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978-1-107-02353-6 - Unequal Political Participation Worldwide

Aina Gallego

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Unequal Political Participation Worldwide

Highly educated citizens vote at much lower rates than less educated citizens in some countries. By contrast, electoral participation exhibits no such bias in other countries as diverse as Spain, Denmark, and South Korea. This book describes the levels of unequal participation in thirty-six countries worldwide, examines possible causes of this phenomenon, and discusses its consequences. Aina Gallego illustrates how electoral procedures, party and media systems, unionization, and income inequality impact unequal participation through an original combination of cross-national survey data and survey experiments.

Aina Gallego is a Ramon y Cajal Fellow (Assistant Professor) at the Barcelona Institute of International Studies. She completed her doctoral dissertation at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 2008, and she was a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University and the Spanish High Research Council. Her research focuses on several aspects of democratic representation, including inequalities in voter turnout and political participation, the formation of political preferences, and the effects of electoral systems and income inequality on political behavior.

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32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107023536

CIS

Montalban, 8

28014, Madrid, Spain

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First published 2015

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Gallego, Aina, 1981–

Unequal political participation worldwide / Aina Gallego.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-02353-6 (hardback)

1. Political participation – Cross-cultural studies. 2. Democracy – Cross-cultural studies. I. Title.

JF799.G35 2014

323'.042–dc23 2014022606

ISBN 978-1-107-02353-6 Hardback

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Acknowledgments

I am in debt to many people and institutions for their help and support. First of all, I thank my dissertation advisor, Eva Anduiza. The members of my dissertation tribunal, Mariano Torcal, Laura Morales, and Gábor Tóka, provided outstanding comments and encouraged me to write this book. André Blais, Russell Dalton, and Karen Jusko provided help and guidance at different stages of this project. Paul Sniderman challenged me to test my theory using survey experiments. I owe special thanks to Paloma Aguilar because she made the publication of this book possible, along with the editorial teams at Cambridge University Press and the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas.

Many other scholars discussed parts of this project and provided comments and encouragement including Guillem Rico, Mark Franklin, Xavier Fernandez, Eduard Bonet, Pedro Riera, Matthew Shugart, Alan Renwick, William Jacoby, Miki Caul Kittilson, Sarah Birch, Carol Galais, Mónica Méndez, Jennifer Wilkins, Nancy Bermeo, Laia Jorba, Michele Micheletti, Agustí Bosch, Mar Reguant, Zoe Lefkofridi, Willem Saris, Maria José Hierro, Daniel Oberski, Margarita Torre, Marta Cantijoch, Robert Lineira, Araceli Mateos, and the three anonymous reviewers.

Several institutions have supported my research. I wrote my dissertation while in the Institut de Govern i Polítiques Públiques

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Acknowledgments

thanks to a fellowship awarded by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. I have been recipient of several fellowships that allowed me to spend research periods at Essex University, the University of California at Irvine, the European University Institute, and the Université de Montréal. I received invaluable comments on pieces of this project at conferences, seminars, and workshops in Nicosia, Helsinki, Pisa, Valencia, Montreal, Boston, Barcelona, Salamanca, and Seattle. I also received financial support from the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas and from research projects of the Spanish Ministry of Education (SEJ2007-60082), the Ministry of Science and Technology (CSO2010-18534), and the European Science Foundation (project “Voter Turnout and Abstention in Context”). I completed this book in February 2012 during my research stay as a postdoctoral visiting scholar at the Political Science Department of Stanford University, thanks to a Beatriu de Pinós fellowship (2009 BP-A 00014) awarded by the Generalitat de Catalunya.

Finally, for their love and unconditional support, I am deeply grateful to Iban, my family, and my friends.