

# Q1-2: Is the problem lack of political engagement or lack of civic engagement? What's the difference?

In [my previous post](#), I looked at the difference between political engagement and civic engagement in order to answer the following question

**Question 1: Is the problem lack of political engagement or lack of civic engagement? What's the difference?**

Although there is a signal of a lack of political engagement, mainly proved by our low voting rate (I cannot explain the status only by it, though), I had no idea about the current level of civic engagement and the civic engagement stage, which is also a process of political engagement. Therefore, I read the literature "Mechanisms of formation of political interest among 'new voters'" (Hata, 2016)

## **Short summary**

Interest in politics is often described in terms of the concept of political socialisation. In the early socialisation phase, young people (the range of age is ambiguous) get interested in politics while adapting to the concept of political and social systems. Then after they get older, people(adults) the trigger of the interest in politics is generally individual merits (e.g. parents who seek to benefit themselves by voting for politicians who try to improve the child-rearing environment). This paper shows that interest in politics among adults definitely increase when they think something political are likely to benefit them.

## **Thoughts after reading**

The level of civic engagement/involvement needs to be re-

examined(I could not find the clue from this article), but I found that adults and young people have different backgrounds of interest in politics. Today, I had a chat with my Japanese friends and talked about our mental distance between politics and us. All of us have been struggling with thinking politics as our important and daily topic/event. Assuming that this is the general perception, the problem in our country nowadays may be that we don't feel like politics strongly connects with us.

## Reference

Hata (2016) " Mechanisms of formation of political interest among 'new voters' ", *Election research*, 32(2), pp. 45-55. Available at: [https://doi.org/10.14854/jaes.32.2\\_45](https://doi.org/10.14854/jaes.32.2_45) (In Japanese)