

DECODING DISCOURSE: GENDER DYNAMICS IN GERMAN BUNDESTAG DEBATES (1949-2021)

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Motivation



"Women were treated very strangely in the Bundestag in earlier years. According to the protocol, I was interrupted by heckling a total of 52 times in a 15-minute speech. 52 times. In 15 minutes." (Renate Schmidt (SPD))

"We made a bet. Is she wearing a bra or not?"
(Richard Stücklen, 1976)

Diskriminierung

Sexismus im Bundestag: Parlamentarierinnen berichten

(Sources: N-TV 2011, FAZ 2020, Bayerischer Rundfunk 2022, Die Zeit 2022)

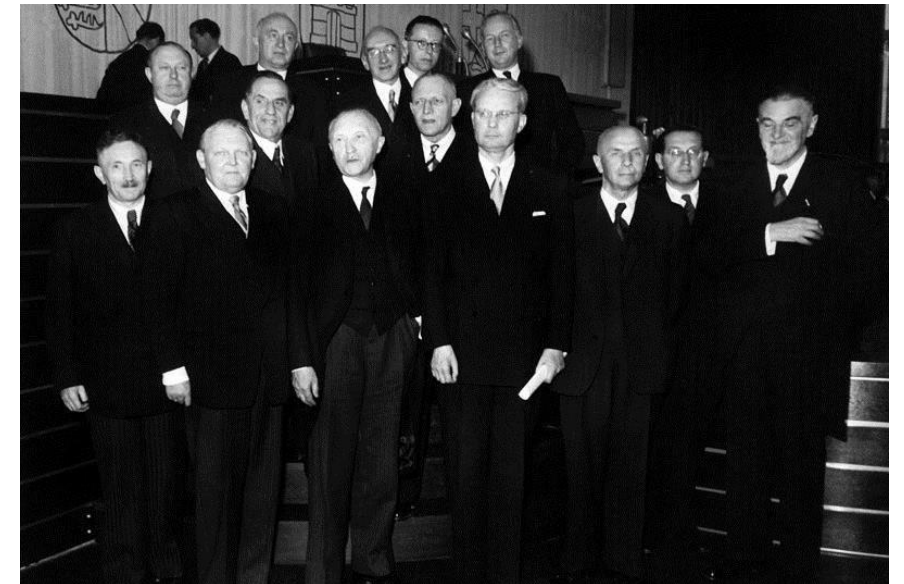
Literature review

- Role of gender in politics (e.g., Chattopadhyay and Duflo 2004, Gilligan 1993, Thomas 1991)
- Women in political debates (e.g., Bäck and Debus 2016, Burkhardt 1992, Murray 2010, Stopfner 2015)
- Interruptions in parliamentary debates (e.g., Brunner et al. 2019, Vögele and Thoms 2019)
- Analysis of interruptions through gender lens
 - Focus on interrupter (e.g., Edelsky and Adams 1990, Shaw 2000)
 - Content of heckles (e.g., Stopfner 2018)
 - Quantity of heckles by gender in German Bundestag (Och 2020), German state parliaments (Ash, Krümmel and Slapin 2024) and US Congressional hearings (Miller and Sutherland 2023)

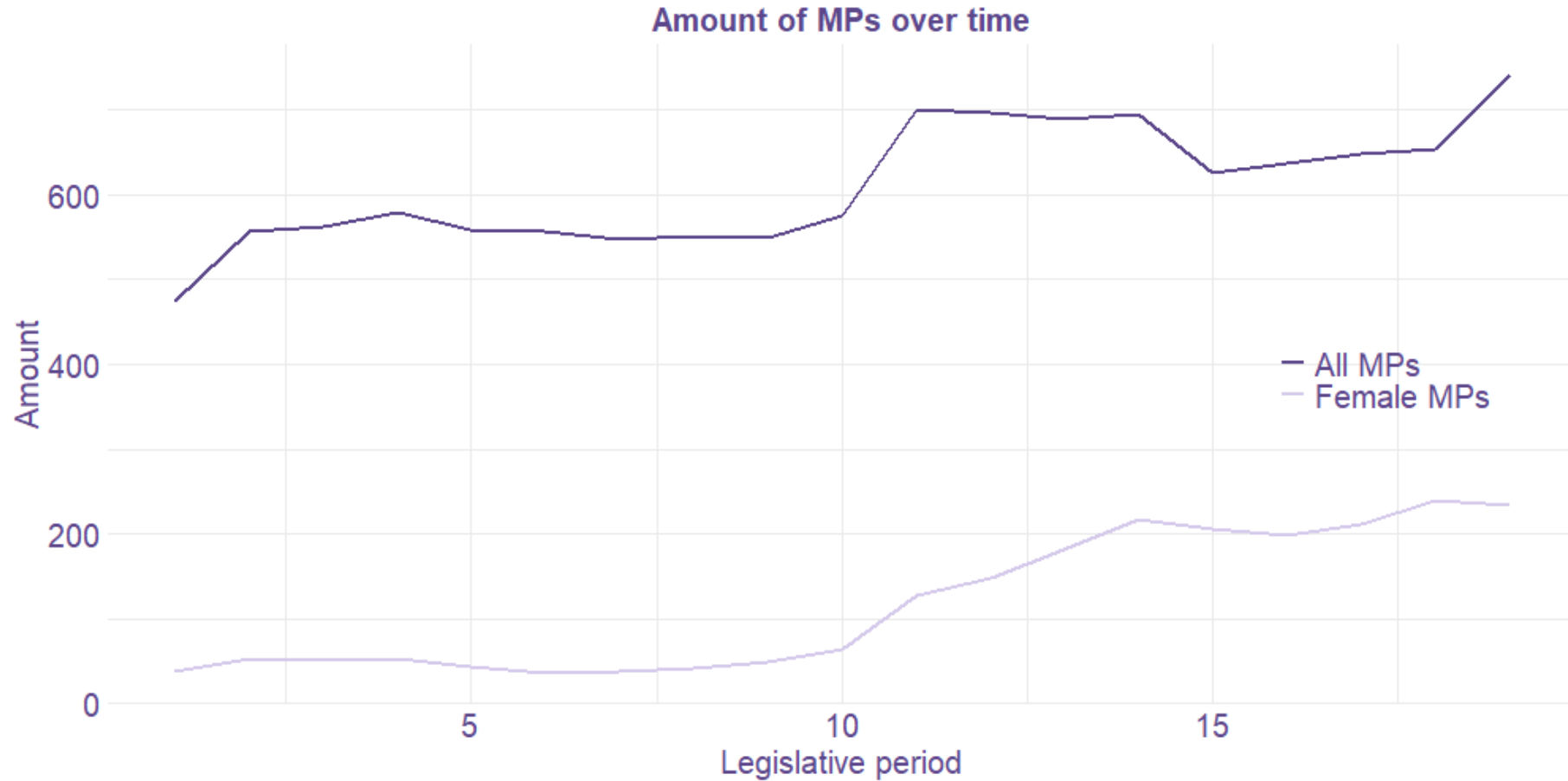
Institutional background - What changed?



(Sources: Deutscher Bundestag 2024, Deutsche Welle 2011, Bundesarchiv 2023)



Institutional background - What changed?



Institutional background - What stayed?



(Source: Deutscher Bundestag 2024)

Parliamentary debates

- Types
- Structure
- Interruptions

Empirical analysis

Research question: Does gender have an effect on response in parliamentary debates?

- Effect on the quantity of supportive interruptions.
- Effect on the quantity of disruptive interruptions.

- Protocols from German Bundestag publicly accessible and prepared by Blätte et al. (2017)
- Documentation of speeches and interruptions (e.g., applause, acclamations, interposed questions, comments etc.)
- 4,290 sittings in 19 legislative periods
- 229,278 speeches by 3,763 politicians

Jan Korte (DIE LINKE):

Herr Präsident! Liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen! Kollege Schmid, also ich kann es nicht anders sagen: So viel politischen Bullshit zu diesem Thema habe ich wirklich noch nicht gehört, und schon gar nicht um diese Uhrzeit!

(Beifall bei der LINKEN und dem BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN)

Eines will ich hier in aller Klarheit sagen: Sie wissen ganz genau, dass hier im Rahmen einer Vereinbarten Debatte keine Antragsbefassung möglich ist. Also labern Sie doch nicht so einen Unsinn!

(Beifall bei der LINKEN, der FDP und dem BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN)

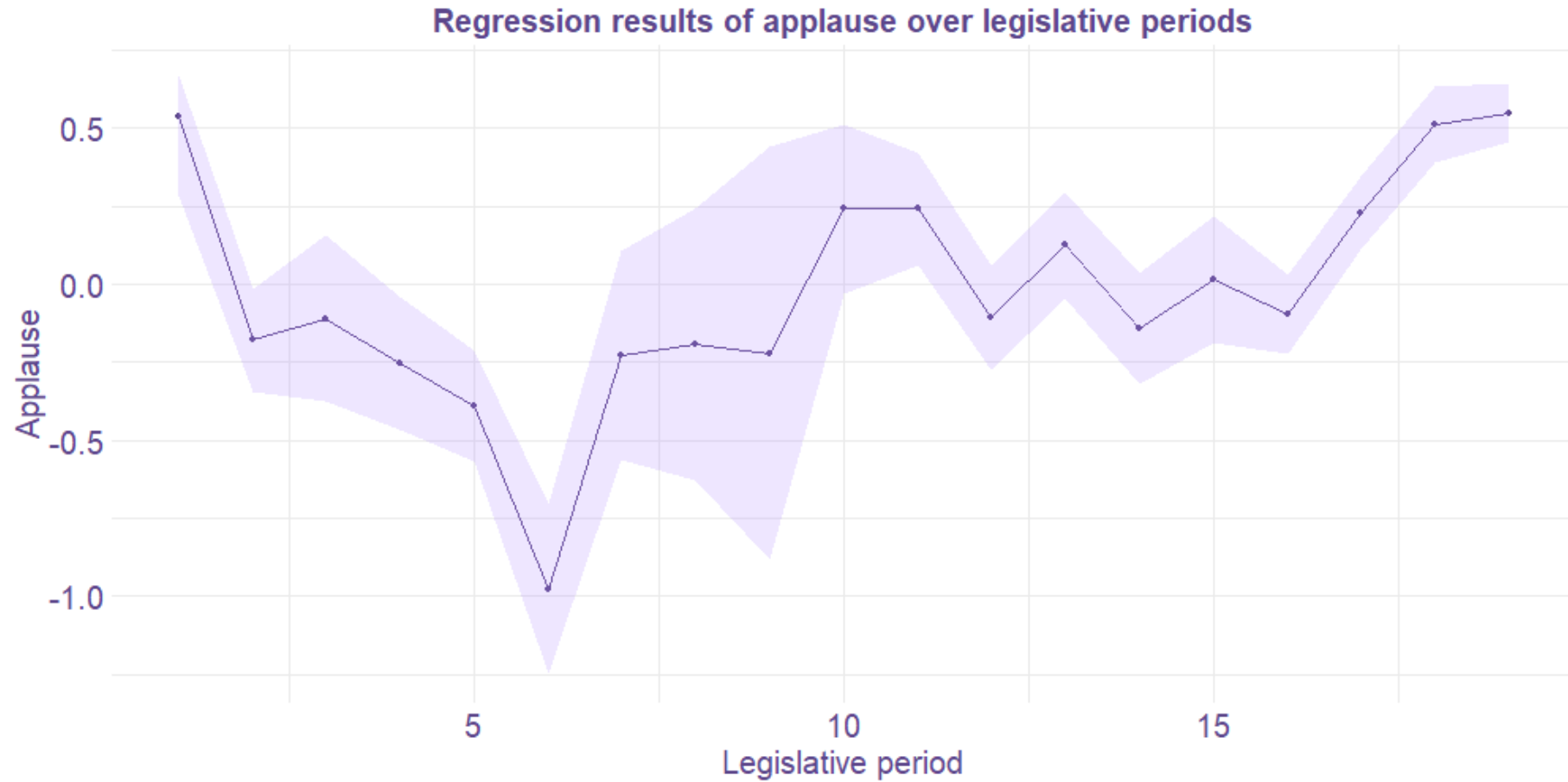
Das ist wirklich nicht angemessen.

Kollege Grosse-Brömer, also, es ist natürlich gut, dass Sie ständig Die Linke erwähnen;

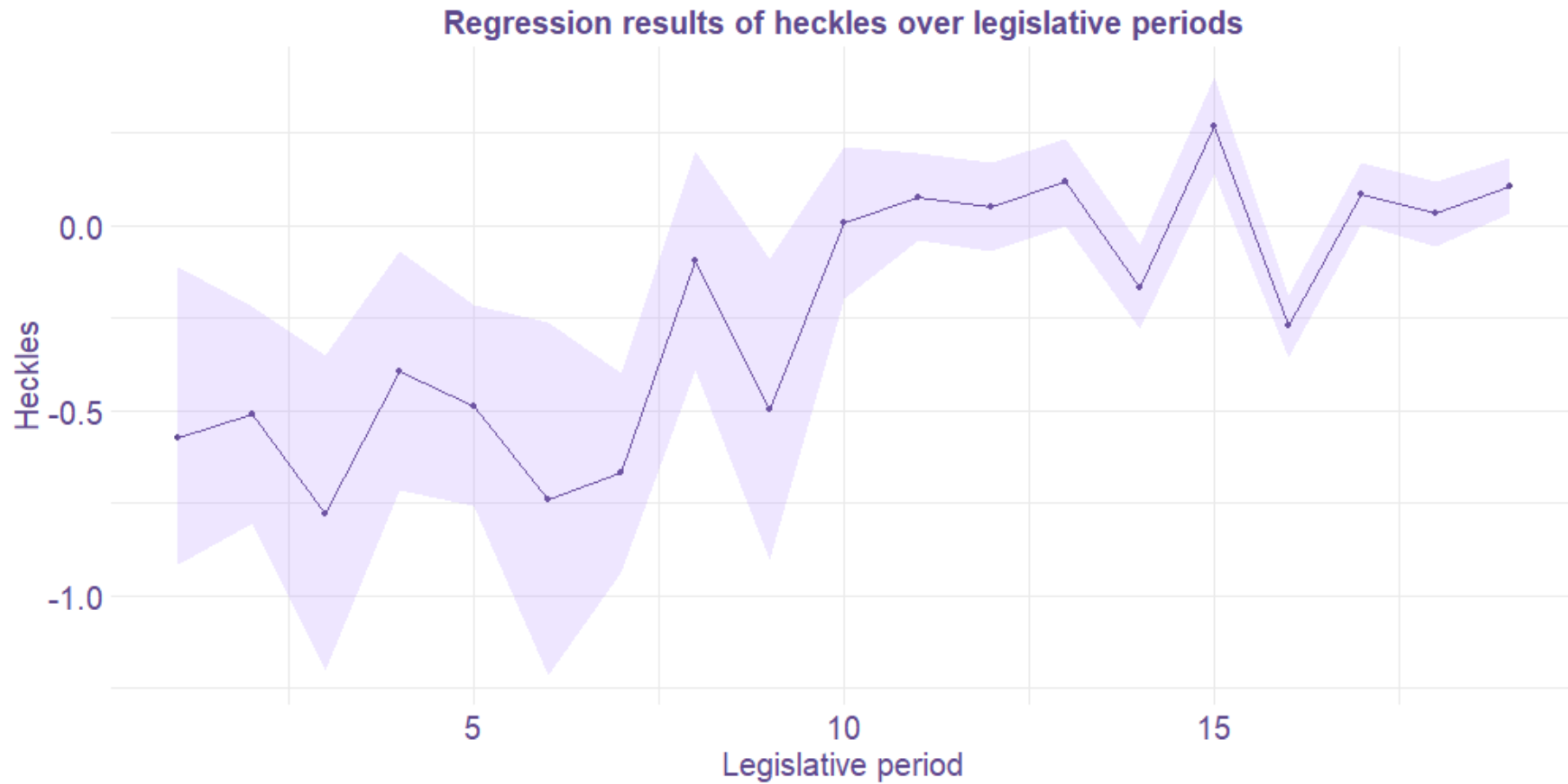
(Michael Grosse-Brömer [CDU/CSU]: Selten positiv!)

(Source: Deutscher Bundestag 2024)

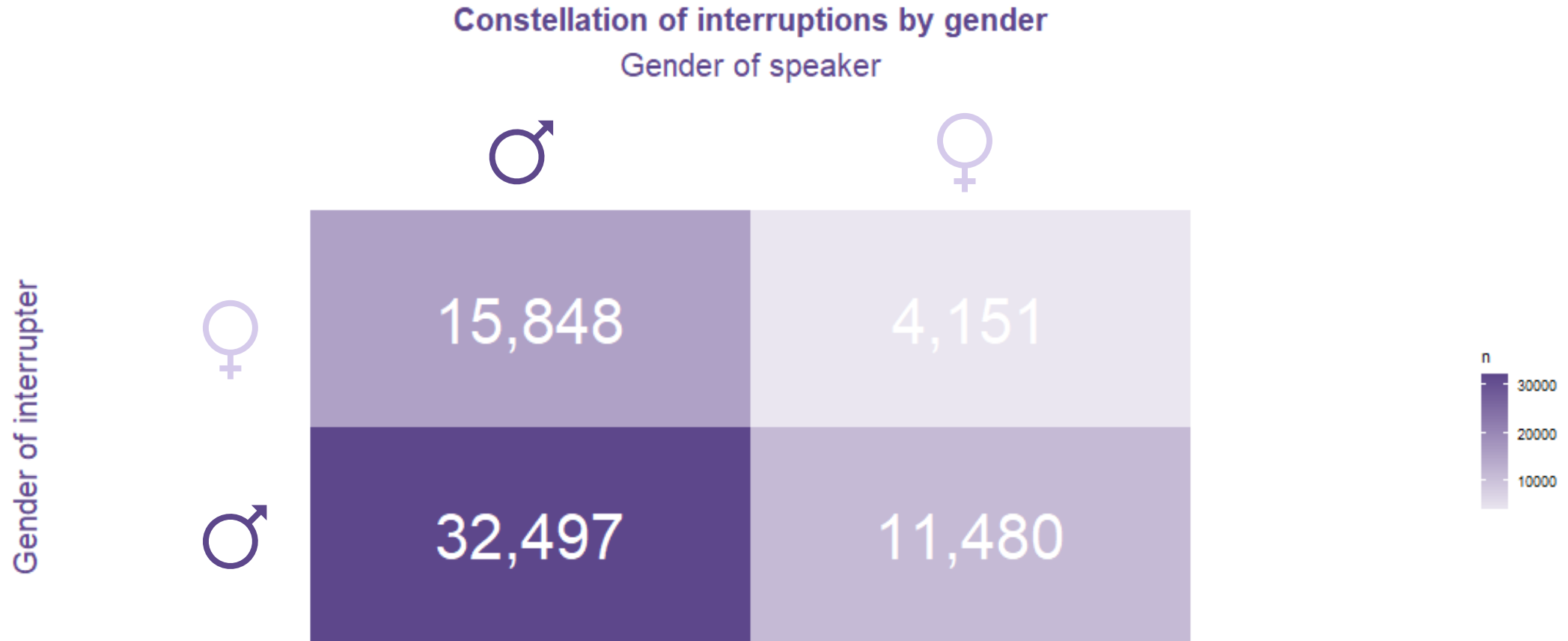
Effect of gender on interruption: applause



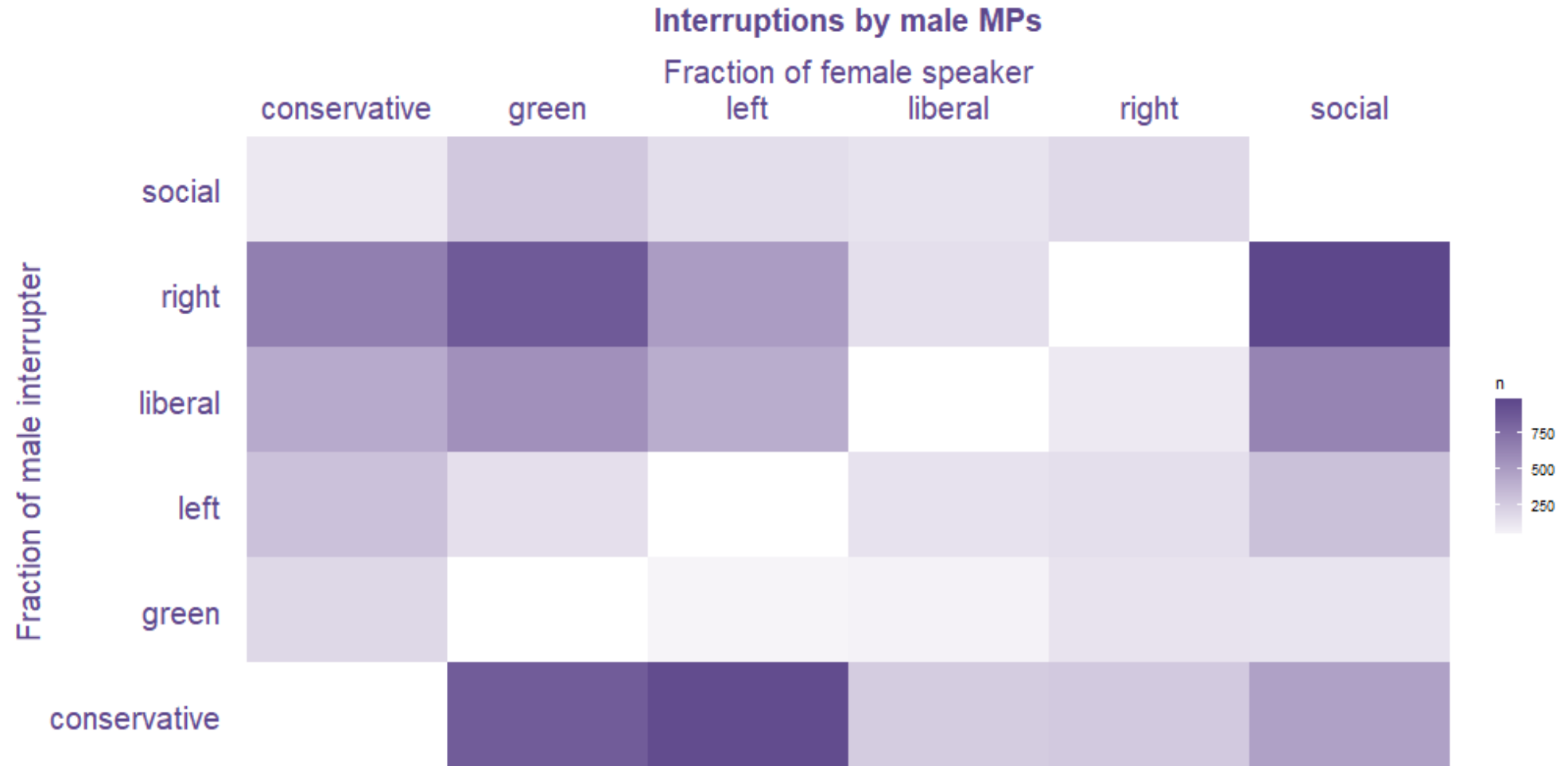
Effect of gender on interruption: heckles



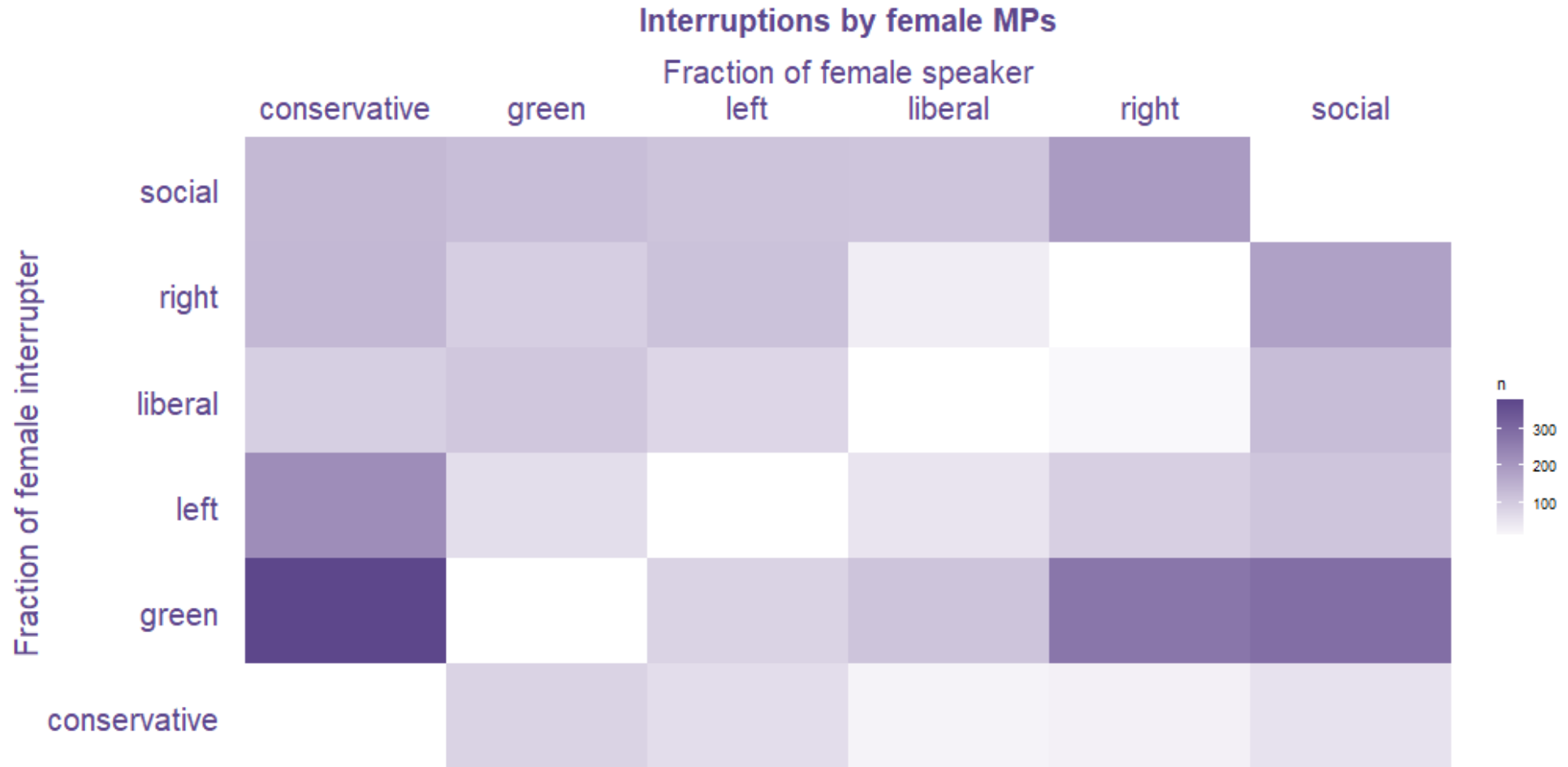
Next step: constellation of interruptions



Female speaker – male interrupter



Female speaker – female interrupter



Thanks for your attention!