

# Mating and Political Inequality

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Frödin Gruneau, M. (2020). Assortative mating and turnout: A self-reinforcing pattern of unequal voting participation. *European Political Science Review*, 12(2):1–17.

Frödin Gruneau, M. (2020). Persistence of social norms, family formation, and gender balance in politics. Unpublished Manuscript.

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### **Abstract**

Political equality is one of the cornerstones of a well-functioning democracy. Yet, very few democracies live up to this ideal. In this dissertation, I show that a central part of human behavior, mating, can help us explain why political inequalities are difficult to change. I provide a theoretical argument of why mating structures and family formation patterns are crucial to our understanding of unequal turnout and unequal political representation. In three different research papers, I study the relationship between mating and political inequality between socioeconomic groups as well as mating and political inequality based on gender. The results show that mating structures are a key aspect when explaining why political inequality is persistent in many democracies. I conclude that mating cannot be overlooked when seeking answers to why political inequalities are difficult to change.

**Key Words:** Political inequality, Mating, Turnout, Political representation