

Bringing women to the table: women’s inclusion in the Northern Ireland peace process

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Research Question

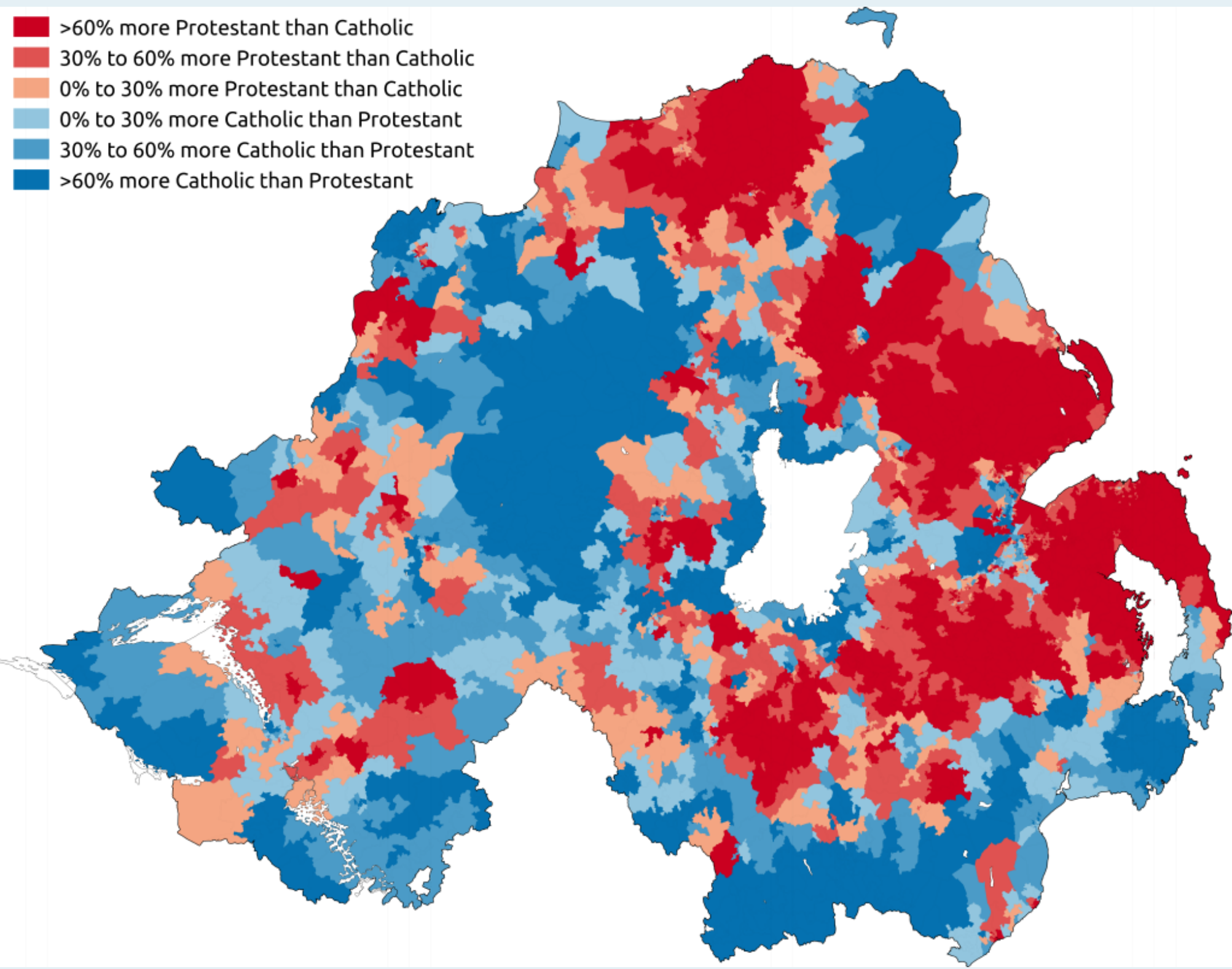
How does the inclusion of women in peace processes affect the durability of peace accords?

Methodology

I used structured, focused case comparison (SFCC) to conduct a small-n case study. I selected two agreements in the Northern Ireland Peace Process to do a within-case comparison.

Hypotheses

- H₁: In an analysis of peace processes, some combination of inclusion (either of women, armed groups, or civil society) in the peace process, along with some combination of the utilization of DDR programs and international support, is necessary for higher durability of peace processes. (SUPPORTED)
- H₂: In an analysis of peace processes, the inclusion of women, is necessary for higher durability of peace processes. (REJECTED)



Variables and Case Selection

- DV: Durability of Peace Agreements
- IV: Inclusion of Women
- IntV₁: Inclusion of Civil Society
- IntV₂: Inclusion of Armed Groups
- IntV₃: Use of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) Programs
- IntV₄: Role of International Mediation
- Cases: The Sunningdale Communiqué of 1973 and the Good Friday Agreement of 1998

Findings

Variable	The Sunningdale Communiqué	The Good Friday Agreement
DV: Durability	Not durable	Durable
IV: Inclusion of Women	Absent	Present
IntV: Inclusion of Civil Society	Absent	Absent*
IntV: Inclusion of Armed Groups	Absent	Absent*
IntV: Use of DDR	Absent	Present
IntV: Role of International Mediation	Absent	Present

Conclusions

- Conclusion₁: Some combination of inclusion (either of women, armed groups, or civil society) in the peace process, along with some combination of the utilization of DDR programs and international support, is necessary for higher durability of peace processes.
- Conclusion₂: Although the Sunningdale Communiqué did not include women and was not durable, and the Good Friday Agreement did include women and was durable, the inclusion of women was not the most significant factor in its durability.

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