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## **Anti-political-establishment support and political discontent**

**Ass. Prof. Matthijs Rooduijn**

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**Hörsaal 10**, Rathausstraße 19, 1010 Vienna

*Abstract:*

Parties that employ anti-political-establishment (APE) rhetoric are increasingly successful. Interestingly, however, we know only very little about those who support such parties.

We argue and show that one of the core correlates of APE support is political discontent. More specifically, we demonstrate that, in general, those who are less trustful towards political actors and institutions and more dissatisfied with the functioning of democracy, tend to support parties that emphasize APE messages.

However, this association between citizens' attitudes and parties' rhetoric – which we refer to as the 'congruence of discontent' – only occurs when:

- (1) the supported parties have no recent government experience;
- (2) voters live under favorable economic national-level conditions, and therefore allow themselves to make discontent a core electoral theme.

We conclude that although APE rhetoric can be a powerful mobilization device, this will only happen under specific circumstances.

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*Matthijs Rooduijn is a political sociologist at the University of Amsterdam, where he works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. His research focuses on causes and consequences of populism and radicalism.*

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