

Here are five key points from the video regarding effective polarization and the influence of women in politics:

1. **Definition and Context of Effective Polarization**: The researchers, including the authors, have been studying effective polarization, which refers to the negative emotions (anger, distrust, contempt, hatred) that citizens feel toward opposing political parties. This interest arose from political developments in their respective home countries—Israel and the United States—that highlighted increasing political division.
2. **Previous Research and New Hypothesis**: In their 2020 book, the authors explored causes of effective polarization across Western democracies from the mid-1990s to 2017 but did not address the impact of women politicians. Inspired by conversations with the author's psychologist wife, they began investigating whether a higher presence of women in political parties correlates with reduced political anger and hostility.
3. **Research Methodology**: The authors utilized data from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems to analyze the relationship between the proportion of women politicians in parties and levels of political hostility towards those parties. They employed a thermometer score to quantitatively measure respondents' feelings towards their party and opposing parties across 20 Western democracies.
4. **Findings**: The study indicated a consistent pattern: political parties with a higher proportion of women members tended to incite less dislike than those dominated by men, even after accounting for other influential factors like economic conditions and party policy positions. This suggests a significant correlation between gender representation in politics and effective polarization.
5. **Expectations for Future Trends**: The authors anticipate that the representation of women in national parliaments will continue to grow, influenced by shifts in societal attitudes toward women in leadership and increasing visibility of women in high-level political positions. This trend may contribute to a reduction in political polarization over time, as female politicians are often associated with less hostility among party supporters.