Predicting the Rise of EU Right-Wing Populism in Response to Unbalanced Immigration

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If a single concern starts dominating over all others among humans, a society can go through radical political and economic changes, but we can imagine how dreadful societal changes are likely to happen if two or more concerns occur simultaneously. It is still not well understood how a long-lasting pandemic, economic crisis, war in the proximity, and huge immigration have an impact on right-wing populism. To this end, analyzing poll data from a group of EU countries affected by the migrant crisis, we find that over the last three years the percentage of right-wing (RW) populist voters in a given country depends on the prevalence of immigrants in this country's population and the total immigration inflow into the entire EU. The latter is likely due to the perception that the EU functions as a supranational state in which a lack of inner borders means that "someone else's problem" can easily become "my problem." Next, to account for nonlinearity in data we apply varying Machine Learning Methods among which the one called Random Forest reveals that the fraction of immigrants is by far the most important factor responsible for the RW popular votes. However, after a long-lasting pandemic and economic crisis during the Russian aggression on Ukraine inflation has additionally stirred the RW populism in Germany and Austria where for Austria the fraction of immigrants and inflation are equally important, while for the Netherlands the fraction of immigrants is by far the most important. We propose a game theory model where mutations make individuals switch their strategies randomly pushing the population towards more extreme political equilibria.