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Gender quota and female representation.

The state of play

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Outline

- History of the quest for «female representation»
- The European variance
- Cultural and institutional mechanisms of enforcement
- The impact of quotas and alternation of candidate: an exercise on the Italian case
- From the female «recruitment» to the study of Female political careers

The quest for female representation

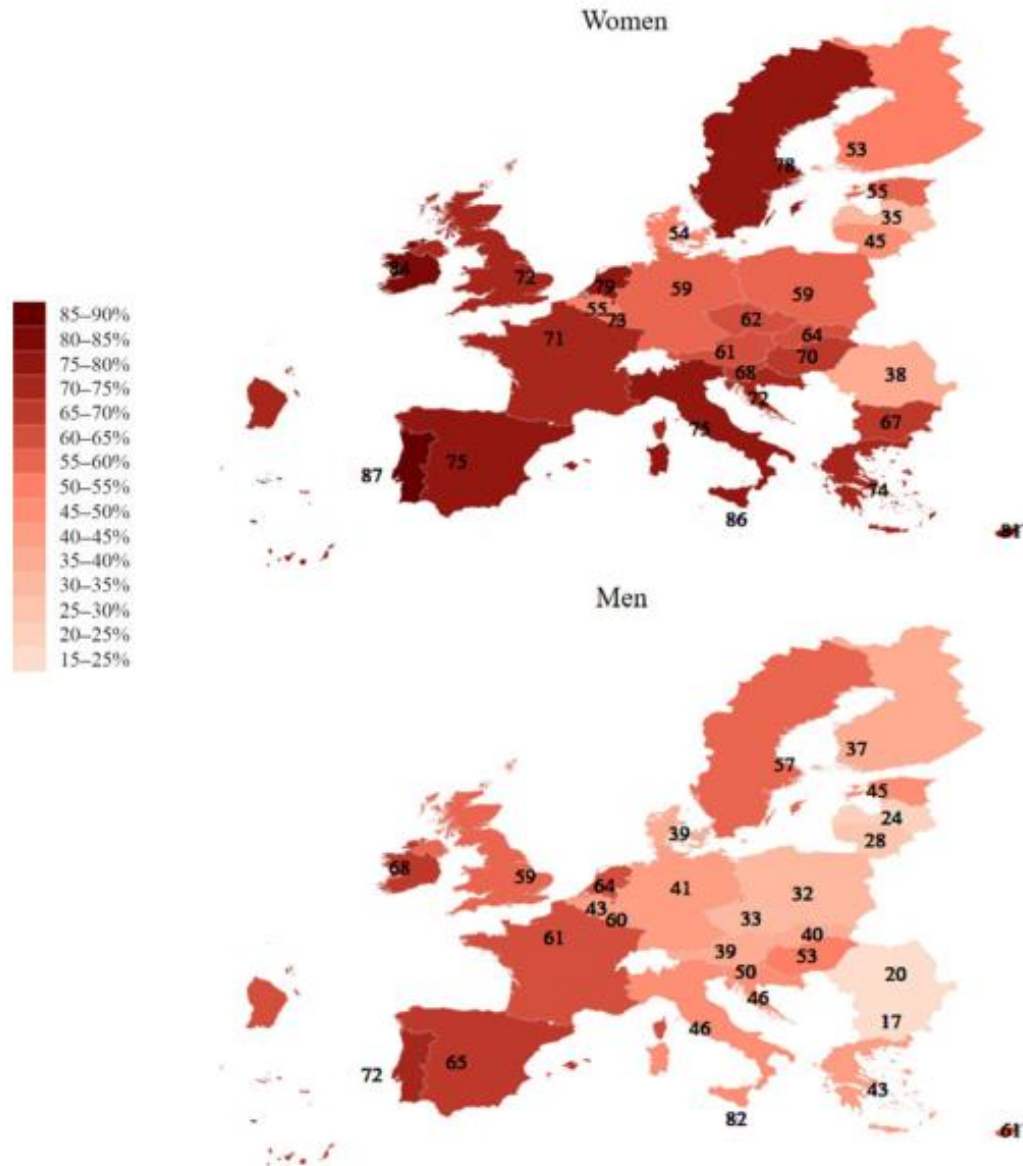
- Enlargement of the suffrage (1920-1950) in the Western area accompanied by a debate on direct representation of women
- First «feminist movements» during the sixties
- European Parliament resolutions on female representation (1989)
- Introduction of a system of quota in several local assemblies (1985-2000)
- Debate on «feminist theory of representation» (Philips, *The politics of presence*, 1998).

The current situation (% female MPs in lower chambers, June 2023)

Americas		34.6%
	Caribbean	40.7%
	North America	37.6%
	South America	31.1%
	Central America	29.5%
Europe		31.4%
	Nordic countries	45.8%
	Western Europe	36.4%
	Southern Europe	29.0%
	Central and Eastern Europe	25.7%

Sub-Saharan Africa		26.7%
	East Africa	32.1%
	Southern Africa	31.1%
	Central Africa	22.3%
	West Africa	19.2%
Asia		21.7%
	Central Asia	25.6%
	South East Asia	23.2%
	East Asia	22.9%
	South Asia	16.5%
Pacific		19.7%
	Australia and New Zealand	43.5%
	Pacific Islands	6.6%
Middle East and North Africa		17.7%
	Middle East	18.1%
	North Africa	17.1%

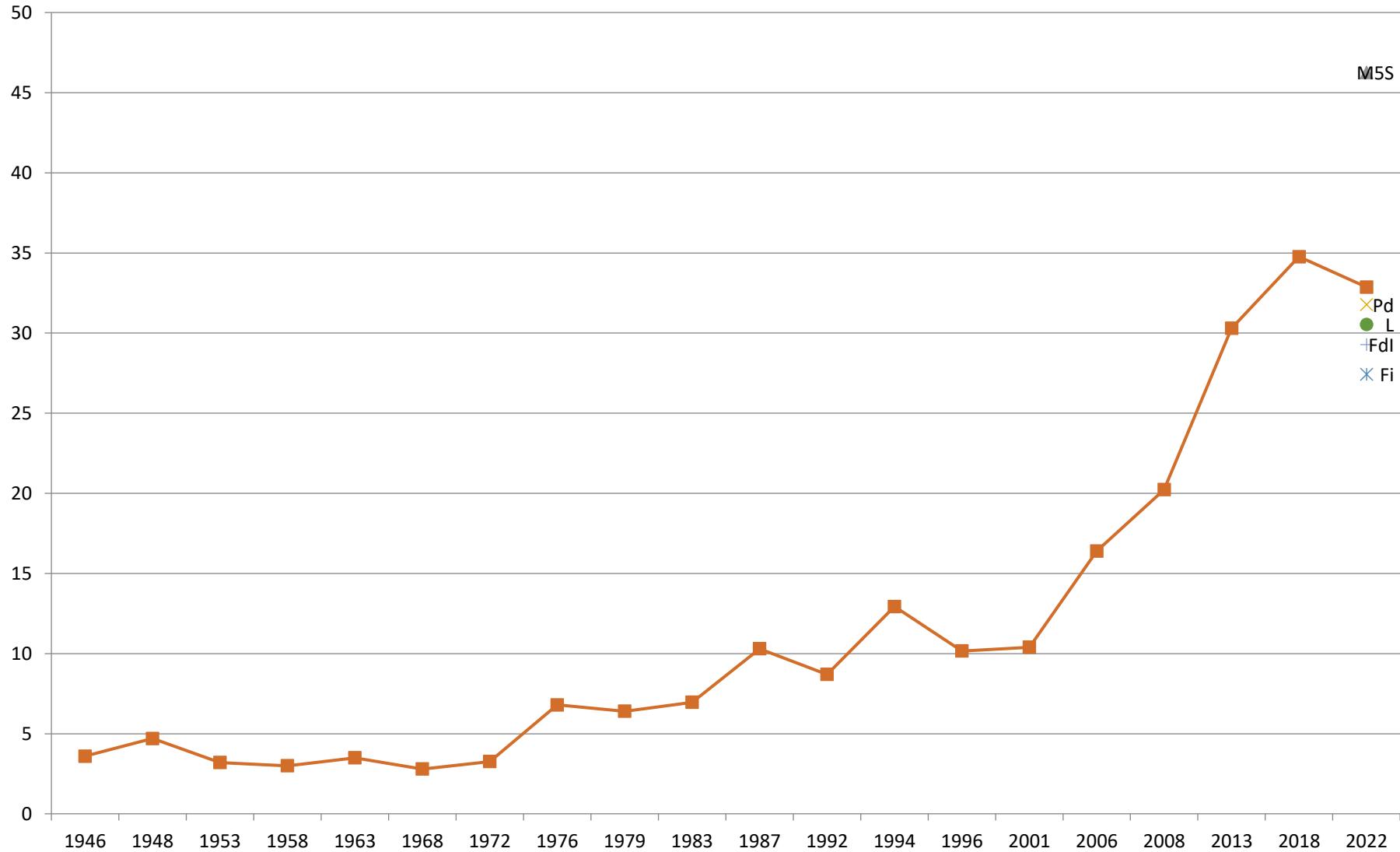
% population saying there should be more women in politics, 2017



- Even in Europe, still a evident misperception from male public opinion on the need of gender representation
- A general pattern but
- Particular situation in South Europe and Central-Eastern Europe

Female representation in the Italian lower chamber.

Institutional mechanisms and cultural constraints



Career patterns of Male and Female representatives

- New questions about the resilience of female representation: from «capability to enter the ruling class» to «capability to impact the ruling class»
- New feminist theory approach: the glass ceiling argument and the logic of presence (women representing women)
- Do the «quota system» help the consolidation of the ruling class?

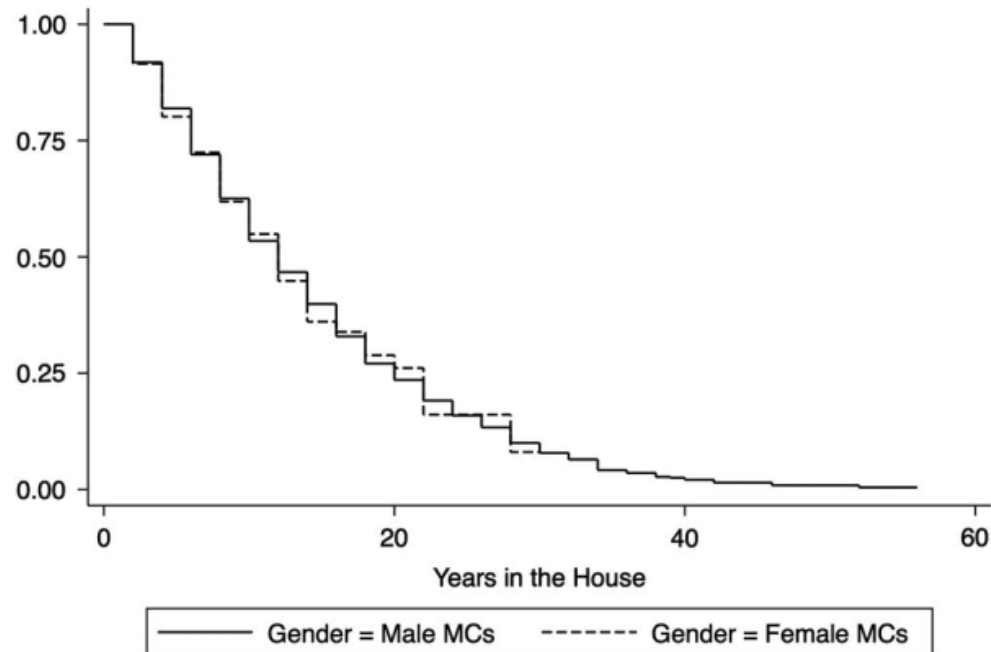
The case of US Congress

Average tenure (years)

All MCs	10.26
Male MCs	10.56s
Female MCs	7.76

The Survival of Males and Females in the US House of Representatives

Kaplan-Meier Survival Estimates



- Recruitment patterns of Male and Female representatives very similar in the US

As well as the Structural difference between female and male representatives in the US Congress

The «tail» of the long career is much longer for the male segment