Populism in Western Europe
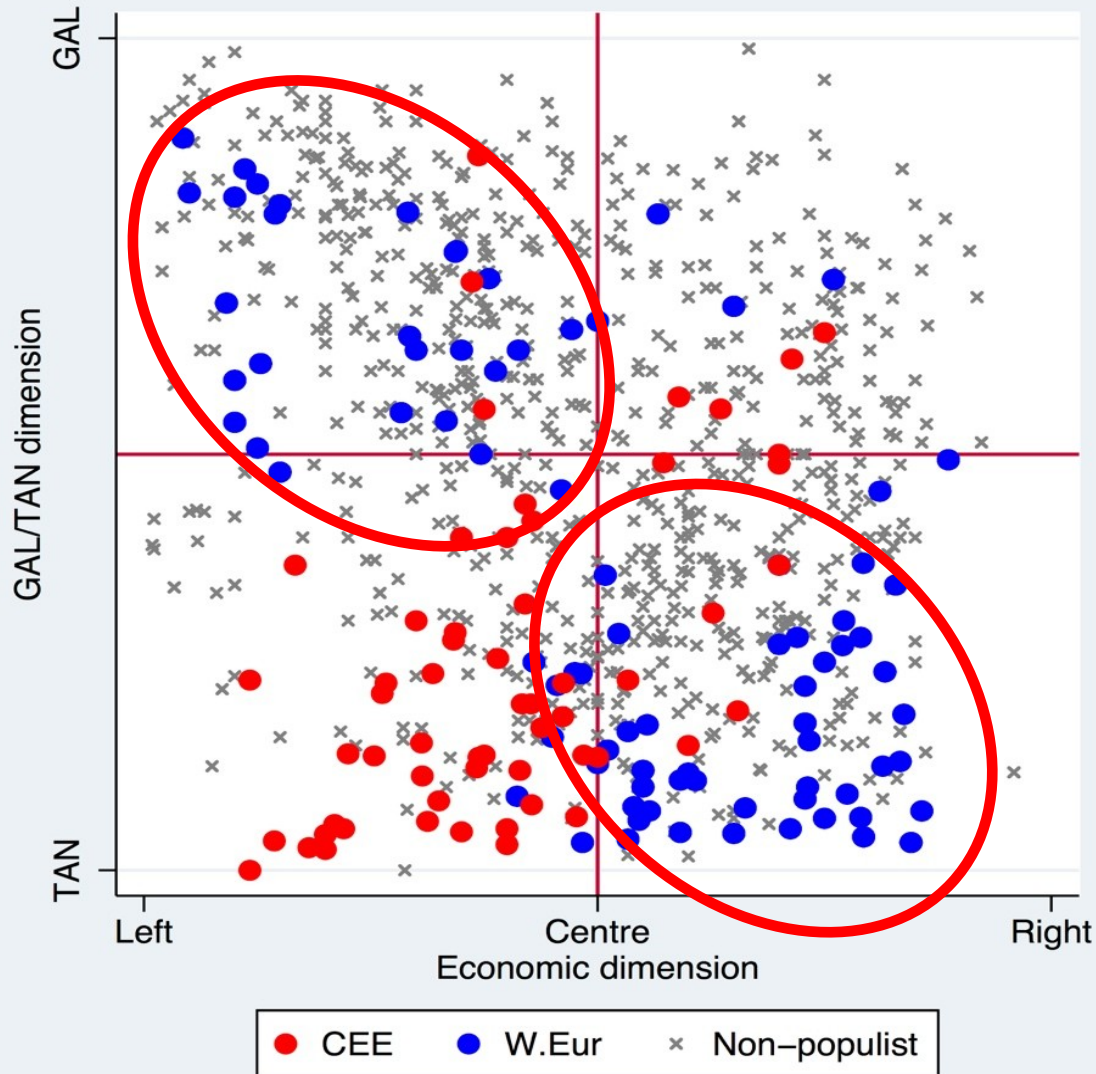
Contemporary Issues and Challenges

Questions

What kind of populists they are? Ideology.

Why do they emerge? Reasons.

What kind of populist they are?

- Striking differences between WE and CEE
- Two groups of populist parties
- GAL + econL / TAN + econR but…
- …importance changes over the time

Source: Havlík, Stanley 2015, data: Bakker et al. 2015

A new winning formula?

- Kitschelt, McGann (1995) – analysis of electoral appeals of (populist) radical right parties – authoritarianism and economic neoliberalism

- Changes in the nature of PRR since the 1990s

- Kitschelt (2004), De Lange (2007) – a new winning formula

- Based on observed structural changes – new political opportunity structures (and constraints) for political parties as vote-maximizing actors

- The authoritarian position retained but supplemented by a more centrist economic position

Defenders of the 'losers'

- Kriesi et al. (2006, 2008)
- A thesis about emergence of a new conflict between winners and losers
- Stemming from globalization characterized by more intensive *economic*, *cultural*, and *political competition*
- Some people gain, some lose
- Political potential for articulation of the divide at the national level
- Lowering of national bounderies produces demand for their protection
- INTEGRATION vs DEMARCATION divide
- Intensification of the socio-economic conflict (more protectionist economy vs more open approach) and increased importance of the cultural conflict (defense of traditions, anti-immigration and Eurosceptic attitudes)
- Uncertainty as a driver for populist radical right voting and to some extent also for populist left-wing voting

Issues - summary

- Uncertainties caused by globalized world in the age of modernization
- Immigration
- European integration
- Protectionist economy
- Welfare state
- Law and order
- Identity-related issues (Christianity, nationality, culture)
- Traditions – national integrity
- Pro-Russian stances
- A need for a strong leader

Thank you for your attention.