Doing Political and Social Research

Week 5



Quiz 1 open on Moodle and due on 5 Nov







Each quiz will be made available a week before the deadline.



Revisiting the study of "British values"

Original Article



Public conceptions and constructions of 'British values': A qualitative analysis

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Abstract

This article draws on original focus group research to explore constructions of 'British values', in 'everyday' discourse. Two prominent, yet competing conceptions of this term are identified: political/institutional and social/cultural. Although each of these conceptions risks essentialising 'British values', this risk is mitigated by publics in at least three ways: (1) explicit recognition of the term's ambiguities; (2) discussion of its political motivations and exclusionary outcomes; and, (3) identification of qualitative change in the meaning of 'British values' over time. As the first exploration of public understandings of this term, their differences, and these complications, the paper offers three contributions: (1) adding breadth to existing studies of everyday nationalism through focus on 'British values' specifically; (2) shedding light on this trope's work in broader conversations around social and political life in the United Kingdom; and (3) facilitating reflection on the reception of, resistance to, and re-making of elite political discourse.





Opinion | CONFUCIUS SAYS: GO EAST, YOUNG MAN

MANY ASIANS NOW THINK THEIR LIVES AND VALUES ARE BETTER THAN THE AMERICAN WAY

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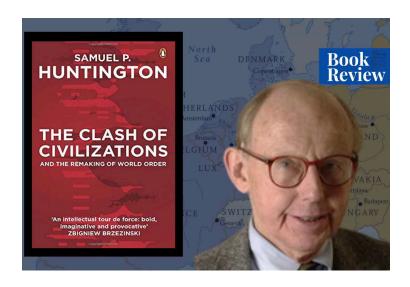
By T.R. Reid November 19, 1995 at 12:00 a.m. EST

THE ASIAN leaders gathered in Osaka this weekend for the annual Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit have expressed pious regrets that Bill Clinton had to cancel his attendance at the last minute. At some level, though, they're probably delighted. The image of a U.S. president trapped in Washington by political chaos surrounding a red-ink budget can only strengthen the Asians' growing superiority complex toward the once-revered U.S.A.

Sign up for the Prompt 2024 newsletter for opinions on the biggest questions in politics









Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism Max Weber







Paradigms and Sand Castles

ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICS

Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics

Barbara Geddes



Country 1 Poor Mountainous Religiously Homegeneous Ethnically Divided

Country 2 Middle-Income Flat Religiously Divided Ethnically Divided

Country 3
Middle-Income
Mountainous
Religiously Divided
Ethnically Divided

Poor Flat Religiously Homogeneous *Ethnically Divided*

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Country 4

Country 5
Poor
Flat
Religiously Homogeneous
Ethnically Homogeneous

FIGURE 1.1

Using the Method of Agreement

Countries 1 through 4 all went to war, and by comparing them against each other you will note that they "agree" on only one attribute: ethnic diversity. The country that did not "agree" on this characteristic also did not go to war. The method of agreement finds the thing that all countries have in common—and in this example leads to the conclusion that ethnic diversity is of civil war.

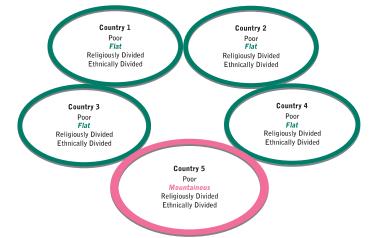


FIGURE 1.2

Using the Method of Difference

Countries 1 through 4 all remained at peace—and all share several characteristics. Country 5 went to war, and the only way it differs from the other countries is in its terrain. Using the method of difference in this example suggests a causal relationship between rough terrain and civil war.



What Theory Is and Can Be: Forms of Theorizing in Organizational Scholarship

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Joep Cornelissen¹, Markus A. Höllerer²
and David Seidl³

Abstract

Theory is at the very heart of organizational scholarship and a key criterion for evaluating the quality and contribution of our research. Focusing on conceptual rather than empirical work, this editorial essay highlights the wide range of forms that theorizing might take — and how it, in consequence, materializes in different types of theory papers. Next to the propositional form of theory building, which has so far dominated reflections in the literature, we discuss the particularities of process, configurational, perspectival, and meta-theorizing, as well as various forms of critique. We demonstrate how these forms of theorizing differ in terms of their aims, style of reasoning, their contributions, and the way in which they are written up as papers. In view of the rather different roles that each of these forms of theorizing serve, we propagate, in line with the ethos of Organization Theory, a pluralistic stance when it comes to advancing theory in organization and the stance of the server of the properties of the propagate of the propagate

Varieties of theory in social research

- Explanatory forms of theorizing (theory as explanation)
- ▶ Interpretive forms of theorizing (theory as interpretation)
- ► Emancipatory forms of theorizing (theory as ideology)



Varieties of theory in social research

- ► Explanatory forms of theorizing: To identify and establish the fundamental processes and structures that 'underlie' and therefore explain a given topic
- ► Interpretive forms of theorizing: To provide a deep reading and understanding of the circumstances in which people find themselves, working through the layers of "meaning" that constitute our experience of organizations
- ► Emancipatory forms of theorizing: To inform practical actions so as to subvert such systems towards emancipation and potential reform



The New Hork Times

Critical Race Theory: A Brief History

How a complicated and expansive academic theory developed during the 1980s has become a hot-button political issue 40 years later.



Thousands gathered in Washington on Aug. 28, 2020, to commemorate the historic March on Washington and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech on that date in 1963. Jason Andrew for The New York Times



CRT as an interpretative theory



CRT is "'is a way of seeing, attending to, accounting for, tracing and analyzing the ways that race is produced," she said,'the ways that racial inequality is facilitated, and the ways that our history has created these inequalities that now can be almost effortlessly reproduced unless we attend to the existence of these inequalities."'



CRT as an emancipatory theory



"'The founders of CRT critiqued liberal ideologies, and that they called on research scholars to seek out and understand the roots of why racial disparities are so persistent, and to systemically dismantle racism."



Explanatory theory of inter-group inequality



Explanatory theory of inter-group inequality



- Statistical discrimination is based on stereotypes that occur when rational, information-seeking decision makers use aggregate group characteristics to evaluate individuals
- Taste-based discrimination is based on prejudice or racial and gender bias

