

# **The Ins and Outs of Politics: Homophobia, Sexual Liberalism and Sexual Behaviors Predicting Australian Vote Choice**

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Abstract:

*Sex remains a prevalent topic of discussion in social, legal, legislative and political discourse and continues to have a substantial influence on the electorate. This study assesses three dimensions of sexual practices and dispositions as predictors of voter preference in Australia. There are small differences in sexual practices and behaviors between the two major political parties: Labor (ideologically left of center) and the Liberal (ideologically right of center). However, there is a large difference in oral and anal sexual behaviors within the right of center Coalition (comprised of the Liberal and National parties). The Liberals are more focused on positions (pun intended) relating to defense and economic issues, while the Nationals are more focused on traditionalism. Correspondingly Nationals engage in less oral and anal sexual activity. Despite (or possibly because of) all this, right of center women appear to have a better sex life. Australian Democrats generally have less sex suggesting a possible mechanism why this party is now defunct. Further results show that homophobia is stronger on the political right and suggest that political and sexual liberal attitudes have a stronger common foundation in females than in males. Possible reasons are discussed at the presentation.*