



Séminaire de PopAct en partenariat avec l'Atelier de discussion scientifique du laboratoire Pacte

22 novembre 2013

*Lieu & Horaire : de 14h00 à 17h00, salle Pacte/
Politique&Organisations, Sciences Po Grenoble,
Domaine Universitaire, 1030 avenue centrale
38400 St Martin d'Hères*

Dans le cadre du séminaire « Action publique et opinion publique », le groupe de projet PopAct et l'Atelier de discussion scientifique du Laboratoire Pacte organisent une séance consacrée à

« Opinion publique et Politique étrangère »

- Etat de l'art des travaux français par **Céline Belot** (PACTE/Sciences Po Grenoble)
- Intervention de **Rob Johns** (associate-professor à l'Université d'Essex) sur le thème : « Coalitions of the Willing? International backing and public support for war? »
- Discussion : **Martial Foucault** (Sciences Po, CEE)

La séance sera animée par **Charlotte Halpern** (Sciences Po, CEE)

■ « Coalitions of the Willing? International backing and public support for war? » (Rob Johns) Studies of public support for war highlight the importance of context. Most people do not simply support or oppose the use of force but instead assess its merits depending on various aspects of the situation. One such aspect is the extent of international backing? whether from individual states or supranational organisations? for military action. This backing may be 'active', notably through the contribution of troops, or more 'passive', through the endorsement or authorisation of action. In this article, a survey experiment, embedded in a major internet survey of British foreign policy attitudes (N=2,205), is used to explore how international backing affects public support for military action. Britain's military potential and recent history make it an obvious case study here. Both 'active' and 'passive' backing prove to have separate and significant positive effects on support. Importantly, the absolute number of troops involved matters far less than the proportion of total troop numbers to be contributed. And the perceived strength of the enemy predicts support only when the British are to contribute a large proportion of total forces. Pre-dispositional variables are used to investigate the sources of the experimental effects but with little success: the impact of international backing proves remarkably consistent across the sample.



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