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Immigrants and Their Host Polities: How Immigration Generates Change in the Host Societies and Polities¹

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Abstract

Societies and communities with relevant number of immigrants are subjected in the long-term to deep structural re-organization processes which might provide for the re-distribution of power at both local and central levels, to a re-organization of existing elites and their influence and the emergence of new elites, as well as for the emergence of new order. Our approach has been inspired by the Brexit scenario as a key complexity context of how the issue of immigrants has been involved in the political party competition in UK. The history of the rise and decay of the UKIP party (Allchorn and Evans, 2018; Evans, Gould and Norman, 2019) for almost two decades since 1993 when it has been founded (Hunt, 2014), has been therefore considered as a typical scenario for the emergence of relevant changes in the UK society and polity as a host for immigrants. UK model of immigrant integration has been considered for decades as the best amongst the integration models in several other countries of Europe like France, Germany and Netherlands which are immigration target countries. Nonetheless, UK has shocked the world when a majority of the British people voted Brexit and



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revealed deep concerns with immigration. Our approach is aimed at modelling the changes induced by the immigration issues when involved in elections and party competition as a means to reveal the role played by the immigration in the emergence of complex changes in the host polity. Such complex changes emerge as a long-term side-effect of political power (re)distribution in a host society and polity and reveal the dimensions of society and polity structural change and re-organization processes because of political party competition, elections, political power distribution in the Government and political elites' dynamics. The Artificial Polity Model is employed in the simulation of the political organizations facing deep structural changes. Simulation modelling has been based on the case studies of UKIP history and Brexit.

Keywords: immigration; political organization; complex polity

1. Introduction

To My Mother

Motto:

"What is a 'state'? Sociologically, the state cannot be defined in terms of its ends. There is scarcely any task that some political association has not taken in hand, and there is no task that one could say has always been exclusive and peculiar to those associations which are designated as political ones: today the state, or historically, those associations which have been the predecessors of the modern state. Ultimately, one can define the modern state sociologically only in terms of the specific means peculiar to it, as to every political association..."

Max Weber, Politics as a Vocation²

"Secondly, I have spoken of power as involving legitimation. This is, in the present context, the necessary consequence of conceiving power as "symbolic," which therefore, if it is exchanged for something intrinsically valuable for collective effectiveness, namely compliance with an obligation, leaves the recipient, the performer of the obligation, with "nothing of value."

This is to say, that he has "nothing" but a set of expectations, namely that in other contexts and on other occasions, he can invoke certain obligations of the part of other units. Legitimation is therefore, in power systems, the factor which is parallel to confidence in mutual acceptability and stability of the monetary unit in monetary systems."

Talcott Parsons, The Concept of Power (1963), p. 238.

Societies and communities with relevant number of immigrants are subjected in the long-term to deep structural re-organization processes which might provide for the re-distribution of power at both local and central levels, to a re-organization of existing elites and their influence and the emergence of new elites, as well as for the emergence of new order.

Our approach has been inspired by the Brexit scenario as a key complexity context of how the issue of immigrants has been involved in the political party competition in UK. The history of the rise and decay of the UKIP party (Allchorn and Evans, 2018; Evans, Gould and Norman, 2019) for almost two decades since

² Max Weber: *Politics as Vocation*, Verlag Duncker & Humoldt, 1919. Translated and edited by Dagmar Waters, Benjamin Elbers, and Tony Waters, 2014, Chico, California, and Hamburg, Germany. Available online at: https://www.academia.edu/26954620/Politics_as_Vocation.pdf. Last Accessed: 15 September 2018.

1993 when it has been founded (Hunt, 2014), has been therefore considered as a typical scenario for the emergence of relevant changes in the UK society and polity as a host for immigrants. UK model of immigrant integration has been considered for decades as the best amongst the integration models in several other countries of Europe like France, Germany and Netherlands which are immigration target countries. Nonetheless, UK has shocked the world when a majority of the British people voted Brexit and revealed deep concerns with immigration.

Our approach is aimed at modelling the changes induced by the immigration issues when involved in elections and party competition as a means to reveal the role played by the immigration in the emergence of complex changes in the host polity. Such complex changes emerge as a long-term side-effect of political power (re)distribution in a host society and polity and reveal the dimensions of society and polity structural change and re-organization processes because of political party competition, elections, political power distribution in the Government and political elites' dynamics.

1. Political Theory Modelling Approaches. A Brief Literature Review

The issue of political power distribution has been approached from different perspectives by many scholars. One influential model which has inspired our approach is the community power structure model (Hunter, 1953) with a view over the central power and the elites involved in the dynamics of power distribution. While Hunter reveals the essential role played by the central elite, Dahl (1971) provides for a modelling alternative in which both community's centers and the elites are multiple and play differentiated roles in power distribution as depending on political context and political competition. As the dynamics of political party competition as well as the political power distribution in the Government has a deep influence on how the state operates under volatile expressions of power and fast-changing structural dynamics, there are models which address the issue of state and its role in the relation with the governance process under complex contextual political dominance (Wartenberg, 1990; Pansardi, 2013, 2016), social justice in the context of political liberalism (Rawls, 1993; Lovett, 2009) and political stability (Vallier, 2017; Krasnoff, 1998).

Our modelling approach combines the idea of multiple community centers as well as the idea of central and local elites and the role they play in central and local dynamic distribution of power as a set of hypotheses for modelling the emergence of structural change in the host polity as the outcome of (re)distribution of economic and social resources for the immigrants employed in industry and service jobs, but also as a means of the political party competition in the host polity to achieve and eventually re-distribute political power.

The UKIP party and the Brexit Case Studies offer a relevant context for the study of how structural change and political power distribution emerge in the host society and polity as a complex outcome of the immigration issues along with the consequences for the state, political stability and resilience to structural change induced by political party competition in which immigration issues are involved. The case studies are meant to provide for an empiric support for the modelling of political power distribution, dynamics and emerging polity structural change.

2. Our Modelling Approach.

3.1 Conceptual Model

Our approach and model is based on the idea of immigration as a source for or as a clue to explain the emergence of new political order. The model is employed in the simulation of several scenarios in which immigration is associated with the emergence of new order (social and political order) and the evaluation of both context dependence and path dependence of such scenarios and their outcomes.

Our approach is meant to evaluate the scenarios of emergent new political order and the emergent structural changes of the political organization which might provide support to a new order.

As a difference from community power structure modelling which is based on a reputation model (Hunter, 1953), our model is based on a political culture model (Voinea, 2021) which assumes that the process of political party splitting up and the rise and decay of new emergent political parties is based on shared values and political attitudes toward national governance, opposition parties, immigration, and political elite. The political culture-based approach allows for the modelling of agent interactions in terms of shared values and value maps. This simulation methodology provides for the graphical representation of the dynamics of political party, power distribution, and value maps dynamics during the political party division, and electoral competition.

3.2 Agent-based Modelling Approach of State Dynamics

There are several modelling approaches which have inspired us in modelling the state as a agent-based system. As a difference from the classic system theory applied to political organization (Easton, 1964), our model is based on complex systems (Miller and Page, 2007), and agent-based modelling of interaction between agents representing both individuals and institutional actors (Cederman, 2001). Some modelling approaches address the state operation under governance dynamics (Cioffi-Revilla, 2009).

Our model addresses the state operation under the dynamic condition of the political cultures of various agents (Parsons, 1951).

3.3 Simulation Model

The simulation model is based on the Artificial Polity Model, APM, (Voinea, 2021, 2017). APM is an agent-based system with a complex internal structure including society, (political) culture and polity. APM works as a state model which embeds social and governance components and processes, as well as several types of agents, like individual agents modelling citizens, institutional agents (Government), organizational agents (political parties), and political leaders (elite).

The modelling approach takes into consideration several dimensions on which structural emergence provides for the political power distribution and dynamics:

- (1) power (political)
- (2) inequality (economic & human rights)
- (3) institutional (state institutions which are necessary for providing economic and legal support to both *Host-citizens* and the *Others*).

As the complexity of such modelling approach is too strong, we have weakened or kept constant some dimensions in various simulation scenarios to tackle the emergence phenomena.

3. Simulated phenomena. Political power distribution and dynamics

We take into consideration the UKIP case study which refers to immigration aspects in the UK. Generalizing this case study, we take into consideration the dynamics of political parties as emergent structural agents in the AP model. We also start from the hypothesis that inequalities of various types (economic, human rights, civil and political rights) characterize the agents in the AP model.

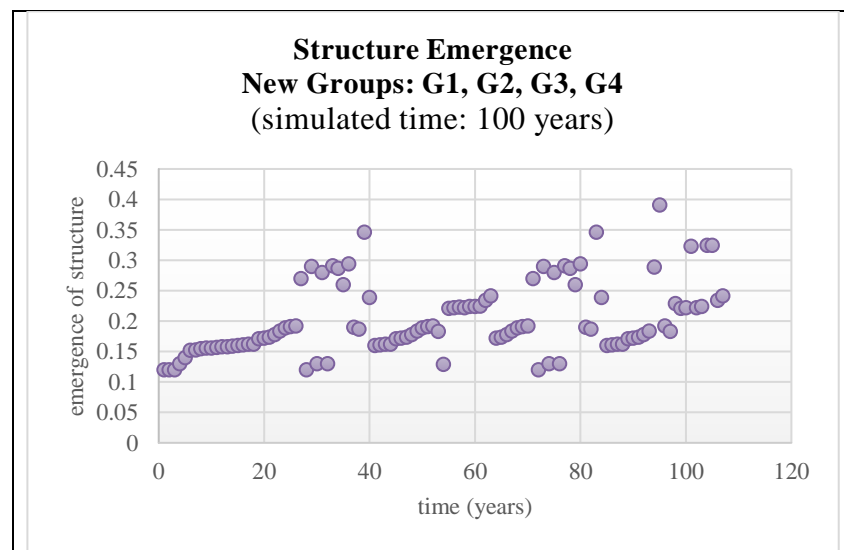
Power distribution in the host-society and host-polity is considered as unbalanced. As such, it is assumed to be targeted by populist parties and ideologies with the aim of gaining political support in elections.

Starting from the UKIP and Brexit scenarios which provide for modelling the host-polity dynamics, our simulation model re-produces the real context of a set of political parties representing the political forces and competition in a polity, P. The simulation model is able to reproduce the rise and decay of a political party (structural emergence), the dynamics of the political power this party achieves, and the associated political power distribution process.

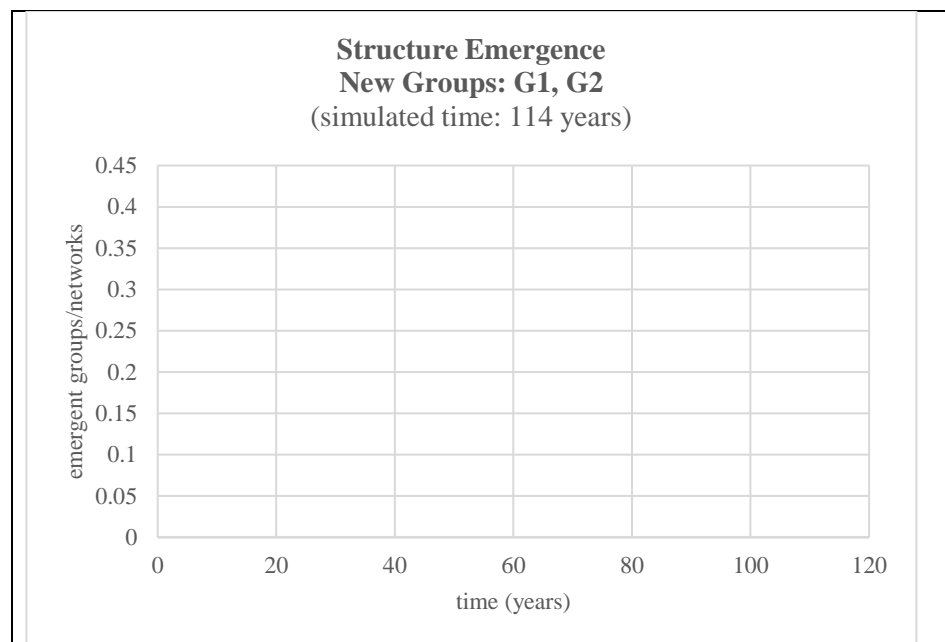
4. Preliminary Results

Our model achieves structural emergence as a side-effect of the interactions between individual agents as citizens, institutional, and organizational agents.

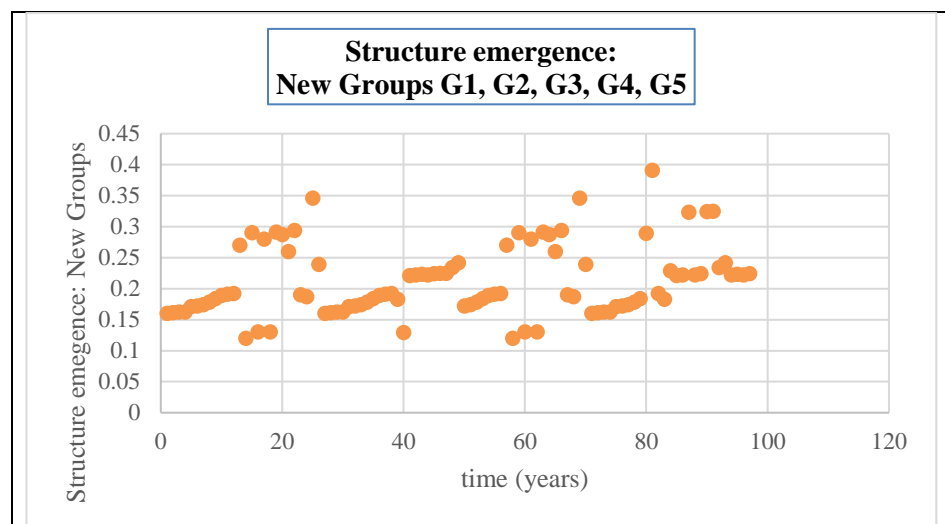
The interactions are guided by the goal of each agent (individual, institutional and organizational) to identify (if any) shared values. As shared values are identified, agents could re-organize by leaving a group and becoming member of another group (party splitting up process, see **Figure 1a, b, c**). This structural emergence process results in new political groups / parties, called G1, G2, G3, and G4.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 1(a)

Structure emergence: agents could re-organize by leaving a group (party splitting-up) and creating another group (party emergence).

4.2 Political power distribution

As the structural emergence process goes on for a long interval of time (from 20 to 100 years), emergent new agents participate in political power (re)distribution process.

The political power distribution process is mathematically and computationally modelled as a power function, y :

$$y = ax^b \quad (1)$$

where: a is a coefficient of interaction (strength of interaction), x represents the shared (set of) value(s) as described in (Schwartz, 2012), and b is a coefficient of political power decay.

In usual cases, the power of new agents have a fast decay rate and they disappear at some moment after they have won one or more electoral campaign (see **Figure 2a, b, c**).

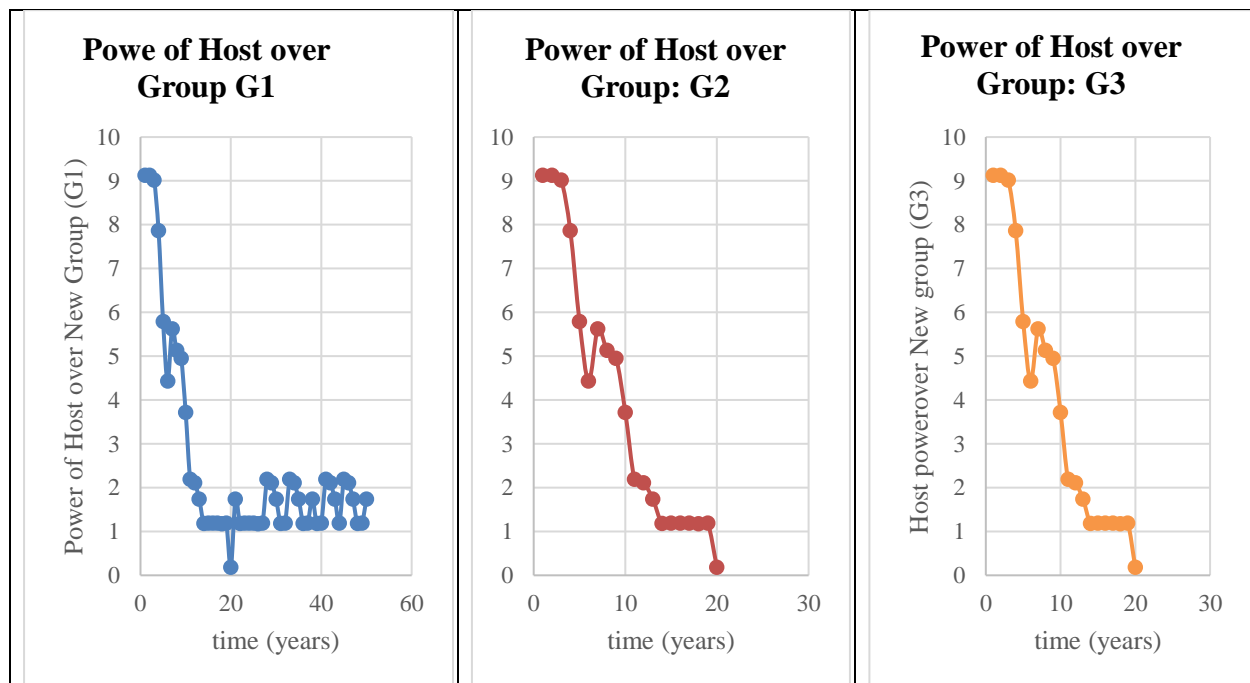


Figure 2a, b, c.
Political power dynamics for G1, G2, G3.

4.3 Power distribution for new groups

New political parties could gain power (or not) depending on the power dynamics in the context of multiple party simulation scenario.

Figure 2 consists of three scatter plots showing power dynamics over time for three groups: Group G1, Group G2, and Group G3. The x-axis for all plots is 'time (years)' and the y-axis is 'Power Dynamics'.

- Group G1 (Blue):** The plot shows power dynamics increasing sharply around year 80, reaching a peak of approximately 25.
- Group G2 (Red):** The plot shows power dynamics increasing sharply around year 50, reaching a peak of approximately 25.
- Group G3 (Orange):** The plot shows power dynamics decreasing sharply around year 10, reaching a minimum of approximately -10.

Political power dynamics in political competition under power (re) distribution.

Further research work concerns the modelling of polity change under internal structure change. Brexit scenario proves polity stability in conditions of the emergence of new order. Our model aims at modelling polity (state) change with a political culture – based modelling approach, which takes into consideration shared values and political attitudes.

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