

Kunovich, Sheri. 2012. "Voting Rates 1989 to 2007. Is There a Gender Gap?" *International Journal of Sociology* 42(1):60-77.

Abstract:

Prior research highlights the relevance of gender in determining who is elected in postcommunist countries, yet there has been only limited work examining the relevance of gender in understanding voter participation. I examine the extent to which a gender gap in voting is present among Polish citizens. I use a model of voter participation previously found to predict differences in men's and women's rates of participation in established democracies. Findings show that, controlling for family structure, socioeconomic resources, religious attendance, and political interest, women were less likely to vote in Poland in 1989 and 1991 but more likely to vote in 1993. Since 1993, however, there are no significant gender differences in voting. Gender differences in the effects of other factors did emerge beginning in 2007. The emergence of differences in the effects of marital status, children, and work hours mirrors what is found in other European democracies. This finding suggests that as more voters without direct experience under communism begin to vote, important gender differences in voting may be emerging.