Foundations

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Institutions

- What laws, organizations, or customs structure or regulate our behavior?

    - When do institutions, psychology, and/or individual characteristics matter most?

    - Why did you show up today? Punishment, Disapproval of peers, Enthusiastic about class?

    - Why do people vote?
      People are expected to vote. Voting is part of the culture. Self interest such as people voted for slavery even though they did not own slaves, in hopes that someday they can own slaves and move up the ladder

        1. Institution: Being judge for not voting. Groups and organization. Institutions provide certain benefits.

        2. Psychology: Desire to have a voice. Habit if you have voted in the past you will vote in the future. Social norms (Your friends voted).

    - Why vote at all?

        * Is it rational to vote?

        * If $C < B \cdot P$.

            · B is benefit. Personal Benefit.

            · P probability vote matters. (Probability is generally small, millions of people voting.) One vote that tips the scale.

            · C your cost. (If cost is larger why show up?) Is voting irrational if vote does not matter?

        * If we add D Civic Duty

            $$C < B \cdot P + D$$

            . Is it now rational?

        * what about benefit to myself but to millions of people? Benefit increases.

- Local elections matter the most. Why are we not voting in local elections.

    1. People overestimate the likelihood that vote will be the tipping point, this is called voter's illusion.

    2. Two types of emotion, Enthusiasm and anger. Local elections are not as flashy.

    3. Personality (Certain people are more likely to vote) , Conscientious

    4. How much do we care about others? How much are you willing to give to a stranger? (Altruist votes more than Scrooge). People who are more likely to share are more likely to vote.

    5. Genetics, is related to whether you show up to vote or not. Nurture: a family that votes. Nurture versus nurture. Something in DNA that affects how likely we are to vote.

    6. Social Norms. What is expected by others?

7. Alienation or Inclusion. If one feels government is here to serve vs pushed away by government.

- Whom do I vote for?

    – Appeals to emotions, prejudice. What is most convenient.
    – Party affiliation, loyalty to a group and organization, and you believe your values align with the party. Logistics, party affiliation is a shortcut, voting for a platform.
    – Trust/Character (real and perceived)
    – Popularity (Appearance). Custom built podiums. Taller candidates, and better looking candidates tend to win. Name recognition.
    – Consistency: Hillary Clinton has flopped. switching positions.
    – Incumbents are very likely to win.
    – Religion: Major religion is the area such as united states is christian.

- Strategic Voting. Who is most likely to win?

    – In 2000:
    Who should Ralph Nader supporters vote for?
    – Pick which one stands for the same values as you. Voting to make a statement.
    $\frac{1}{2}$ went to gore, $\frac{1}{2}$ stayed with Nader.
    – Why did Nader supporters stayed with Nader?

        1. Vote does not matter, making a statement. Long term investment in third party.

- WHO votes?

    – If you are richer you are most likely to vote. Greater resources, less barriers. (Socioeconomic resources)
    – Attitudes (Efficacy, duty, interest, trust, alienation, indifference)
    – Local elections are unrepresentative.

        * Higher education, higher salary, age, and employed means more voting.

    – Can psychology help? How level the playing field?

Social Science can be unrepresented

- Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Democratic (W.E.I.R.D)
No representative of the united states, research was western, and small sample space.
Social science is not well funded.

- Beyond WEIRD Morality.

- Who is doing the research? Research is influenced by the researcher.

Parts or a research paper

1. Main Argument.

2. How research is conducted.

3. Main Results.

4. Skeptical, WEIRD, Not representative

5. Why does it matter, does it apply to the real world.