

Assignment #2 for the course “Research Methods”

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Assignment Details:

Dear students,

Based on three academic articles on topics you find relevant, interesting, and “puzzling,” please identify **three research questions**.

For **each** research question, you should then propose **three potential explanations (hypotheses)**, following the principles and standards we discussed in class.

If the articles do not provide enough explicit questions or hypotheses, you may formulate additional ones on your own.

## **Article #1**

Meijers, Maurits J., and Christian Rauh. 2021. "The populist challenge to European defense." *Journal of European Public Policy* 28 (3): 398–418. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13501763.2021.1881587> ( full text via university access).

**Puzzle:** Despite the rise of populist parties across Europe, their stances on European defense cooperation vary unpredictable , sometimes supporting initiatives and other times opposing them completely, raising questions on how populism can effect EU defense integration

### **Research Question :**

WHAT'S THE EFFECT of populist party ideology (IV) on support for integrated European defense cooperation (DV)?

Hypothesis 1) the effect of populist ideology leads to lower support for integrated European defense , as it prioritizes national sovereignty and distrusts supranational elites [this is the author's hypothesis in the article ].

Hypothesis 2) Stronger populist ideology causes higher support for defense cooperation, because it views the EU as a tool to counter external threats like migration or Russia.

Hypothesis 3) Populist ideology doesn't effect support for defense cooperation. support is primarily driven by domestic economic pressures, such as defense spending burdens.

## **Article #2**

Brouard, Sylvain, and Isabel Tavares de Almeida. 2021. "Euroscepticism and bargaining success in the European Union." *Journal of European Public Policy* 29 (1): 35–55.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13501763.2021.1991985> (full text via university access).

**Puzzle:** Pro-European governments in Eurosceptic member states often achieve bargaining outcomes closer to their preferences in EU negotiations, but not in all countries. why does domestic Eurosceptic sometimes enhance rather than hinder national leverage?

### **Research Question**

What is the effect of domestic Eurosceptic public opinion (IV) on a pro-European government's bargaining success in EU legislative negotiations (DV)?

Hypothesis 1) Higher levels of domestic Eurosceptic public opinion increase pro-European governments' bargaining success, because they can credibly threaten non-compliance to extract concessions. [this is the author's hypothesis in the article ].

Hypothesis 2) Higher levels of domestic Eurosceptic public opinion decrease bargaining success, because it makes the governments defensive and isolates them from EU allies.

Hypothesis 3) Domestic Eurosceptic public opinion has no direct causal effect. bargaining success is primarily determined by the government's administrative capacity in Brussels, overriding public sentiment .

### **Article #3**

Toygür, Ilke, and Aleksandra Sojka. 2025. "Does climate backlash fuel euroscepticism?" Journal of European Public Policy 32 (5)

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13501763.2025.2542254>

**Puzzle:** The EU's Green Deal has sparked backlash against climate policies in some member states, correlating with rises in Eurosceptic voting, but this link is inconsistent across region *why does opposition to EU climate policies translate to anti-EU sentiment and other times remain isolated?*

#### **Research Question**

What is the effect of economic costs resulting from EU climate policies (IV) on Eurosceptic voting in European Parliament elections (DV)?

Hypothesis 1) Higher perceived economic costs from EU climate policies *increase* Eurosceptic voting, as voters attribute price hikes (e.g., energy prices) to Brussels green policies.

Hypothesis 2) Higher perceived economic costs *decrease* Eurosceptic voting, because voters recognize EU compensatory mechanisms like green funds as net profit

Hypothesis 3) Perceived economic costs have no direct causal effect; Eurosceptic voting is primarily driven by pre-existing ideological alignments with populist parties, which frame climate policy as elite imposition.