after each election and are widely used by scholars for international publications on political behavior. Previous SNES questionnaires (1956-2014) are easily found at the SNES webpage: www.snes.gu.se.

This open call for proposals provides the research community with an opportunity to include survey questions in a large high quality voter survey in conjunction with the upcoming Swedish general election on September 9th 2018. We aim for *short, innovative survey instruments that can seamlessly be integrated* in the existing SNES study. Please note that the study suffers from serious space constraints due to prior commitments or on-going research projects. We estimate that merely 3-4 projects/research groups will be given the opportunity to include very short survey instruments and/or have preferences for the selection of items in existing question batteries in SNES 2018.

The Proposals

Proposals (deadline **November 15th**) will be evaluated by the SNES advisory board and the primary investigators no later than **February 2018**. Proposals can be sent in by email (henrik.oscarsson@pol.gu.se) and should ideally include 1) a thorough theoretical justification/research problem, 2) the recommended survey question and a note on the added value of including it in SNES 2018, 3) pre-test documentation (if available), 4) a strategy for analyzing the data, and 5) a plan for publication of the research.

Study design

In short, the Swedish National Election Study 2018 will be carried out using our traditional study design with pre- and post-election questionnaires and with a continuation of our two wave rolling panels between elections. All pre-election respondents receive a short post-election survey after the elections. The large population based sample – 18-80 years eligible to vote from the census registers (RTB) – consists of the on-going panel 2014-2018 (n=7 400) and the new panel 2018-2022 (n=8 000). The sample is assigned 50-50 to the pre- and post-election survey (individuals assigned to the pre-election sample that has not answered before Election Day are instead given the post-election survey). The field work for the pre-election questionnaires is August 4th – September 9th and the post-election questionnaires September 9th – December 1st. The data collection method will be a mail-back/web-combination with a conditional incentive, and multiple reminders will be sent out by mail and SMS. The expected net response rate is 50-55 percent.

The field work for the Swedish National Election Studies 2018- is funded by a government grant channeled through the Department of education. The SNES is a part of the official Swedish democracy statistics.

Data availability

Data from SNES 2018 will be available in stages as the SNES team need time for data management and validation. Some data are collected from census registers and the turnout is validated against official records. The final versions of the main dependent variables of the election studies (turnout and vote choice) will be available for analyses in February/March 2019 (estimated).

Access to micro data may require approval from the regional ethics review (EPN). The SNES team will be able to assist researchers in this process.

If you have further questions about the SNES 2018, please do not hesitate to contact us.

ÅSA VON SCHOULTZ
Professor of Political Science
Chair of the SNES advisory board
Department of Political and Economic Studies
University of Helsinki
FINLAND

HENRIK EKENGREN OSCARSSON
professor in Political Science, electoral studies
Head of the SNES program
Department of Political Science
University of Gothenburg
SWEDEN