

# Co-operation without Consequence?

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Participation in All-Party Parliamentary Groups by members of the British House of Lords versus members of the House of Commons

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Carleton University



Department of

Political Science

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

# Research problem

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- How do legislators behave when not subject to the need to compete for re-election?
- Challenge given different venues, procedures

# APG characteristics

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- Voluntary
- Informal
- Backbench driven
- Two types
  - Inter-country
  - Subject
- Externally supported



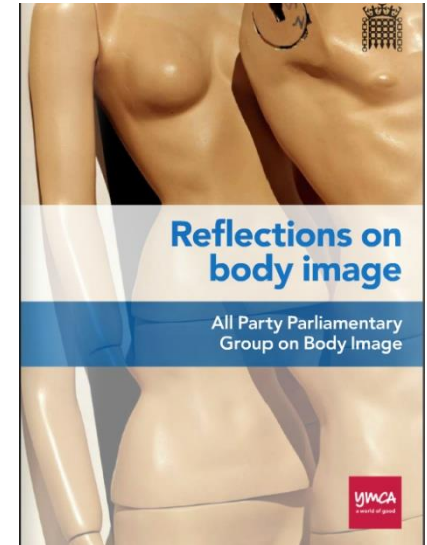
ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON  
Financial Education  
for Young People

Financial Education  
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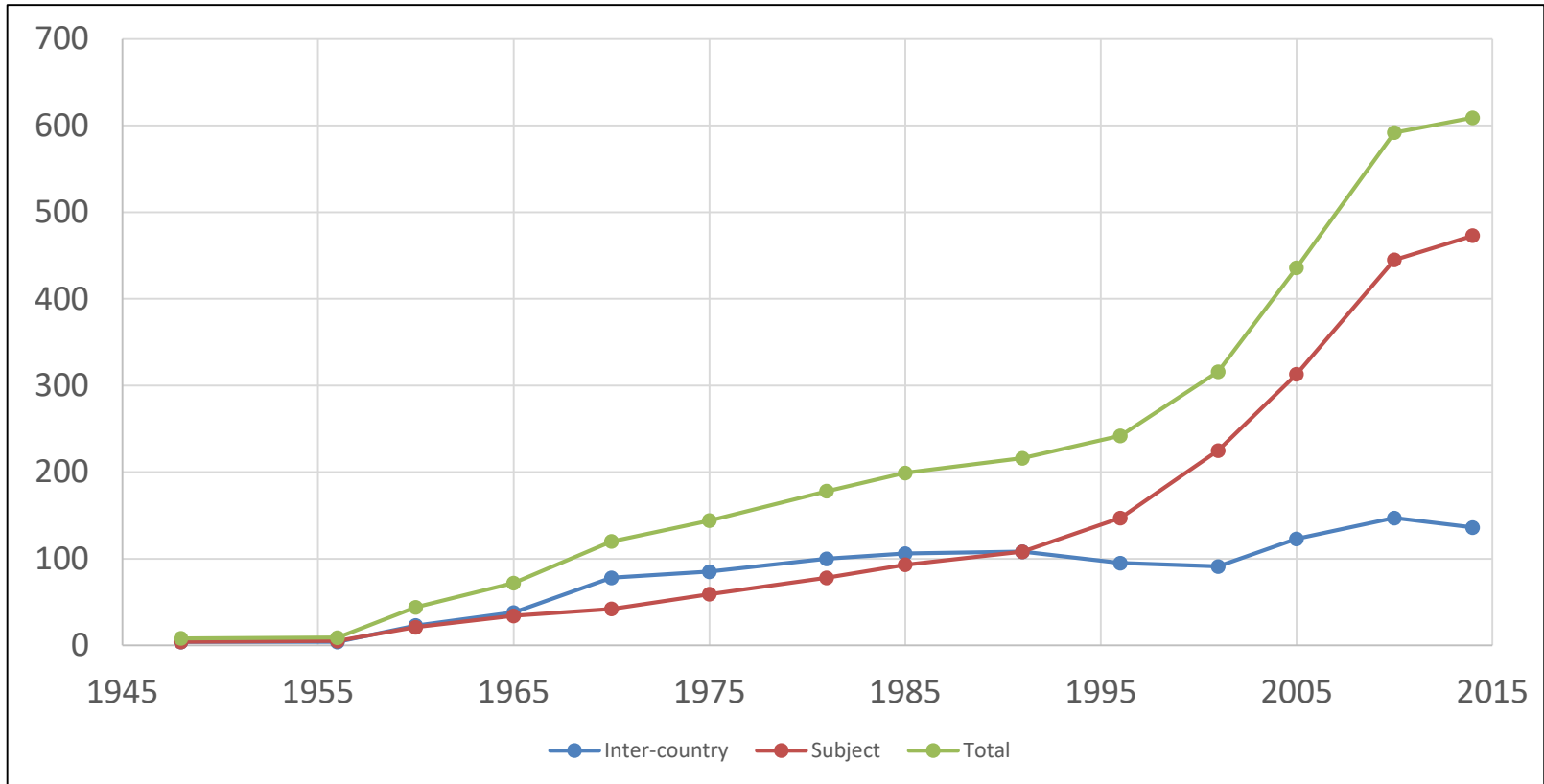
# APG activities

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- Distribute information
- Meet with stakeholders
- Conduct inquiries
- Lobby ministers
- Introduce motions and legislation
- Some policy influence



# APG Growth in the UK



# Methodology

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- Datasets on APG participation by member

# Register Of All-Party Parliamentary Groups [as at 29 March 2017]

## Afghanistan

<b>Title</b>	All-Party Parliamentary Group for Afghanistan
<b>Purpose</b>	To discuss the future of Afghanistan and provide a forum where all the aspects of the rebuilding of Afghanistan can be discussed in a constructive and non-confrontational manner.
<b>Category</b>	Country Group

<b>Officers</b>		
<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Party</b>
Chair & Registered Contact	Mrs Madeleine Moon	Labour
Vice Chair	James Gray	Conservative
Vice Chair	Jessica Morden	Labour
Treasurer	Earl of Sandwich	Crossbench

<b>Contact Details</b>
<p><b>Registered Contact:</b> Mrs Madeleine Moon MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Tel: 020 7219 0814. Email: <a href="mailto:moonm@parliament.uk">moonm@parliament.uk</a>.</p> <p><b>Public Enquiry Point:</b> Jenny Humphries, British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. Tel: 020 7633 4979. Email: <a href="mailto:jenny.humphreys@baag.org.uk">jenny.humphreys@baag.org.uk</a></p>

<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	
Date of most recent AGM in this Parliament	06/07/2016
Did the group publish an income and expenditure statement relating to the AGM above?	No
Reporting year	06 Jul to 05 Jul
Next reporting deadline	06/11/2017

<b>Registrable benefits received by the group</b>

<b>Benefits In Kind</b>				
<b>Source</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Value £s In bands of £1,500</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Registered</b>
British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group	Secretariat From : 06/07/2016 To : 06/07/2017	3,001-4,500	06/07/2016	14/07/2016

# Methodology

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- Datasets on APG participation by member
- Executive positions: 1996, 2001, 2005, 2010, 2014
- Qualifying positions: 2005, 2010, 2014
- Longitudinal data structure
- Negative binomial regression with robust standard errors



# Methodology

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## Dependent variables

- **Executive** positions held: inter-country, subject-focused, total
- **Qualifying** memberships held: inter-country, subject-focused, total

## Common independent variables

- **First-term**
- **Gender**
- **Party affiliation**
- **Front-bench positions**

# Methodology

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## MP specific variables

- Margin of victory

## Peer specific variables

- Hereditary peer
- Former MP
- Attendance as percentage of total days in session

*\*\* Peers not attending at least once excluded\*\**

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	Total	Inter-country	Subject	Total	Inter-country	Subject
	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)
Ln margin of victory	-0.0960****	0.0104	-0.1347****	-0.0878****	0.0057	-0.1165****
First term	-0.2063****	-0.7515****	-0.0449	-0.2737****	-0.7656****	-0.1735****
Female	0.0449	-0.4522****	0.1741***	0.0334	-0.3634****	0.1148**
Cons.	0.4541****	0.6452***	0.3835***	0.6830****	0.8068****	0.6558****
Labour	0.2397*	0.2908	0.2412*	0.5407****	0.5210***	0.5424****
Lib Dem	0.8126****	0.3761	0.9354****	0.6180****	0.1400	0.7252****
Gov. minister	-2.2194****	-2.3007****	-2.2009****	-1.3403****	-1.6227****	-1.2728****
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Female	0.6275****	0.2524	0.7436****	0.5247****	0.2407*	0.6008****
Cons.	-0.5582****	-0.4890***	-0.5481****	0.0414	-0.0775	0.1207
Labour	-0.0359	-0.0979	0.0390	0.3965****	0.3795**	0.4295****
Lib Dem	0.1970**	-0.0363	0.3138***	0.4960****	0.4066**	0.5500****
Gov. spokes	-2.3895****	-1.4765**	-3.0383****	-0.9053****	-0.8842**	-0.9181****
Shadow spokes	-0.1863	-1.0741****	0.0550	-0.2246*	-0.7918****	-0.0820
Hereditary	0.1138	0.2959	0.0609	0.3748****	0.5581***	0.2960***
Former MP	0.6804****	1.1739****	0.3936****	0.5520****	1.0016****	0.3476****
Attendance	0.0276****	0.0308****	0.0256****	0.0219****	0.0270****	0.0198****

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Labour	-0.0359	-0.0979	0.0390	0.3965****	0.3795**	0.4295****
Lib Dem	0.1970**	-0.0363	0.3138***	0.4960****	0.4066**	0.5500****
Gov. spokes	-2.3895****	-1.4765**	-3.0383****	-0.9053****	-0.8842**	-0.9181****
Shadow spokes	-0.1863	-1.0741****	0.0550	-0.2246*	-0.7918****	-0.0820
Hereditary	0.1138	0.2959	0.0609	0.3748****	0.5581***	0.2960***
Former MP	0.6804****	1.1739****	0.3936****	0.5520****	1.0016****	0.3476****
Attendance	0.0276****	0.0308****	0.0256****	0.0219****	0.0270****	0.0198****

	Executive posts – Peers			Memberships held – Peers		
	Total	Intercountry	Subject	Total	Intercountry	Subject
	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)	Coef. (SE)
First term	-0.6756****	-0.6276****	-0.6882****	-0.7386****	-0.8131****	-0.7131****
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# Conclusions

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- Peers less involved than MPs
- Yet similar factors shape APG involvement for both MPs and Peers
- Impact of gender particularly surprising
- Odd that Labour, LD show consistent results but not Conservative
- Rise of former MPs may change dynamics
- Imposing tougher attendance requirement may shape results

# Thanks!

## Questions?

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