

“A Test for the Rational Ignorance Hypothesis: Evidence
from a Natural Experiment in Brazil”

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Online Appendix

TABLE A1 - SUMMARY STATISTICS BY AGE SAMPLE

Sample (in age):	16.75 to 19.25			17.5 to 18.5			17.75 to 18.25		
	Mean	Standard Deviation	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
<u>Characteristics (in %)</u>									
White	0.767	0.423	3,046	0.763	0.425	1,415	0.751	0.433	756
Female	0.585	0.493	3,069	0.597	0.491	1,427	0.586	0.493	761
Mother has college education	0.666	0.472	3,058	0.655	0.475	1,418	0.664	0.472	757
Live with parent(s)	0.857	0.350	3,072	0.873	0.333	1,428	0.869	0.338	762
Works	0.072	0.259	2,806	0.081	0.272	1,302	0.086	0.280	690
Voted before	0.111	0.314	3,205	0.061	0.239	1,481	0.048	0.214	789
Responded seriously to the survey	0.931	0.253	3,167	0.934	0.249	1,463	0.937	0.243	777
Plan to apply to College	0.923	0.266	2,654	0.914	0.281	1,229	0.903	0.296	652
Frequency of church attendance (number per month)	1.211	2.950	2,759	1.299	3.182	1,287	1.320	3.184	678
Mother has a party preference	0.444	0.497	2,646	0.458	0.498	1,214	0.461	0.499	644
Universidade de Sao Paulo	0.116		3,236	0.110		1,494	0.113		794
Anglo Vestibulares	0.667		3,236	0.649		1,494	0.635		794
Public High School	0.217		3,236	0.242		1,494	0.252		794
<u>Outcomes</u>									
Voted in the 2010 Election	0.719	0.450	3,224	0.711	0.453	1,488	0.716	0.451	790
% Correct answers in the political quiz	0.555	0.200	3,236	0.551	0.199	1,494	0.549	0.196	794
% Correct answers in questions concerning parties	0.550	0.197	3,236	0.547	0.195	1,494	0.547	0.191	794
% Correct answers in questions concerning policies	0.538	0.255	3,236	0.538	0.252	1,494	0.544	0.252	794
Identified the most right-wing party	0.707	0.455	3,236	0.686	0.464	1,494	0.679	0.467	794
Always reads political section of newspapers	0.603	0.489	2,211	0.609	0.488	1,016	0.612	0.488	536
Frequency of following politics in:									
Newspapers or magazines	2.280	2.018	3,176	2.226	1.971	1,460	2.253	1.962	778
TV news	3.521	2.057	3,206	3.549	2.062	1,480	3.513	2.065	785
Internet	3.267	2.364	3,183	3.242	2.351	1,469	3.232	2.353	780
TV political campaigns	6.419	6.073	3,125	6.587	6.252	1,441	6.547	6.120	762
Presidential debates	1.748	1.392	3,189	1.763	1.359	1,471	1.754	1.333	781
Discusses politics with:									
Parents	0.000	1.000	3,219	-0.026	0.991	1,486	-0.021	0.993	791
Friends	0.001	0.999	3,230	-0.008	0.985	1,492	-0.011	0.970	793
Correct assessment about his/her requirement to vote' status	0.954	0.210	2,851	0.924	0.264	1,323	0.894	0.308	700

TABLE A2 - SELF-REPORTED TURNOUT BY AGE

Age on Election Day of Reported Vote	Current Vote	Retrospective Vote	p-value (I=II)
	Year of Birth (Election of Reported Vote)		
	1992 (2010) (I)	1988 (2006) (II)	
17.47	23.81 <i>84</i>	42.11 <i>19</i>	10.76
17.55	35.37 <i>82</i>	34.62 <i>26</i>	94.50
17.63	37.18 <i>78</i>	50.00 <i>22</i>	28.30
17.71	42.86 <i>84</i>	35.29 <i>17</i>	56.85
17.79	39.60 <i>101</i>	53.33 <i>15</i>	31.79
17.88	57.01 <i>107</i>	52.94 <i>17</i>	75.57
17.96	61.34 <i>119</i>	62.50 <i>16</i>	92.96
18.04	85.00 <i>140</i>	83.33 <i>18</i>	85.40
18.12	86.34 <i>161</i>	100.00 <i>11</i>	19.14
18.21	81.94 <i>155</i>	87.50 <i>8</i>	69.04
18.29	85.71 <i>161</i>	90.00 <i>10</i>	70.70
18.37	90.44 <i>136</i>	62.50 <i>8</i>	1.44**
18.45	87.58 <i>161</i>	75.00 <i>8</i>	30.50
18.53	89.74 <i>156</i>	80.00 <i>15</i>	25.40
<u>Aggregated Sample by [age]</u>			
Voluntary Voting: [17.5, 18]	43.97 <i>655</i>	46.21 <i>132</i>	63.66
Compulsory Voting: [18,18.5]	86.64 <i>1,070</i>	83.33 <i>78</i>	41.17

Notes: Numbers of observations are in italics. Current vote rates (in Column I) are based on self-reported vote participation in the 2010 Election. Retrospective vote rates (in Column II) are based on responses recovered from a multiple choice question about the first election they voted.

Table A3- First Stage Results

	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
Older than 18 on Election Day	0.1859 [0.0441]***	0.2694 [0.0320]***	0.1855 [0.0460]***	0.1414 [0.0637]**
Mean dependent variable for younger than 18	0.3739	0.3739	0.4693	0.5321
F-statistics	91.14	103.53	26.57	9.96
age polynomial	Quadratic	Linear	Linear	Linear
Sample in age	[16.75, 19.25]	[16.75, 19.25]	[17.5, 18.5]	[17.75, 18.25]
N	3,013	3,013	1,397	747

Notes: The dependent variable is an indicator for whether the participant voted in the 2010 Election.

Entries represent OLS regression results including age polynomial controls fully interacted with a dummy for age 18 or older, school fixed effects and indicators for whether the respondent voted before, mother education, race and gender. Huber White standard errors are in brackets.

*** significant at the 1 percent level, ** significant at the 5 percent level

TABLE A4 - IV EFFECTS OF VOTER TURNOUT ON EXTRA POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE VARIABLES

Method	Sample (in age)	Specification	Dependent Variable:			N
			% Correct answers in questions concerning:		Identified the most right-wing party (among two alternatives)	
			Parties	Policies		
OLS	[16.75, 19.25]	Second order polynomial in age and demographics	0.0699 [0.0094]*** <i>0.5055</i>	0.0636 [0.0123]*** <i>0.4964</i>	0.0763 [0.0225]*** <i>0.5546</i>	3,013
OLS	[16.75, 19.25]	Linear polynomial in age and demographics	0.0672 [0.0093]** <i>0.5055</i>	0.0631 [0.0121]*** <i>0.4964</i>	0.0802 [0.0221]*** <i>0.5546</i>	3,013
IV	[16.75, 19.25]	Second order polynomial in age and demographics	0.0752 [0.0999] <i>0.5055</i>	-0.1195 [0.1352] <i>0.4964</i>	0.1199 [0.2503] <i>0.5546</i>	3,013
IV	[16.75, 19.25]	Second order polynomial in age and no demographics	0.0768 [0.0949] <i>0.5055</i>	-0.1239 [0.1289] <i>0.4964</i>	0.1522 [0.2358] <i>0.5546</i>	3,196
IV	[16.75, 19.25]	Linear polynomial in age and demographics	0.0005 [0.0501] <i>0.5055</i>	-0.0367 [0.0655] <i>0.4964</i>	0.2051 [0.1238]* <i>0.5546</i>	3,013
IV	[17.5, 18.5]	Linear polynomial in age and demographics	0.0259 [0.1027] <i>0.5137</i>	-0.0834 [0.1369] <i>0.5113</i>	0.1224 [0.2589] <i>0.5672</i>	1,397
IV	[17.75, 18.25]	Linear polynomial in age and demographics	0.0757 [0.1905] <i>0.5208</i>	-0.3797 [0.3064] <i>0.5319</i>	-0.3157 [0.4939] <i>0.5957</i>	747

Notes: Entries are IV regressions results from a age polynomial fully interacted with a dummy for age 18 or older, school fixed effects and an indicator for whether the respondent voted before. Demographics include mother education, race and gender. Huber White standard errors are in brackets. In italic is the mean dependent variable for younger than 18.

***Significant at the 1 percent level, **Significant at the 5 percent level, *Significant at the 10 percent level.

TABLE A5 - RD ESTIMATES FOR DISCONTINUITIES AT AGE 18

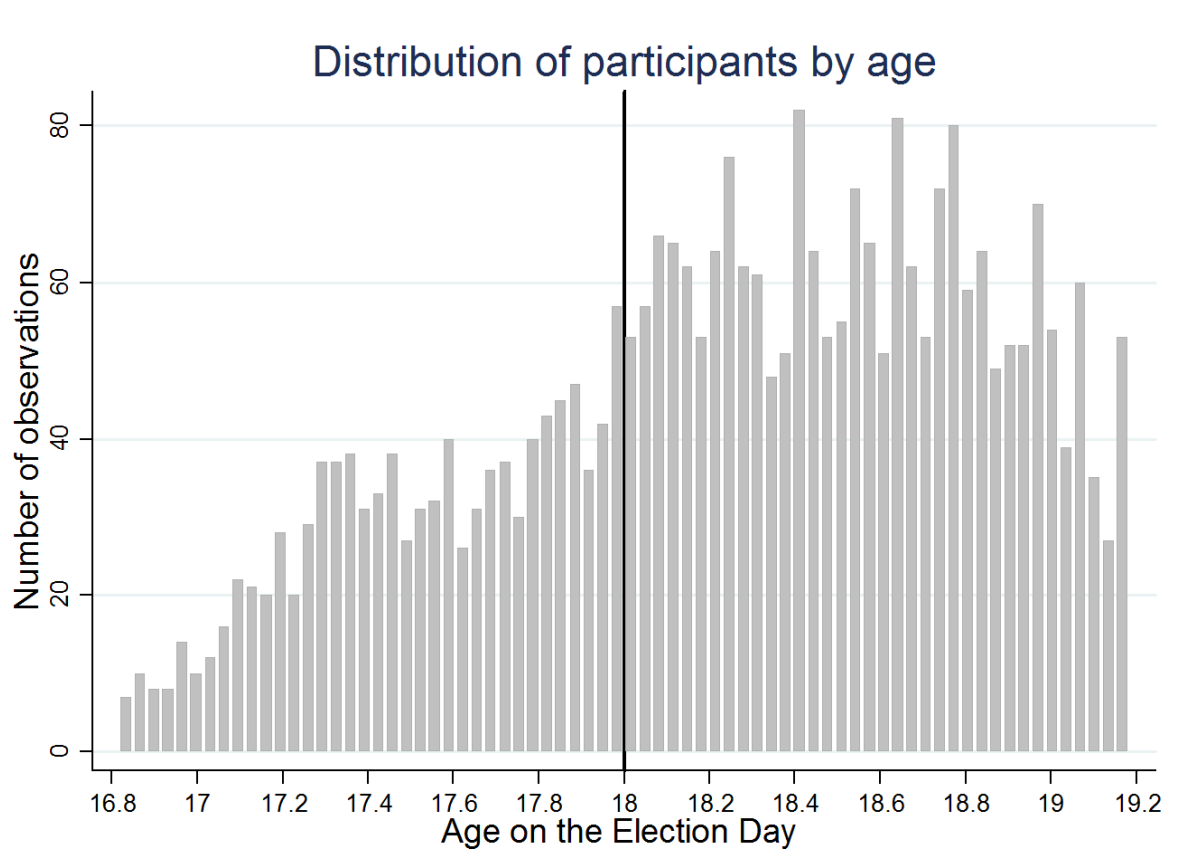
	Parametric estimates by Age Functional Form and Sample							Non-parametric estimates by bandwidth (in months)			
	[1]	[2]	[3]		[4]		[5]	[6]	[7]		
	Quadratic	Linear	N	Linear	N	Linear	N	12	9	6	N
<u>Dependent Variable:</u>											
% Correct answers in the political quiz	-0.0009 [0.0184]	0.0012 [0.0132]	3,019	-0.0009 [0.0188]	1,399	-0.0179 [0.0262]	749	0.0035 [0.0136]	0.0035 [0.0155]	-0.0012 [0.0187]	3,026
<u>Consumption of Information</u>											
Always reads political section of newspapers	0.0441 [0.0598]	0.0207 [0.0433]	2,082	0.0466 [0.0615]	951	0.1337 [0.0855]	507	0.0223 [0.0429]	0.0256 [0.0492]	0.0691 [0.0595]	2,087
Discusses politics with:											
Parents	0.0515 [0.1004]	0.0470 [0.0732]	3,005	0.0550 [0.1048]	1,392	0.0931 [0.1401]	747	0.0427 [0.0733]	0.0547 [0.0840]	0.0981 [0.1014]	3,011
Friends	0.1295 [0.1012]	0.0776 [0.0720]	3,017	0.1048 [0.1050]	1,399	0.0560 [0.1447]	749	0.0954 [0.0734]	0.1050 [0.0836]	0.0969 [0.1004]	3,022
Frequency of following politics in:											
Newspapers or magazines	-0.0224 [0.1994]	-0.0803 [0.1461]	2,961	0.0074 [0.2043]	1,365	-0.0671 [0.2815]	733	-0.0342 [0.1470]	-0.0651 [0.1683]	-0.1495 [0.2035]	2,968
TV news	0.1791 [0.2099]	-0.1524 [0.1533]	2,990	0.2677 [0.2150]	1,385	0.4887 [0.2911]*	740	0.0858 [0.1503]	0.2079 [0.1724]	0.3443 [0.2103]	2,997
Internet	0.2547 [0.2341]	0.2016 [0.1693]	2,967	0.3229 [0.2400]	1,374	0.4932 [0.3336]	735	0.2331 [0.1715]	0.2654 [0.1961]	0.3819 [0.2375]	2,974
TV campaign	0.7799 [0.6351]	-0.3525 [0.4475]	2,918	0.7250 [0.6463]	1,351	1.1716 [0.8942]	719	0.3461 [0.4652]	0.6494 [0.5357]	1.1563 [0.6498]*	2,924
Presidential debates	0.1073 [0.1296]	-0.0465 [0.0930]	2,979	0.1458 [0.1354]	1,380	0.2174 [0.1742]	737	0.0393 [0.0977]	0.0724 [0.1109]	0.1246 [0.1334]	2,986
Vote participation	0.1859 [0.0441]***	0.2694 [0.0320]***	3,013	0.1854 [0.0460]***	1,397	0.1414 [0.0637]**	747	0.1554 [0.0323]***	0.1463 [0.0376]**	0.1465 [0.0466]**	3,018
<u>Extra Knowledge Variables</u>											
% Correct Answers on Questions concerning:											
Candidates' party affiliation	0.0144 [0.0188]	0.0012 [0.0135]	3,019	0.0057 [0.0192]	1,399	0.0092 [0.0272]	749	0.0107 [0.0137]	0.0122 [0.0157]	0.0160 [0.0188]	3,026
Candidates' Policies	-0.0227 [0.0242]	-0.0095 [0.0175]	3,019	-0.0157 [0.0248]	1,399	-0.0554 [0.0341]	749	-0.0117 [0.0181]	-0.0118 [0.0206]	-0.0238 [0.0248]	3,026
Identified the most right-wing party	0.0232 [0.0464]	0.0560 [0.0330]*	3,019	0.0237 [0.0478]	1,399	-0.0459 [0.0667]	749	0.0267 [0.0326]	0.0215 [0.0374]	-0.0032 [0.0455]	3,026
Sample (in age)	[16.75, 19.25]	[16.75, 19.25]		[17.5, 18.5]		[17.75, 18.25]		[16.75, 19.25]	[16.75, 19.25]	[16.75, 19.25]	

Notes: Entries in columns 1-4 represent OLS regression results including age polynomial controls fully interacted with a dummy for age 18 or older, school fixed effects and indicators for whether the respondent voted before, mother education, race and gender. Huber White standard errors are in brackets. Entries in columns 5-7 report estimates for differences at the boundary points of two local linear regressions using a rectangular kernel. Standard errors are calculated using the formula in Porter (2003). *** significant at the 1 percent level, ** significant at the 5 percent level, * significant at the 10 percent level.

Table A6 - Description of Variables

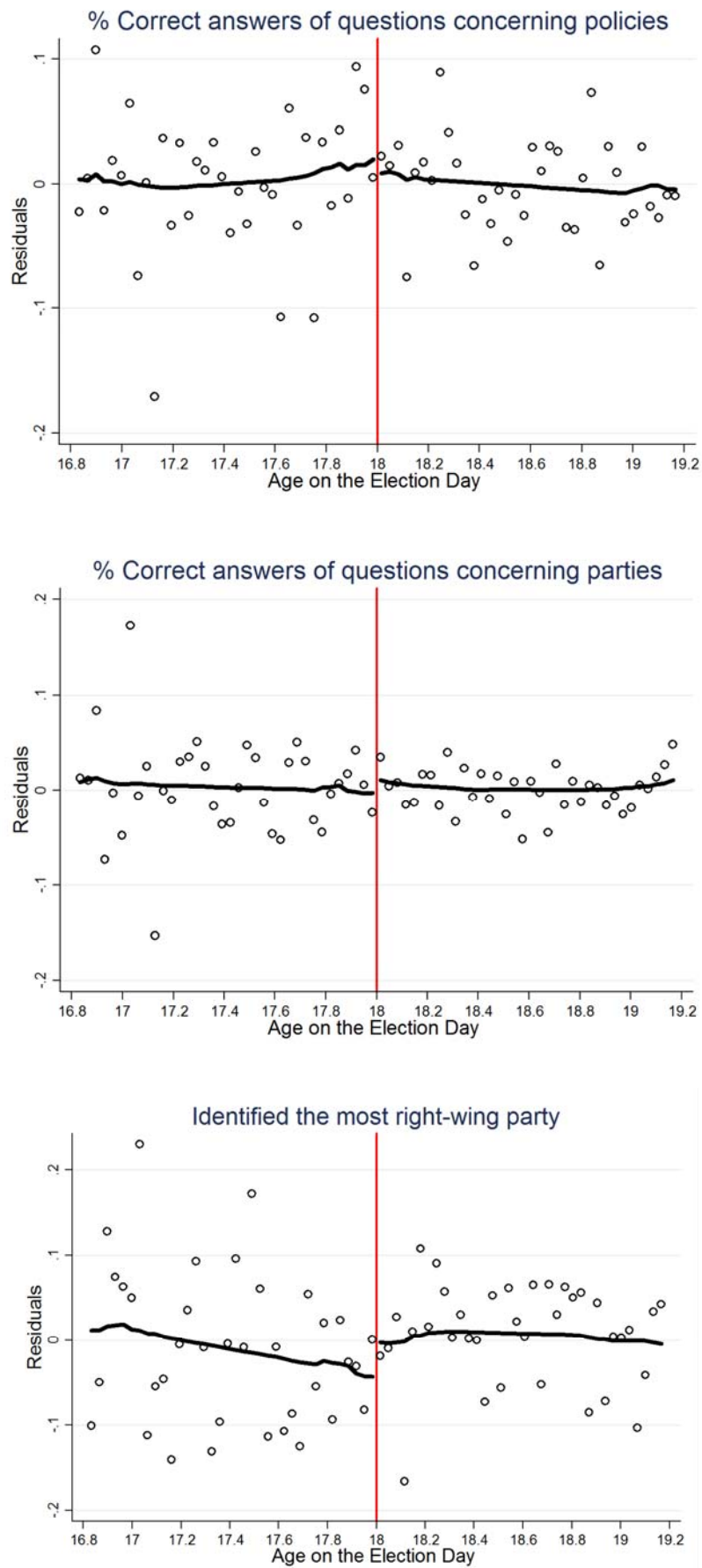
DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC VARIABLES	
White	Indicator for whether the respondent declares to be white.
Female	Indicator for whether the respondent declares to be female.
Mother has college education	Indicator for whether the respondent declares his/her mother to have some college education or more.
Live with parent(s)	Indicator for whether the respondent declares to live with at least one parent
Work	Indicator for whether the respondent declares to be in employment
Voted before	Indicator for whether the respondent declares to have voted before the 2010 Election
Responded seriously to the survey	Indicator for whether the respondent declares to have answered seriously to the survey
Plan to apply to college	Indicator for whether the respondent declares to plan to apply for college.
Frequency of church attendance	Number of days per month respondent declares to attend church
Mother has a party preference	Indicator for whether the respondent declares his/her mother prefers a political party.
Universidade de São Paulo	Indicator for whether the respondent was surveyed at USP
Anglo Vestibulares	Indicator for whether the respondent was surveyed at an "Anglo Vestibulares" school
Public High School	Indicator for whether the respondent was surveyed at a public high school
OUTCOMES	
Voted in the 2010 Election	Indicator for whether the respondent declared to have voted in the 2010 Election
% Correct answers in the political quiz	Proportion of correct answers in the entire political knowledge quiz (questions 1-14)
% Correct answers in questions concerning parties	Proportion of correct answers to questions concerning candidates' parties (questions 4-9)
% Correct answers in questions concerning policies	Proportion of correct answers to questions concerning candidates' policies (questions 1-3 and 10-13)
Identified the most right-wing party	Indicator for whether the respondent answered correctly who most right-wing party among two options (question 14)
Always reads political section of newspapers	Indicator for whether the respondent declares to always read the politics section in newspapers
Frequency of following politics in:	
Newspapers or magazines	Number of days per week respondent declares to consume political information in newspapers and magazines
TV news	Number of days per week respondent declares to consume political information from TV news
Internet	Number of days per week respondent declares to consume political information from the internet
TV political campaigns	Number of TV political campaigns watched during the 2010 electoral season
Presidential debates	Number of presidential debates watched during the 2010 electoral season
Discusses politics with:	
Parents	This is based on a multiple-choice question on the frequency of discussion about politics with parents. The options were: (a) never; (b) rarely; (c) often; (d) very often. The answers were ranked in a 4 point scale, ranging from (a) to (d), and normalized to have mean zero and standard deviation one.
Friends	This is based on a multiple-choice question on the frequency of discussion about politics with parents. The options were: (a) never; (b) rarely; (c) often; (d) very often. The answers were ranked in a 4 point scale, ranging from (a) to (d), and normalized to have mean zero and standard deviation one.
Correct assessment about his/her requirement to vote' status	Indicator for whether the respondent: (i) was 18 or older (by Election Day) and responded that he/she was required to vote on the 2010 Election or (ii) was younger than 18 (by Election Day) and responded that he/she was required to vote on the 2010 Election.

Figure A1



Each column indicates the number of observations in a 12-day interval

Figures A2



Note: Circles indicate average residual outcome values in a 12-day interval. Lines are predicted from local linear regressions using a rectangular kernel and a bandwidth of nine months.