




## Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr Alexander Held	
Discipline and subject area:	Humanities and Social Sciences; Sociology, Political Science and Social Sciences	
Amount and year awarded:	€2,500 in 2021	
Title of project:	Housing and Support for Right-Wing Populism	

### Summary of findings:

The research project analyses the effect of rapidly rising costs related to housing and rents on support for right-wing populist parties in advanced industrialized democracies. To identify the causal effect of an increased housing cost burden on citizens' electoral behaviour, we use large N panel data from Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom to track how increases in housing costs at the individual level over time lead to higher support for right-wing populist parties. Our key finding is that individuals who see their rents increase over time become significantly more likely to say they would vote for a right-wing populist party in national elections. These findings suggest that addressing the housing affordability crisis and the problem of rising rents that put an increasing financial burden on citizens in many Western democracies may reduce the appeal of anti-establishment, right-wing populist parties.

### Plans for continuing collaboration:

Dr Pauliina Patana from Harvard University and I are continuing to collaborate on a follow-up project that explores more fully the diverging national patterns between rising housing costs and anti-establishment support that we have found in the RIA-funded project. In addition, we have started work on a separate, but thematically related research project that analyses local opposition to the construction of wind energy projects and increased support for right-wing populism.

### Published work and publication plans:

We are currently preparing a manuscript with our findings and plan to submit it to a leading international political science journal such as the British Journal of Political Science or Comparative Political Studies in 2022.

### Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

We presented the findings from our research at two leading international political science conferences: the European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Meeting in June 2021 and the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting in September 2021.



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### **Outreach and engagement activities:**

We presented some of our results as part of a larger talk on right-wing populism in Europe at Trinity College Dublin's Political Science Department's Monday Seminar Series in October 2021. We will disseminate the key findings of our research to a wider public audience through social media (Twitter) upon completion of the project.