
Title of the project: The Dynamics of Gender Polarization (GPOL)

Contact: Eva Anduiza (PI)

Web page: <https://webs.uab.cat/grdec/projects/>

What?

The project "**The Dynamics of Gender Polarization (GPOL)**" aims to analyse gender polarization in Spain by addressing it through three main dimensions: gender gaps in political attitudes and behaviour, public attitudes towards gender-related issues (such as quotas or reproductive rights), and social perceptions of feminism as a political movement.

Who?

Led by **Eva Anduiza Perea** from the **Democracy, Elections and Citizenship (DEC)** research group, the team is composed of researchers from various institutions (Florida International University, Leuphana University Lüneburg, ICPS) who maintain close collaboration and have previous experience working together.

Why?

The GPOL project is motivated by the increasing prominence of gender in contemporary politics. This growing relevance is evidenced by several factors: the visibility of protests against sexual violence, the media salience of gender-related terms, and changes in regulations concerning gender issues (such as quotas, reproductive rights, or gender-based violence).

Recent research has shown that gender-related attitudes have become a key dimension of party competition in contemporary democracies, with significant electoral implications.

Despite the growing importance and politicization of gender issues, the existing literature often focuses on other domains (such as the economy or immigration). Therefore, the goal of the GPOL project is to assess the role that gender, as a central axis of conflict, has played in shaping changes in citizens' attitudes and behaviour. Gender is not just a topic but a set of issues that form a complex web of preferences.

How?

The project will employ a longitudinal methodology, primarily based on the **POLAT panel** and additional survey and media analysis data, in order to generate knowledge that can help mitigate polarization and strengthen public support for equality policies. It will draw on data from the **POLAT Panel (2010–2027)**, the **European Social Survey (ESS) (2002–2026)**, and **CEO (Centre for Opinion Studies) surveys (2024–2027)**. The project will include, among other components, **two additional POLAT panel waves**, complemented by an **additional GPOL cross-sectional survey** (N=2000, planned for 2026) and **press data from four major Spanish newspapers**.

When?

The project, launched in **September 2025**, is expected to last **36 months**.