

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/cant-we-all-just-get-along-how-women-mps-can-ameliorate-affective-polarization-in-western-publics/>

This video discusses research on effective polarization—heightened feelings of anger, distrust, and contempt across political party lines—conducted by the author and co-authors Noam Giron and Will Horn. They were motivated by rising political hostility in their respective countries, the United States and Israel. Their research, including a book published in 2020, examines the causes of effective polarization in Western democracies using data until 2017.

A key aspect explored was the potential impact of women politicians on political anger. The author was inspired by discussions with his wife, a psychologist, who highlighted gender differences in political interaction. This video led to a hypothesis that a higher presence of women in political parties might lower animosity towards them.

The research utilized a large data set to analyze the relationship between anger directed at political parties and the proportion of women members in those parties. Findings indicated that parties with more women tended to incite less dislike. While several factors contribute to political opinions, including economic conditions and party policies, the presence of women still played a significant role.

This video concludes that as women gain more representation in politics and society's attitudes toward women in leadership evolve, effective polarization may decrease, leading to more gender-balanced political representation in the future.