



## Jack Vowles

Fall 2015 Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study

### *Electoral Competitiveness and Turnout in British Elections, 1964-2010*

Analyzing the British Election Study from 1964 to 2010, Professor Vowles has examined the influence of electoral context on turnout, especially the closeness of elections in terms of lagged seat and constituency-level winning margins. Using cross-classified multilevel models to account for individual and contextual factors and disentangle life-cycle, cohort- and election-specific effects, he finds that closeness strongly affects voting behavior, particularly among new electors. Widening seat margins in British elections over the last decades have had a persistent impact on turnout. Study respondents who were exposed to less competitive environments when young are more likely to abstain in subsequent elections than those reaching voting age after close-fought races. One may conclude that variations in competitiveness have had both short- and long-term effects on turnout.

Professor's Vowles talk is open to the IU community and the general public.

**Tuesday, September 22, 12:00 pm**

**Social Science Research Commons, Woodburn Hall 200**

Event will be livestreamed at

[http://www.indiana.edu/~video/stream/liveflash.html?filename=Jack\\_Vowles](http://www.indiana.edu/~video/stream/liveflash.html?filename=Jack_Vowles)

Light refreshments will be served



**Jack Vowles** was born in England but has lived most of his life in New Zealand. His PhD is from the University of British Columbia and during his career he has been employed at the University of Auckland, the University of Waikato, and the University of Exeter in the UK. He is currently Professor of Comparative Politics at Victoria University of Wellington. A Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, he served on the Planning Committee of the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems between 2004 and 2015, and leads the New Zealand Election Study.

**The event is co-sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Study, the Department of Political Science, and the Institute for European Studies.**

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