Promises Made, Promises Kept?

Using an innovative mix of cross-national analyses, original survey experiments, and detailed case studies across advanced democracies, *Promises Made, Promises Kept?* provides a compelling exploration of how globalization constrains domestic politics and transforms the nature of democratic representation. The authors show how globalization reduces the ability of governing parties to keep their campaign promises and how parties strategically adapt to this by making vaguer promises or shifting their rhetoric to manage voter expectations. These adaptations have significant consequences: They reshape democratic competition and have contributed to the growing appeal of populist messaging. This timely and accessible book offers fresh insight into why promises are broken, how parties adapt under pressure, and what this means for voters, institutions, and the future of democratic politics. It is essential reading for anyone concerned with the health of democracy in an interdependent world. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

CHRISTINA J. SCHNEIDER is Professor of Political Science at the University of California San Diego and author of *Conflict, Negotiation and European Union Enlargement* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) and *The Responsive Union* (Cambridge University Press, 2018), an award-winning book. She has held positions at Oxford, Princeton, and the Max Planck Institute of Economics.

ROBERT THOMSON is Professor of Politics at the University of Hong Kong. His research focuses on international comparisons of democratic representation, policymaking, and international governance. He cofounded the Comparative Pledges Project, an international research program on parties' election campaign promises.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:30:14, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009749725

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:30:14, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009749725

Promises Made, Promises Kept?

Democratic Politics in a Globalized World

CHRISTINA J. SCHNEIDER
University of California San Diego

ROBERT THOMSON
University of Hong Kong

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:30:14, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009749725



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009749695

DOI: 10.1017/9781009749725

© Christina J. Schneider and Robert Thomson 2026

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons
version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009749725 under a
Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution
and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to
the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission.
To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009749725

First published 2026

Cover image: Cover illustration designed by Anja Matt

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
NAMES: Schneider, Christina J. author
TITLE: Promises made, promises kept? : democratic politics in a globalized world / Christina J. Schneider, University of California, San Diego, Robert Thomson, University of Hong Kong.
DESCRIPTION: New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2026. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2026006748 (print) | LCCN 2026006749 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009749695 hardback | ISBN 9781009749718 paperback | ISBN 9781009749725 epub
SUBJECTS: LCSH: Globalization–Political aspects | Political leadership | Government accountability | Communication in politics | Populism
CLASSIFICATION: LCC JZ1318 .S355 2026 (print) | LCC JZ1318 (ebook)
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2026006748
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2026006749

ISBN 978-1-009-74969-5 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-74971-8 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

For EU product safety concerns, contact us at Calle de José Abascal, 56, 1°, 28003
Madrid, Spain, or email eugpsr@cambridge.org

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:30:14, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009749725