

Hiding Behind the Party Brand or Currying Favor with Constituents: Why Do Representatives Engage in Different Types of Constituency-Oriented Behavior?*

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Abstract: Why do representatives prioritize certain types of constituency service in parliamentary systems? This study argues that the choice for constituency-oriented activities is conditioned by both partisan factors and legislative role orientations. Two novel datasets combining behavioral and attitudinal measures of constituency-oriented behavior are used for empirical tests: an elite survey including detailed interviews with 204 members of the Turkish parliament and 4,000 parliamentary questions tabled by these members. The results from a series of ordered logit, OLS, and negative binomial regression estimations confirm that members of parliament choose different types of constituency-oriented activities based on their visibility to the party leadership and their constituency. This choice is primarily driven by partisanship and MPs' perceptions about the influence of party leader in re-nomination. The analysis provides important insights about the role of partisan factors as drivers of parliamentary behavior.

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Introduction

There is a plethora of research confirming the importance of constituency service in parliamentary systems (Lancaster, 1986; Strøm, 1997; Kerevel, 2015; Soroka, Penner and Blidook, 2009; Denmark, 2000; Tavits, 2009). However, our understanding of why representatives choose one type of constituency service over others, especially in parliamentary systems, remains meager. Representatives may engage in different kinds of constituency-oriented activities like ensuring the provision of benefits to a district, spending time to help constituents, pursuing public investments for an electoral district, or by asking constituency-centered parliamentary questions (PQs) on the floor. Why do members of parliament (MPs) choose to pursue different types of constituency-oriented activities? Which institutional and partisan factors affect this choice?

We argue that MPs' choice for engaging in different types of constituency service will be primarily driven by legislative role orientations and partisanship. We map these factors to constituency service activities based on their visibility to the party leadership and the constituents to generate several testable hypotheses about parliamentary behavior. It is proposed that representatives holding constituency-centered roles should be more likely to engage in activities that directly engage the constituents and less likely to spend time on activities appealing the party leadership compared to the MPs holding partisan roles. We offer two hypotheses related to partisanship. First, MPs will engage in constituency service activities satisfying the party leadership if they perceive the party leader as the most influential actor in re-nomination. Secondly, representatives whose ideological preferences deviate from the average party ideology should pursue

constituency-oriented activities that are visible to their constituents. Furthermore, we argue that the behavior of MPs will differ along the partisan lines.

We use two novel datasets to conduct empirical tests of these hypotheses. The first dataset includes detailed interviews with 204 members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM) conducted during the 22nd legislative term (2002-2007). The second dataset covers over 4,000 parliamentary questions tabled by these MPs. The Turkish case provides an opportunity for examining the question in hand in the context of an emerging party system and high level of competition among MPs for re-nomination during the 22nd term.

The results of multivariate estimations show that constituency-minded representatives frequently engage in activities increasing their visibility among the constituents (constituency hour, pork-barrel politics). This dynamic is especially prevalent among members of the opposition party. MPs who believe that party leadership has the most influence in candidate selection, however, are more likely to ask PQs than spending their times in solving the problems of constituents or engaging in pork-barrel activities. These results remain robust to several alternative specifications.

Our analysis corroborates the utility of a new method that uses non-legislative parliamentary activities for measuring representational focus while at the same time showing the effect of self-reported role conceptions and partisanship on parliamentary behavior. This study provides a highly nuanced explanation about the reasons for MPs' swaying between the party and the constituency in parliamentary systems and provides important insights about democratic representation. We make a novel contribution to the

literature by highlighting the effect of perceived strength of party leadership on parliamentary behavior.

Legislative Role Orientations and Constituency Service

There is no dearth of scholarship on constituency-oriented behavior in democratic systems (Mayhew, 1974; Fenno, 1978; Cain, Ferejohn, and Fiorina, 1984; Shepsle and Weingast, 1981). While studies of the American Congress have focused on the electoral advantages of constituency-oriented behavior, most research in the European context has examined parliamentary roles and socialization.

The distinction between the two research traditions, however, is stylistic and generally overstated. Earlier research on constituency-oriented behavior in parliamentary systems has highlighted role orientations (Wahlke et al., 1962; Searing, 1994). In an astute analysis of parliamentary roles, Strøm (1997) argues that MPs are rational individuals who try to use their scarce resources to attain four hierarchically ordered career goals: re-selection, re-election, party office, and legislative office. Following Strøm's approach, we assume that re-selection and re-election are the two most important goals for MPs motivating them to engage in different types of constituency-oriented activities.

Given the complex situation an MP faces in decision-making, a distinction between constituency service that requires considerable amount of time and investment, such as spending hours to help constituency in solving their problems, and those that require minimal effort but are highly visible to party leadership, such as asking PQs about constituency related issues, gains a great deal of importance. For example, tabling PQs in

legislative sessions provides backbench MPs with the opportunity of ‘being noticed by party leadership’ with the added advantage of sending a signal to local supporters (Rush and Giddings, 2011: 88; Franklin and Norton, 1993). PQs are less time consuming activities compared to the constituency service activities that require direct contact, a good deal of time, and continuous efforts by the MPs.

If an MP prefers to be a ‘constituency servant’ (Searing, 1994), she may choose to engage in activities requiring significant time and effort. MPs may also find strategic value in this type of constituency service to appeal to the party leadership. Party leaders, presumably, value constituency service for increased electoral gains in a given district (Lancaster, 1986; Strøm, 1997). While it may be difficult to allocate an MP’s contribution to specific electoral gains in multi-member districts, party leaders are usually well aware of MPs’ activities through primaries, communications with local party branches, and informal channels. While this logic should apply to all representatives in parliamentary systems, MPs from opposition parties may especially engage in this behavior to increase their chances of re-election by winning the trust of the party leader and gaining new voters in the district. Therefore, MPs holding constituency-centered roles will frequently engage in activities to boost their image as a constituency servant and to increase their chances of office through credit-claiming (Kerevel, 2015).

A similar dynamic could also be in place for a special type of ‘low-cost high-gain’ constituency service: pork barrel. A pork barrel project is attractive because it allocates funds toward an electoral district with minimal cost to the inhabitants while at the same time increasing the worth of the representative (Weingast Sheple, and Johnson, 1981). Although this mechanism will be less visible in large districts where the effect of

electoral marginality and credit-claiming may be more dubious, MPs may be able to delineate their efforts from the others by engaging in a signaling game with the central party organization. Especially representatives from the ruling party will be more likely to pursue pork for their district since they have a better chance of obtaining these given their party's control over investment resources relative to opposition MPs (Golden and Picci, 2008).

Overall, a representative banking on the reputation of being “constituency servant” will engage in service activities that demand significant time and effort. Through increased contact with the constituents, the MP is likely to increase her worth to the party and earn credibility in the eyes of her supporters. MPs holding partisan roles will pursue activities that are easily visible to the party leaders. One such activity is asking constituency-oriented PQs. Asking parliamentary questions is not as time-intensive as other activities requiring direct contact with the constituents. However, a representative asking constituency-oriented PQs signals to the party leaders that she cares about constituents and actively pursue their interests. Since PQs are generally used to obtain information about government policies, it is more likely that this tool will be more frequently utilized by opposition MPs who hold a constituency-oriented role (Green-Pedersen, 2010).ⁱ We propose the following hypotheses based on the preceding discussion:

Hypothesis 1: MPs holding a constituency-oriented role will be more likely to engage in constituency service activities that require direct contact with the constituents than those holding a partisan role.

Hypothesis 2: MPs holding a constituency-oriented role will be less likely to ask constituency-oriented parliamentary questions than those holding a partisan role.

Hypothesis 3: MPs holding a constituency-oriented role will be more likely to pursue pork-barrel projects than those holding a partisan role.

Hypothesis 4: MPs from the opposition parties who hold a constituency-oriented role will be more likely to ask constituency oriented PQs relative to the members of the ruling party.

Partisanship, Perceptions, and Constituency Service

Ideology and the influence of party leaders in candidate selection may play a significant role in the choice over different types of constituency service (Gallagher and Marsh, 1988; Mainwaring and Shugart, 1997; Schattschneider, 1942). Scholars argue that MPs with strong local ties are more likely to behave independently in parliament (Crips and Ingall, 2002; Tavits, 2009, 2010, 2011; Golden and Picci, 2008). Representatives may wish to strengthen their local ties to advance their legislative career, especially when they perceive themselves ideologically distant from the party leadership (Proksch and Slapin, 2012). MPs may compensate for this ideological deviation by pursuing constituency service.ⁱⁱ The opposition MPs whose ideological position deviates from their party will be particularly motivated to engage in time-intensive constituency service activities due to the intense competition they face within the party and from the ruling party MPs who already hold an advantage. We can, thus hypothesize:

Hypothesis 5a: As the distance between an MP's ideological position and average party ideology increases, she will be more likely to pursue constituency service that requires direct contact with the constituents.

Hypothesis 5b: Opposition MPs whose ideological position deviates from the average party position will be more likely to pursue constituency service that requires direct contact with the constituents.

Since re-selection serves as a gateway to prospect of re-election, MPs may also weigh the influence of different actors in re-nomination process before they choose to pursue certain types of constituency service. MPs' perceptions about the role of party leadership in re-nomination are crucial to understanding this choice. While it may be extremely difficult to empirically separate measures of role orientations from perceptions, we can argue that the two are conceptually distinct. Roles are longer-term commitments that are developed as a result of political socialization whereas perceptions are subjective beliefs about the rules of the game at a given time.

Holding legislative role orientations constant, members of parliament will have different views about the influence of party leaders in re-nomination process (Crisp et al., 2004; Faas, 2003; Gallagher and Marsh, 1988). When party leadership has full control over re-nomination, constituency-centered legislative behavior may cater to the party leader or party central administration (Strøm, 1997). If legislative office depends on the absolute support of party leadership, 'legislators have little incentive to work hard to improve their visibility in the eyes of the voters' (Jones et al., 2002: 658). In general, however, it is the strategic interaction between individual legislators, party leadership,

and constituents that shapes the parliamentary behavior of deputies (Hennl, 2014). The role of party leaders in this interaction is supported by the most recent studies finding that the impact of partisan activities on re-nomination cannot be ignored (Frech, 2016; Hermansen, 2016). We can expect MPs to engage in parliamentary activities according to their views of party leadership strength. When an MP subjectively assigns more weight to the party leadership vis-à-vis the constituents and local actors in re-nomination, she will engage in activities that are less time consuming but visible to the party leadership (e.g. PQs) than those requiring time and may bear fruit in the long term (e.g. constituency help).

Hypothesis 6: MPs who believe that party leadership has the most influence in candidate selection will be more likely to ask constituency-oriented parliamentary questions than engaging in other constituency activities.

Alternative Explanations

In addition to the above factors, district size, MPs' rank in the party list, and socio-economic characteristics of the district may also inform the choice about different types of constituency service. MPs ranked lower in the party list should engage in activities that require direct contact with the constituents. We expect that MPs from smaller districts will engage in all types of constituency service more frequently than those in large districts. MPs from districts with low socio-economic development should prefer asking constituency-oriented PQs and pursuing investments (pork barrel) for their constituents. We also control for gender of the MPs in the statistical estimations.

Constituency Service in Turkey

Constituency service may increase MPs' electoral worth by increasing their personal vote base. This may particularly be evident in countries where a proportional closed-list electoral system is used and legislative turnover is relatively high such as in Turkey (Somit et al., 1994, Sayari and Hasanov, 2008). It is also known that party switching is not uncommon in the Turkish system (Turan, Iba, and Zarakol, 2005). Thus, candidates may enjoy some power to maneuver between different parties thanks to their worth among the constituents.

There is some empirical evidence confirming that individual legislators pursue different types of constituency service in the Turkish context. These include promoting the interests of the constituency, helping constituents go through bureaucratic difficulties, and find jobs (Kalaycioglu 1995), and MPs engagement with their constituents (Hazama 2005; Author 1). The timing of the survey used in this study provides additional justification for investigating the choice for different types of constituency service in Turkey. The fieldwork for this survey was carried at the beginning of the 22nd legislative term (2002-2007). The post-2002 environment left Turkey with a nascent party system and a high level of uncertainty due to the unexpected transition to a new political reality in 2002. It is possible that MPs from the Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) would have given priority to constituency service activities to build a reputation in their electoral district.

This turbulent period, therefore, introduces important variation in parliamentary role orientations and perceptions of the MPs. Under these conditions, MPs can be expected to sway between the constituents and the party or in some cases engage in

different types of constituency service activities that appeal to both. Overall, the Turkish case provides several opportunities for testing the effects of parliamentary roles and partisanship on the choice of constituency service.

Data and Variables

We take advantage of two novel datasets for empirical analysis. The first dataset is a survey conducted with 204 members of the Turkish parliament in 2003-2004. The second dataset is a collection of 4000 oral PQs asked during the same term by these MPs. These novel datasets provide significant leverage for explaining MPs' choice for constituency-oriented service by combining attitudinal and behavioral indicators of parliamentary activities.

Elite surveys can provide useful information for understanding the motives of the legislators engaging in constituency-oriented behavior (Wood, 2007; Cain et al., 1984; Heitshusen et al., 2005; Martin, 2010). Self-reported role conceptions and legislative priorities as reported in elite surveys allow vigorous testing of principal motives behind parliamentary behavior. However, elite surveys do not capture the actual behavior of the parliamentarians. By observing representatives during their work-hours in the parliament, PQs provide direct evidence about representative behavior (Martin 2011). Tabling constituency-oriented PQs may signal the priorities of representatives in allocating their time and limited resources to different tasks.ⁱⁱⁱ. We operationalize different types of constituency service activities by combining attitudinal and behavioral measures.

Dependent variables: We use several measures of constituency-oriented behavior. Our first measure is the simple count of constituency-oriented parliamentary questions.

The 1982 Turkish Constitution and TBMM's rules of procedure refer to written and oral parliamentary questions as means of obtaining information about certain issues from the prime minister or the council of ministers. According to the rules of procedure, at least two working days of every week is reserved as a special time for oral questions. The MP asking the question may request further information on the floor the day her question is addressed. While opposition MPs commonly use PQs to criticize government policies or signal their loyalty to the party, PQs can also serve as an instrument for pursuing constituency service by all MPs (Hazama, Genckaya, and Genckaya, 2007, 547). In our sample, constituency-oriented PQs are 35% of all questions asked.^{iv} While only 11% of AKP members ask at least one constituency-oriented question, this ratio is 80% for MPs from the opposition party.

A team of two researchers participated in the collection and coding of the parliamentary questions after receiving intense training.^v These parliamentary questions were hand-coded and classified as constituency-oriented when (i) cities and/or towns are mentioned, (ii) issues that are specifically related to an electoral province are mentioned, and (iii) the question wording referred to organizations and events that are located in the electoral province. We present two examples of constituency-oriented PQs below.^{vi}

“Regarding the *Konya* Oncology Hospital” (03/13/2007), Ahmet Isik (MP-Konya province).

“Regarding the housing projects in the province of *Igdir*” (01/24/2007), Yucel Artantas (MP-Igdir province).

Other measures of constituency service are based on self-reported measures from the survey of Turkish parliamentarians. Questionnaires were first sent to all 550 members in late 2003 and a follow-up was conducted in early 2004. In total, 204 completed responses were received (i.e., a response rate of 37 percent). The survey produced a highly representative sample with respect to party affiliation, gender, age, and electoral districts. For example, as of fall of 2003, 65% of the MPs in TBMM were from AKP and 35% from CHP corresponding to the ratios of 66% and 34% in the survey.

Table 1 presents the five dependent variables used in the analysis. The self-reported measures of constituency service tap different activities ranging from average weekly hours spent with constituents (constituency hours) to pork-barrel activities. Some of these activities are visible to party leadership and some require direct contact with the supporters of MPs. The MPs reported that they spend a weekly average of 27 hours in dealing with constituents' problems and give priority to helping and building dialogue with the constituents (mean score of 3.7 on a scale ranging from 1-5). Some MPs prefer to spend their time on pursuing public investments for their district (pork barrel), a low cost activity that is also visible to party leadership.

Table 1 Here

Independent Variables: To measure legislative role orientations, we use the following question from the survey:

When there is a conflict between the party interest and the interests of the people in your district, what would be your preference on a scale ranging from 1 to 10 with 1 being 'always prefer party interest' and 10 being 'always prefer interests of people in the district'?

At higher values of this variable, we expect that MPs will ask fewer constituency-oriented PQs but will be more likely to engage in activities requiring direct contact with the constituents. We operationalize partisanship with three variables: deviation from the party ideology, perceptions of party leader's influence in candidate selection, and opposition status. The survey asked the respondents to specify their ideological position on a ten-point scale ranging from 1 (most left) to 10 (most right). We calculated the absolute distance between the ideological position of the respondent and that of the median member of the party to measure ideology in relation to the average score of the party.^{vii} We expect that as an MP's ideology aligns closer with the party she will be more likely to ask constituency-oriented parliamentary questions that are visible to the party leadership.

We use two survey questions to measure the perceptions of MPs about the influence of party leadership and other party branches on re-nomination:

In the last election, what was the influence of the following actors in candidate selection? (1-not at all effective and 8-a great deal of influence)

1. Party leader and central party administration
2. Party general congress

In addition to these two questions, the survey also asked about MPs' perceptions related to the influence of local party branches, local party members, and supporters in the district in candidate selection. We prefer to use perceptions of party general congress on candidate selection as a proxy for the influence of local actors for both theoretical and empirical reasons. Theoretically, party general congress represents the total effect of local actors in intra-party politics to the extent that it provides a setting where local branches,

party members, and local actors can shape party's future. As the highest authority composed of representatives from local party organizations, party congresses meet periodically (1-3 years). The Turkish intra-party competition and management of factions take place during the party general congresses, which are nationally televised and subject of great media attention. Candidates vying for party leadership and for control of central party apparatus compete fiercely to appeal to local actors. Empirically, responses to items evaluating the influence of local party actors are highly correlated and their inclusion in the statistical models results in loss of efficiency in estimation due to a high degree of correlation.^{viii} Thus, we keep perceptions about leadership and congress in the models and treat questions about the perceptions of other actors as reference category in the statistical estimations.

The survey responses to these two questions are distributed very similarly for the members of the ruling and the opposition parties. However, the data reveals some variation in responses within each party. It is possible that MPs perceptions about party leaders differ due to a high level of uncertainty and election of a large number of first-time representatives in the post-2002 environment. The observed variance in perceptions of party general congress might be the result of different weights assigned to local dynamics in candidate selection. Although primaries that give more power to local actors were not common in Turkey at the time of the survey,^{ix} local dynamics have mattered and have been closely monitored by the central party. We expect that representatives who perceive the party leader and central party administration to be most influential in candidate selection will choose to engage in constituency service activities that cater to the party leadership (constituency-oriented PQs and pork-barrel). MPs who perceive the

party general congress to be more influential will engage in activities that require direct contact and investment with the constituency.

Finally, we control for government-opposition status with a dichotomous variable (members of opposition party CHP are coded as 1 and those of AKP as 0). Due to the high pressure on MPs toward re-election, we expect that opposition MPs will be more likely to pursue to time intensive constituency service activities relative to pursuance of pork-barrel projects compared to the ruling party MPs.

We use a question asking the respondents whether they live in their districts (1) or not (0). District size, rank of placement in the party list, and an interaction term between these variables are included to control for the effect of electoral institutions. Our models also include the age and gender (female is equal to 1) of the MPs and the logged GDP per capita in US dollar for each district obtained from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK). Before conducting the empirical analysis, we collapse parliamentary questions by MPs and then match these with the survey data. The summary statistics for the independent variables in the model are presented in Appendix A.

Results

We first present the estimation results for the base models incorporating indicators of legislative role orientations, ideology, and control variables in Table 2. Model 1 runs negative binomial regression, because the dependent variable (number of constituency-oriented PQs) includes a large number of zeros with highly overdispersed data (variance larger than mean). Model 2 uses OLS regression and Models 3 to 5 utilize ordered probit.

Table 2 About Here

In all models, the main predictor of constituency-oriented role perception (conflict: party versus constituency) is significant. Models 2-5 clearly show that those who prioritize constituency role over partisan roles are more likely to perform constituency-oriented activities demanding time and direct contact with the constituents. This variable takes a negative sign in Model 1 to confirm our suspicion that MPs with constituency-centered roles are less likely to ask parliamentary questions. Together, these results confirm hypotheses 1-3.

Ideological distance from the party median appears to be statistically significant in Models 2 and 3. Thus, representatives whose ideology deviates from that of party's spend more time in dealing with constituents' problems but less time in lobbying for local investment. This is highly intuitive; lobbying for pork requires one to be highly constituency-oriented and at the same time to have strong connections with party leadership. Although demands for local investment by ideologically distant MPs may be met with great suspicion, the image of "a delivering representative" may be indicative of MP's increasing value to the party leaders that presumably want to increase party's vote share in that district.^x MPs from the opposition party (CHP) are significantly less likely to perform constituency-oriented activities, except for asking parliamentary questions. Since we hypothesized that MPs from the opposition party will prefer to engage in constituency service activities requiring more time and direct contact with the constituents, this finding remains at odds with our expectations (Hypothesis 4 and 5b). We explore this finding in more detail in the split sample analysis below.

Institutional variables exert some influence on the choice of different types of constituency service. An MP placed lower in the ballot is more likely to ask PQs, provide

help to constituents, and spend more time in establishing dialogue with them relative to an MP placed higher in the list. This effect is moderated by the district size in the negative direction. This result implies that MPs who are placed at lower ranks in the party list will engage in all kinds of constituency service but they will be less likely to do so if they are elected from larger districts.

Table 3 adds the perception-based measures of partisanship to the empirical models. We present the results for three dependent variables, constituency-oriented PQs, constituency hours, and pork-barrel activities, for a focused analysis.^{xi} The results remain unchanged with the addition of two variables controlling for perceptions of MPs about candidate selection procedures as seen in Table 3. MPs who prioritize constituency interest over party interest are more likely to spend time with constituents and lobby for local investment, and less likely to ask constituency-oriented PQs. Similar to the results presented in Table 2, ideological distance from the party median is statistically significant for constituency hour ($p < 0.05$) and pork-barrel models ($p < 0.01$), however the latter has a negative sign.

Table 3 About Here

As expected, MPs who believe that party leadership is the most influential actor in candidate selection are more likely to ask constituency-oriented PQs in parliament, but are less likely to lobby for local investment and spend time for solving the problems of constituents (Hypothesis 5). On the other hand, MPs who perceive the party general congress to be somewhat stronger in nomination decisions are less likely to ask constituency-oriented PQs ($p < 0.05$) as well as to lobby for local investments. Since party general congress represents the combined power of local party, it is not surprising to

observe that MPs who view the general congress to be more powerful in nomination process ask fewer constituency-oriented PQs. However, this perception neither makes MPs more likely to engage in pork barrel activities nor it makes them more conducive to spending time with their constituents. Overall, it is the perceptions about party leadership's role in re-selection, not the views about the role of other actors in this process, that drive the choice for the type of constituency service in the Turkish context.

Figure 1 About Here

To present substantive magnitudes for these effects, we calculate the predictive margins at different values of each variable for the models in Table 2. These are effects of the main variables on likelihood of different types of constituency service in our estimations. By and large, Figure 1 shows that an MP's choice for different types of constituency service can be explained by the effect of legislative role orientations and her perceptions about the strength of party leadership in re-selection process. When a representative favors constituents, she becomes less likely to ask constituency-centered PQs catering to the party leadership. The margin of error becomes smaller for this effect as the narrow confidence intervals reveal. For constituency hours, we observe relatively larger substantive effects in the expected direction. MPs conceiving the party leadership as the most influential actor in re-nomination are significantly less likely to spend constituency service hours (approximately ten hours less in a week). Thus, while MPs choose highly time-intensive constituency service activities, they may be less likely to do so if they view their party leader as the ultimate authority for re-nomination.

Finally, the bottom panel in Figure 1 presents the marginal effects from the ordered probit regression in Table 3 (Model 8). We present the predicted margins for the minimum and maximum response categories: not at all (1) and a great deal (5). If an MP holds a constituency-oriented role, the likelihood of pursuing investments for her district increases. However, this difference is statistically meaningful only for these MPs who strongly identify as constituents' man (higher values on the scale). We observe the opposite pattern for the effects associated with perceptions of party leadership. As MPs increasingly view the party leadership to be the most decisive actor in candidate selection, they become less likely to pursue pork barrel but still at a higher rate relative to non-pursuance.

We continue our analysis by presenting the marginal effects of ideology and opposition status on constituency-oriented parliamentary behavior in Figure 2. As an MP's ideological position deviates from that of the median member of her party, she becomes more likely to ask constituency-oriented PQs and more willing to allocate her time to help constituents relative to those whose ideology is closer to the party median. Ideological proximity to the party median, however, increases the likelihood of an MP's engagement in pork barrel activities that aim to bring economic investments to the district. This effect is statistically meaningful only when the difference between the MP's ideological position and the overall party ideology is minimal. MPs who hold extreme positions in relation to the median member of the party are not more or less likely to engage in this kind of constituency service.

Figure 2 About Here

According to Figure 2, MPs from the opposition party (CHP) are more likely to ask constituency-oriented parliamentary questions but are less likely to spend time helping their supporters solve problems relative to the members of the ruling party (AKP). The difference between the governing and opposition party MPs presents an interesting puzzle. As Table 4 demonstrates, some differences emerge between the government and opposition MPs.^{xii} Constituency oriented role (conflict) increases CHP members' likelihood of spending more time with constituents and pursuing pork-barrel projects for their districts, but does not affect the likelihood of asking PQs. These results show that opposition MPs are more conducive to pursuing activities that are highly visible to their constituents. Opposition MPs who are ideologically different from the average party ideology are also more likely to spend time with their constituents. Thus, we find support for Hypothesis 5b in our analysis. 'Ideological distance' increases the likelihood of asking PQs for the AKP members, but it decreases the likelihood of pursuing pork for CHP members. This difference might be related to the larger odds of obtaining investment projects for governing party MPs relative to the members of opposition. Furthermore, In CHP only models, MPs who believe that the party leader has the most influence in candidate selection are more likely to ask constituency-oriented PQs but less likely to pursue pork-barrel projects. Thus, these divergent patterns in MPs' behavior show that the calculus of representatives may be conditioned by their party's opposition and government status. Despite these findings that lend partial support to our hypotheses about differing behavior of opposition MPs, we interpret the split-sample results cautiously due to the small sample size in each estimation.

Table 4 About Here

Robust Analysis

The results are robust to alternative model specifications. For example, in some models we use a question asking about the time devoted for defending party policies to capture partisan role orientations with a different item. Previous research finds that explaining policies to the constituency in the district is the most important partisan role for Turkish MPs (Kim et al., 1984). Adding this alternative measure of partisan role orientation does not change the results. The coefficient for this variable is unsurprisingly positive and statistically significant in predicting activities catering to the party leadership (PQs). The results are also robust to alternative measures of perception-based indicators about the influence of local actors in candidate selection. Adding interaction terms between indicators of legislative role orientations and partisanship to the models does not alter the results.^{xiii}

One can argue that the choices regarding different types of constituency service are not independent. To account for such dependency, we also ran several seemingly unrelated regression estimations between various pairs of the dependent variables. The results are robust also to these specifications. Most of these estimations are presented in the supplemental file and additional analyses are available from the authors upon request.

Conclusion

This study contributes to the scholarship on partisanship and representation by examining the determinants of MPs' choice for different kinds of constituency-oriented

service. No single explanation provides an answer to the puzzle of why legislators choose to engage in different kinds of constituency service activities catering to the constituents or the party. The analysis of attitudinal and behavioral data in the Turkish context reveals that legislative role orientations, opposition status, and perceptions about party leaders' strength in re-nomination can be instrumental in understanding why MPs choose to engage in different types of constituency-oriented activities.

The decision to choose a certain type of constituency service activity over others is conditioned by a representative's calculus about her re-election and re-selection prospects. In addition to institutional imperatives, how MPs perceive political reality may also be consequential for parliamentary behavior. The analysis shows that legislative role orientations and perceptions about the influence of party leaders in re-nomination process matter in explaining why MPs choose one type of constituency service over the others. Spending time in the district or helping constituents with their problems can require a great deal of time and effort but at the same time it may increase an MP's worth in the district. Asking constituency-oriented PQs is less time consuming, but it may send a signal to the party leadership in their decisions to re-nominate from an existing pool of candidates. Furthermore, the analysis also clearly shows that opposition and government MPs may choose to ask PQs or pursue investment projects based on their ideology, role orientations, and perceptions of re-nomination. These findings imply that the mechanisms of MPs' behavior in parliamentary systems can be much more complex than have been previously assumed (Cain, et al, 1984; Denmark, 2000; Strøm, 1997) and that partisan factors might play a large role in this equation.

From a theoretical perspective the results have several implications. First, the analysis confirms the utility of examining the parliamentary behavior through the lens of legislative role orientations (Wahlke et al., 1962; Searing, 1994; Strøm, 1997), elite perceptions of partisan factors, and party id (Golden and Picci 2008; Green-Pedersen 2010). Second, rather than pitting the attitudinal and behavioral indicators of constituency service against each other, using these indicators in conjunction will provide significant leverage in the study of comparative parliamentary behavior. Third, it would be wise to apply the theories of parliamentary politics developed for the advanced Western democracies to nascent political systems with a wavering democratization record. In the age of ‘democratic recession’ (Diamond, 2015) where ruling party leaders are gaining significant political power, investigating the constituency-oriented parliamentary behavior in hybrid regimes such as Turkey will provide important insights about the electoral connection in democratic societies. This endeavor is particularly important in the context of the rising tide of populism and executive dominance in democratic societies.

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Table 1: Measures of Constituency Service

Variable	Item/Survey Question	Constituency or Party Focus	Scale
Constituency PQs	Count of constituency-oriented parliamentary questions asked by the MP	Party Leadership	0-665 Mean=11
Constituency Hours	On average, how many hours do you spend listening and dealing with the problems of your constituents in a given week?	Constituency	1-75 Mean=27
Constituency Help	How much time did you devote to help solve the constituents' problems in the current legislative term?	Constituency	1 Not at all-5 A great deal Mean=3.8
Constituency Dialogue	How much time did you devote to establish and strengthen the dialogue with your constituents?	Constituency	1 Not at all-5 A great deal Mean=3.7
Pork Barrel	How much time did you devote to increase the amount of public investments in your district?	Constituency and Party Leadership	1 Not at all-5 A great deal Mean=3.4

Table 2: Determinants of Constituency Service (Base Models)

	Model 1 Constituency- oriented PQs	Model 2 Constituency Hours	Model 3 Pork Barrel	Model 4 Constituency Help	Model 5 Constituency Dialogue
<i>Legislative Role Orientations</i>					
Conflict	-0.14** (0.05)	1.06** (0.48)	0.075** (0.03)	0.085** (0.04)	0.076** (0.03)
<i>Partisanship</i>					
Ideological	0.030 (0.10)	2.89*** (0.74)	-0.21*** (0.07)	0.094 (0.10)	0.038 (0.06)
Distance	4.01*** (0.49)	-7.97*** (2.84)	-0.19 (0.20)	-0.32 (0.20)	-0.38* (0.20)
Opposition					
Status (CHP)					
<i>Control Variables</i>					
List Order	0.57*** (0.17)	1.66 (1.05)	0.10 (0.07)	0.24*** (0.09)	0.14* (0.08)
District Size	-0.014 (0.04)	0.28 (0.35)	0.0015 (0.03)	0.067** (0.03)	0.032 (0.03)
District Size	-0.035*** (0.01)	-0.11* (0.05)	-0.0076** (0.00)	-0.015*** (0.00)	-0.0099** (0.00)
List Order					
Lives in	0.30 (0.26)	-2.66 (2.93)	0.16 (0.18)	0.29 (0.21)	0.14 (0.18)
District					
Logged GDP	-0.037 (0.35)	2.39 (2.63)	-0.24 (0.20)	-0.31* (0.19)	0.20 (0.19)
Education	0.045 (0.12)	-0.65 (1.07)	-0.13* (0.07)	-0.075 (0.07)	-0.14 (0.09)
Female	0.49 (0.90)	-3.97 (5.01)	0.21 (0.26)	-0.082 (0.30)	0.084 (0.33)
Total PQ	0.011* (0.01)				
Constant	-1.90 (2.63)	5.85 (21.47)			
Ln Alpha	0.45** (0.23)				
Cut 1			-3.29** (1.52)	-2.89* (1.58)	0.11 (1.48)
Cut 2			-2.56* (1.53)	-2.06 (1.56)	0.93 (1.48)
Cut 3			-1.85 (1.53)	-1.28 (1.56)	1.51 (1.48)
Cut 4			-1.23 (1.53)	-0.55 (1.56)	2.27 (1.48)
Observations	190	186	190	176	190
Model	Negative Binomial	OLS Regression	Ordered Probit	Ordered Probit	Ordered Probit

Standard errors in parentheses, * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$

Table 3: Determinants of Constituency Service (Full Models)

	Model 1 Constituency-oriented PQs	Model 2 Constituency Hours	Model 3 Pork Barrel
<i>Legislative Role Orientations</i>			
Conflict	-0.15** (0.06)	1.06** (0.49)	0.087*** (0.03)
<i>Partisanship</i>			
Ideological Distance	0.091 (0.10)	3.26*** (0.75)	-0.19*** (0.07)
Influence of Party Leadership	0.33** (0.16)	-1.45* (0.83)	-0.14*** (0.05)
Influence of Party General Congress	-0.088** (0.04)	-0.98*** (0.36)	-0.031 (0.03)
Opposition Status (CHP)	4.10*** (0.41)	-8.56*** (2.82)	-0.20 (0.20)
<i>Control Variables</i>			
List Order	0.59*** (0.17)	1.91* (1.04)	0.12* (0.07)
District Size	-0.033 (0.04)	0.27 (0.34)	0.0070 (0.03)
District Size * List Order	-0.033*** (0.01)	-0.12** (0.05)	-0.0088** (0.00)
Lives in District	0.21 (0.25)	-2.84 (2.90)	0.14 (0.18)
Log GDP	0.15 (0.31)	3.55 (2.68)	-0.24 (0.21)
Education	0.068 (0.11)	-0.50 (1.06)	-0.13* (0.07)
Female	0.20 (0.89)	-4.84 (4.96)	0.20 (0.28)
Total PQs	0.010** (0.00)		
Constant	-5.08* (2.63)	9.23 (22.84)	
Ln Alpha	0.34 (0.23)		
Cut 1			-4.19** (1.65)
Cut 2			-3.43** (1.66)
Cut 3			-2.72 (1.66)
Cut 4			-2.08 (1.66)
Observations	190	186	190
Model	Negative Binomial	OLS Regression	Ordered Probit

Standard errors in parentheses

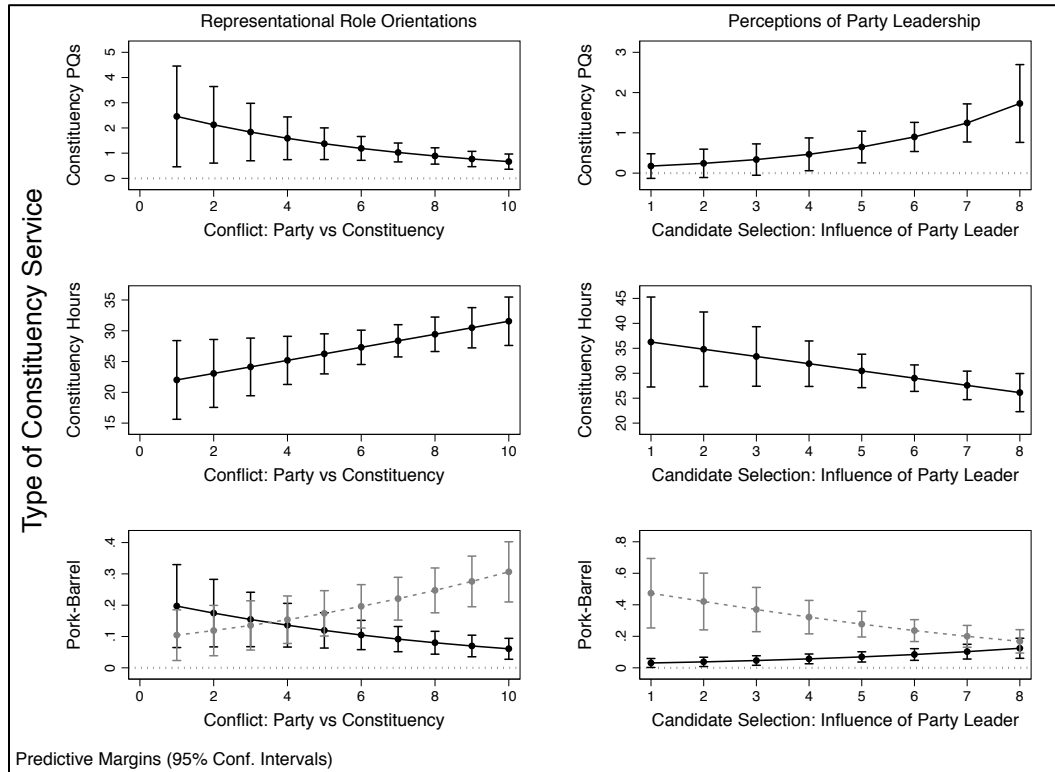
* $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$

Table 4: Determinants of Constituency Service (Split Sample Analysis)

	Constituency-oriented PQs		Constituency Hours		Pork Barrel	
	AKP	CHP	AKP	CHP	AKP	CHP
<i>Legislative Role Orientations</i>						
Conflict	-0.071 (0.12)	0.011 (0.07)	0.24 (0.65)	2.27* (1.23)	0.063 (0.04)	0.19** (0.09)
<i>Partisanship</i>						
Ideological Distance	-0.35 (0.31)	-0.027 (0.08)	1.37 (1.41)	4.00** (1.55)	0.15* (0.09)	-0.71*** (0.21)
Influence of Party Leadership	-0.089 (0.20)	0.41*** (0.13)	-0.54 (1.25)	-1.04 (1.88)	-0.066 (0.07)	-0.44* (0.25)
Influence of Party General Congress	-0.14 (0.08)	-0.032 (0.04)	-0.82* (0.46)	-0.91 (1.12)	0.016 (0.03)	-0.034 (0.07)
Model	Negative Binomial	Negative Binomial	OLS Regression	OLS Regression	Ordered Probit	Ordered Probit
Observations	125	65	121	65	125	65

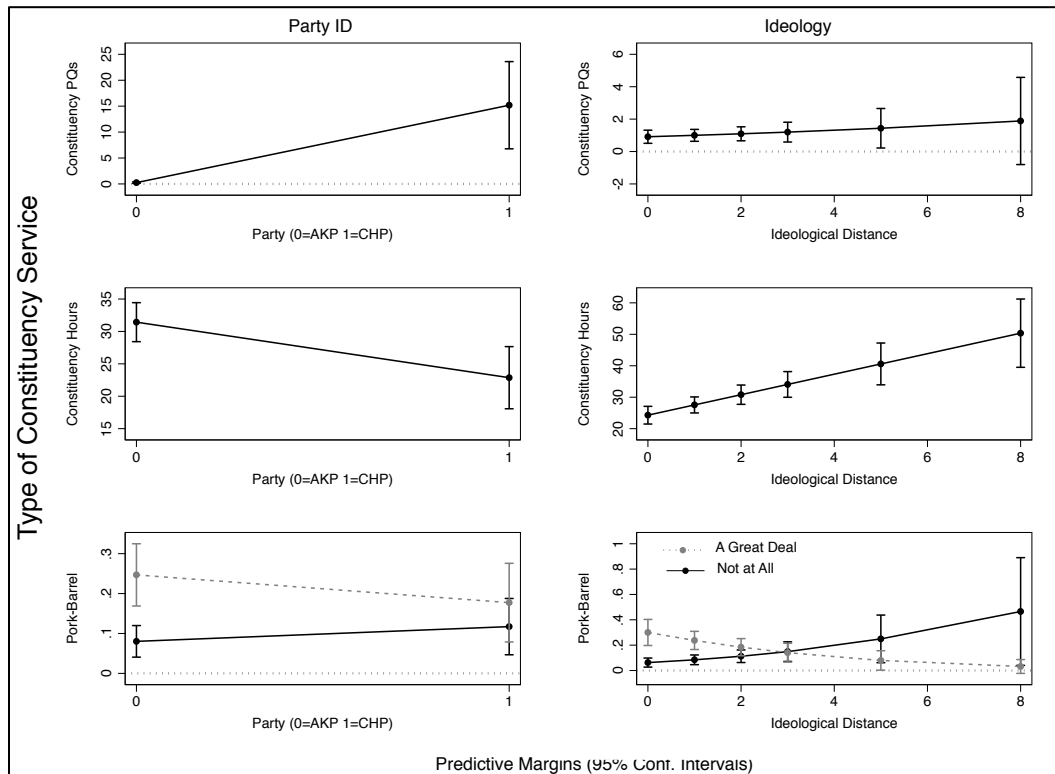
Standard errors in parentheses
 * $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$

Figure 1: Marginal Effects for Different Types of Constituency Service



Note: Marginal effects are calculated from the models reported in Table 3. The circles show predictive margins for each main effect as specified in the title and the vertical lines show 95% confidence intervals.

Figure 2: Marginal Effects: Ideology, Opposition Status and Constituency Service



Note: Marginal effects are calculated from the models reported in Table 3. The circles show predictive margins and the vertical lines show 95% confidence intervals.

ⁱ However, as we discuss below, PQs are also utilized by the members of the ruling party insofar as they increase their visibility in the eyes of the party leaders and the constituents.

ⁱⁱ We join the growing body of research that suggests that candidates who are locally known and have strong ties with the regional constituency will be attractive for parties that seek to increase their vote in the region.

ⁱⁱⁱ Although the Turkish MPs have obtained significant financial and office support since 2002, members from both ruling and opposition parties have the same limited means to carry their tasks in relation to the legislators in the American congress.

^{iv} Of the survey respondents, 98 of 135 of the members of the ruling party (AKP) did not ask a question while this ratio is only 8 out of 68 for opposition MPs. We present the distribution of PQs in the supplemental file.

^v The inter-coder reliability is above 90 per cent.

^{vi} One example of non-constituency related PQ is as follows: “Regarding the initiatives the government will take against global warming” (05/07/2007), Vezir Akdemir (MP from the province of Izmir).

^{vii} One can suspect that ideological outliers are also party switchers, a condition that may influence MPs' choice of constituency service. We identified 11 party switchers in our dataset but did not detect a high correlation between switchers and outliers ($p=0.37$). We thank one of the anonymous reviewers for bringing this to our attention.

^{viii} When we run separate models with these alternative measures or include all of them in one model the results remain the same with marginal differences. These results are presented in supplemental file.

^{ix} Recently, center left Republican People's Party (CHP) and Kurdish nationalist Peoples' Democracy Party (HDP) have used primaries in candidate selection.

^x We thank one of the anonymous reviewers for suggesting this discussion.

^{xi} Most of these results are available in the supplemental file. Additional models are available from the authors upon request.

^{xii} Table 3 presents only the abbreviated split sample analysis for the variables of interest. Full sample estimation is reported in the supplemental file (Table S9a).

^{xiii} The results of these robust analyses are presented in the supplemental file.