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# The Political Behaviour of Temporary Workers

Paul Marx

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# Preface and Acknowledgements

Most of the time during the project that led to this book, I was employed on temporary employment contracts. Hence, I was pre-occupied with the topic for more than just academic reasons. Based on my experiences, I would agree with those who insist that temporary employment can be rather stressful and exhausting; and I am personally quite happy to have passed this stage. As a side note, it is somewhat ironic that it was my engagement with temporary employment that helped me get a permanent contract. In any case, I hope that my personal experiences as a temporary worker did not unduly influence my academic work on the topic. To be honest, I am rather agnostic as to whether my employment contract had any discernible influence on my political views (but, then, most temporary workers would probably see me as a rather privileged labour market participant with little reason to complain – and rightly so).

I would like to take the opportunity to thank colleagues and friends who have not only helped me finish this book, but also manage early-career angst in academia. With regard to the latter, I am deeply indebted to my (former) colleagues at the University of Southern Denmark, in particular Klaus Petersen, Patrick Emmenegger, and Jon Kvist. Gijs Schumacher not only read and commented on the articles underlying this book; he also provided much-needed reassurance after initial rejections. Bert Bakker was my go-to guy for questions about social psychology. Gijs and Bert have also contributed tremendously to cheering up expat life (as did many more colleagues to whom I am very grateful).

Various colleagues had a direct influence on this book. Werner Eichhorst got me interested in the topic of non-standard employment in the first place. The initial idea to study the political preferences of non-standard workers was developed with Georg Picot. Through our ongoing collaborations and discussions, Georg had a strong influence on this book and my general thinking about the topic (needless to say, this is not to hold him accountable for the shortcomings of my work). Patrick Emmenegger has accompanied the

project from the start and has on many occasions provided important feedback. I would also like to thank Elvire Guillaud for our joint work on the French case. An incomplete list of colleagues who have provided comments on earlier drafts includes Barbara Vis, Bruno Palier, Caroline de la Porte, Hanna Schwander, Heejung Chung, Jon Kvist, Kees van Kersbergen, Michaël Zemmour, Silja Häusermann, and Steffen Mau.

This book is partly based on published articles. While I present new and original empirical evidence, some of the theoretical arguments strongly overlap with the following publications: ‘Labour market dualisation in France. Assessing different explanatory approaches’ (published in *European Societies*, 2012, pp. 704–726), ‘Labour market risks and political preferences: The case of temporary employment’ (published in *European Journal of Political Research*, 2014, pp. 136–159), ‘Preferences for employment protection and the insider-outsider divide: Evidence from France’ (with Elvire Guillaud, published in *West European Politics*, 2014, pp. 1177–1185), and ‘The insider–outsider divide and economic voting. Testing a new theory with German electoral data’ (forthcoming in *Socio-Economic Review*). I gratefully acknowledge the contribution of various editors and reviewers.

My work on this book was supported by a postdoc grant of the Carlsberg Foundation. The data collection was generously funded by the University of Southern Denmark’s Reforming Welfare State Institutions Programme.

I would like to end with saying thank you to my family. It would take a much better writer than I am to express how grateful I am to the love and support of Anja, Jakob, and Elisabeth Marx, to whom this book is dedicated.