Civil society's ties to political parties: Insights from mobilisation around gender in Poland

Structure

- Research motivation and theoretical framework
- Insights from the "liberal pillar"
- Modes of coordination between civil and political society
- Interaction between civil and political society: influential factors
- The gender paradox in Polish politics

Research motivation

How it started

Theoretical Framework

- **Pillarization of society (Grzegorz Ekiert, 2019)**

"Thus, after three decades of democratic transformation, Polish civil society has evolved into a deeply divided and polarized entity with two distinct organizational pillars representing antithetical value systems, visions of politics and scenarios for Poland's future development. Moreover, the unholy alliance between a state with its authoritarian ambitions and the illiberal/nationalist pillar of civil society has created new opportunities for far-right extremism to flourish, intensified Poland's culture wars and changed the underlying structure of Polish politics. As a result, Poland is drifting towards authoritarianism and away from European democratic values."

- **Pillarization or Polarization?**

Insights from the "liberal pillar"

- **Data collection in times of pandemic**

- **Pillarization and beyond:**
  - Data collected allows more insight into the liberal pillar

Data collected

| Value Sharing Ties	Cooperation Ties
• Similar values and goals • Vision of society in accordance with CSOs activities and values • Based on parties' ideas and values, CSO value or would like to work with these parties • CSO agrees with activities and campaigns of parties	• CSO takes part in events organised by parties • Collaborate organisation of events • Political parties come to events organised by CSO • CSO joins political consultations with these parties • CSO supports these political parties in their election campaign • Joint membership of individuals btw CSO and parties • Political parties provide office space, materials or locations for CSO's activities • CSO provide information to parties

Civil society- political society ties

Value Sharing Network
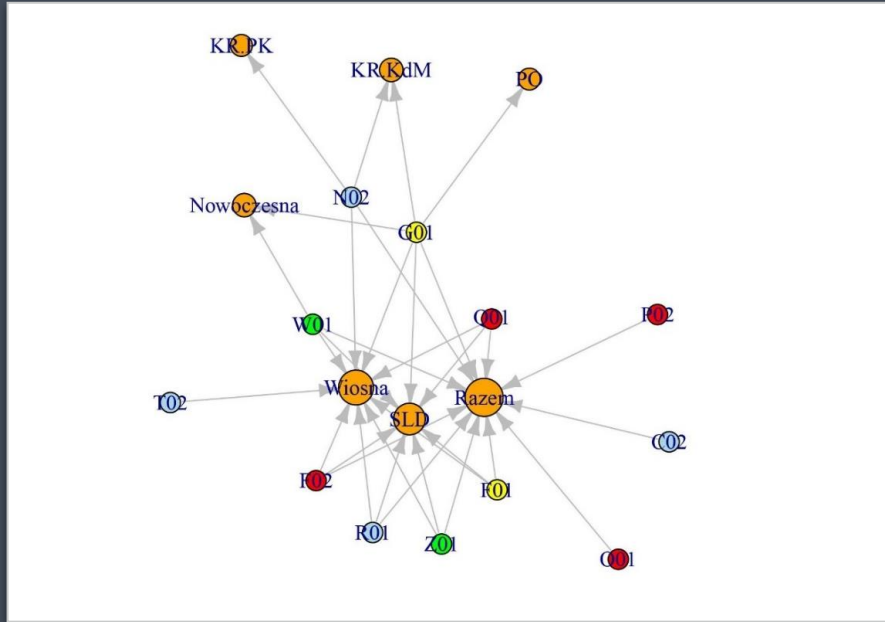
Cooperation Network
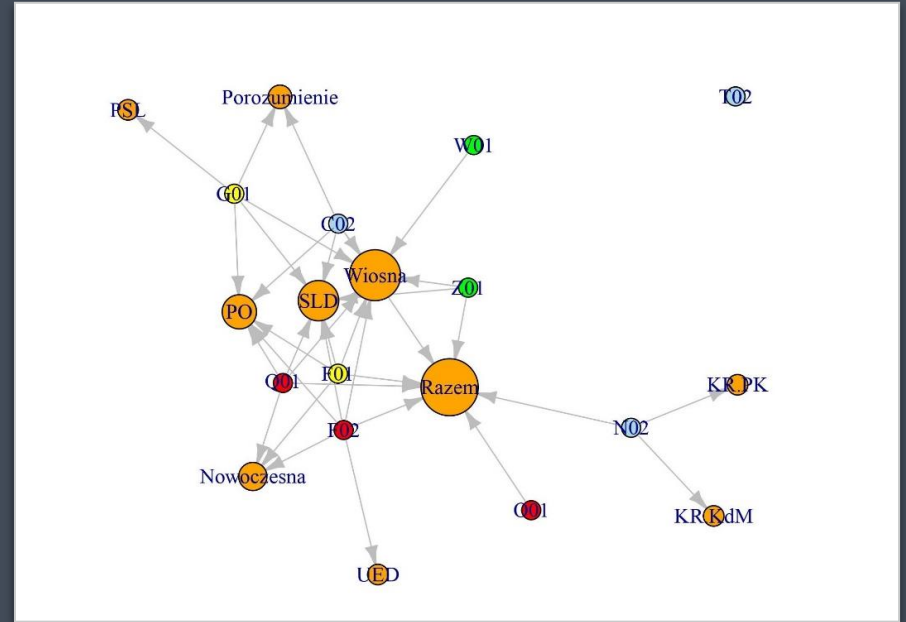
Modes of coordination

1. Organizational Mode of Coordination

- Pragmatic cooperation, lack of value base, limited and superficial cooperation; mostly parties seeking cooperation (but not extending to deep consultation)

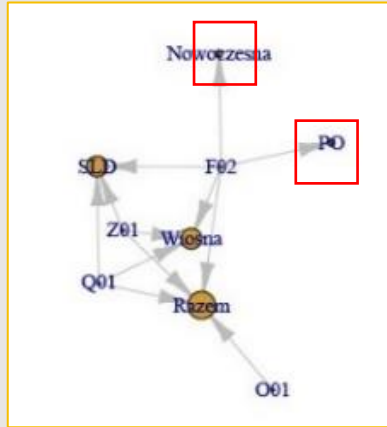- Parties in the sample: Nowoczesna and Platforma Obywatelska

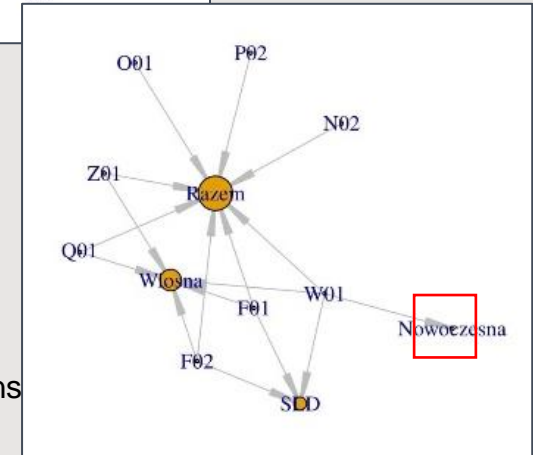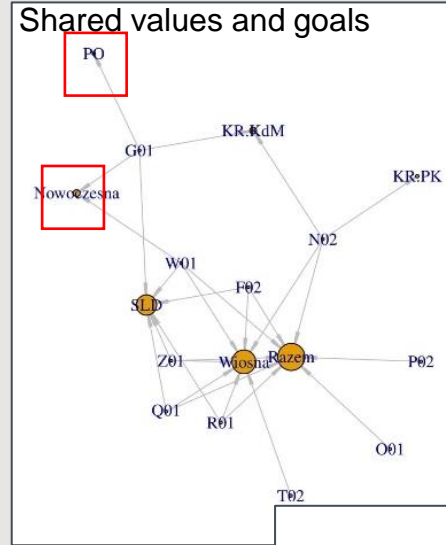|	Value-sharing ties - low	Value sharing ties - intermediate	Value sharing ties - high
Cooperation ties - low			
Cooperation ties - intermediate	PO, Nowoczesna		
Cooperation ties - high			

Organizational Mode
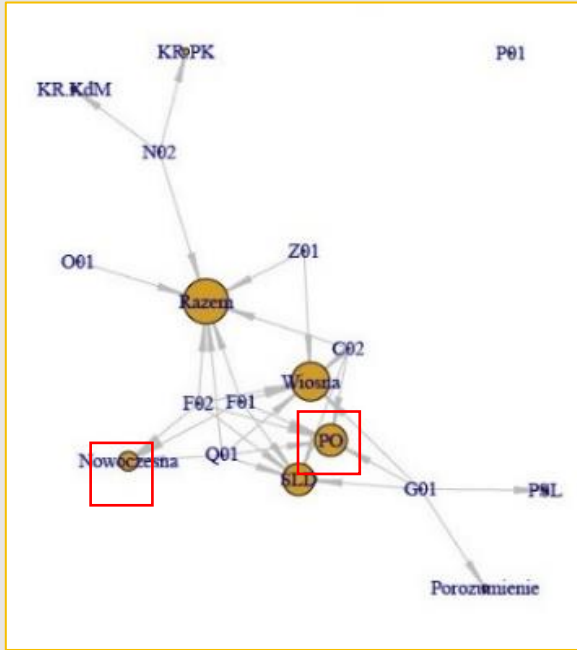
Political parties attending events organised by CS

CS joins consultations with these political parties

Shared values and goals

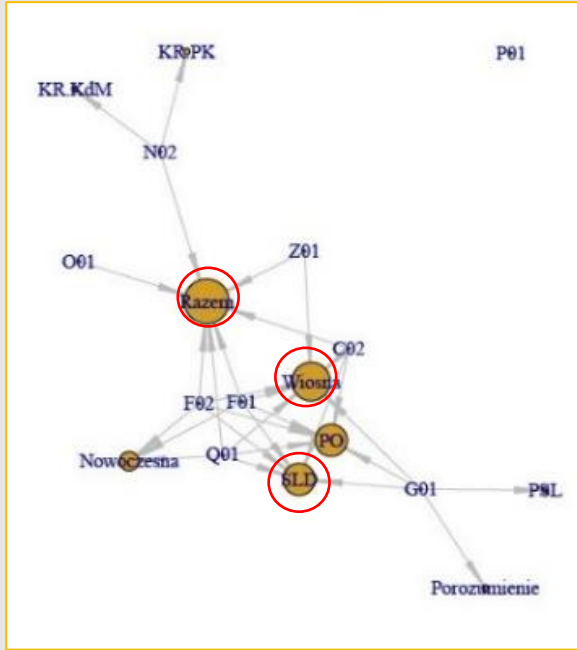CS agrees with party's campaigns and activities

Modes of coordination
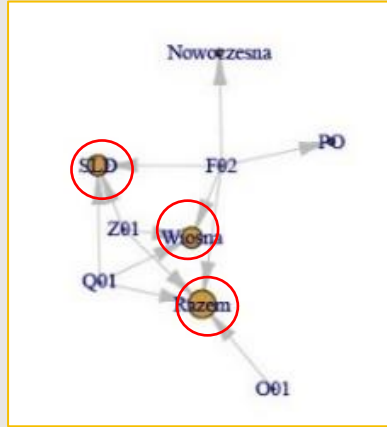
2. Social Movement Mode of Coordination

- Values underpinning cooperation, cooperation largely event-driven, incident of co-organising events and stronger involvement in more policy-substantial forms of cooperation; nevertheless, civil society stays away from active electoral campaigning

- Parties in the sample: Razem, Wiosna, SLD

	Value-sharing ties - low	Value sharing ties - intermediate	Value sharing ties - high
Cooperation ties - low			
Cooperation ties - intermediate	PO, Nowoczesna		Wiosna, Razem, SLD
Cooperation ties - high			

Social Movement Mode

Political parties attending events organised by CS

Shared values and goals

CS joins consultations with these political parties

CS agrees with party's campaigns and activities

Modes of coordination: Influencing factors

- **Professionalization of civil society**
- **Community-oriented vs. advocacy work**
- **Political self-description of civil society ("apolitical" vs "political")**

The gender paradox in Polish politics

- Reproductive rights and LGBTQ rights at core of right-wing populist politics
- Civil society mobilizing potential of reproductive rights, high support from broader society
- Does not seem to matter when it comes to the ballot box, political parties identified as partners by civil society respondents cannot translate this to electoral success
- **Gender matters and it does not matter at the same time**