

17.20 Introduction to the American Political Process

Recitation: Money, Gender, and Politics

Table of contents

1. [Supplementary Readings: Money and Politics](#)
2. [Sexism and Political Behaviors](#)

Supplementary Readings: Money and Politics

Supplementary Readings: Money and Politics

- Ansolabehere, Stephen, John M. De Figueiredo, and James M. Snyder. "Why Is There so Little Money in U.S. Politics?" *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17, no. 1 (2003): 105-30. Accessed November 16, 2020.
- Dumas, N., & Shohfi, K. (2020). "The Behavioral Consequences of Election Outcomes: Evidence From Campaign Contributions." *British Journal of Political Science*, 50(2), 641-652.

Sexism and Political Behaviors

- In previous section we talked a little bit about why and how Trump was losing ground with some white voters, particularly well-educated female voters in the Sun Belt region.
- Many “predispositions” can predict people’s support for a right-wing-conservative candidate: Authoritarianism, Racial Resentment, and Ethnocentrism.....
- Political scientists often overlooked the role of sexism in deciding people’s votes. (partly because it is sensitive and controversial...)
- How and why does sexism affect people’s voting preferences?

- Valentino, Wayne, and Oceno (2018) analyzed three distinct sources of data:
 - Knowledge Networks (KN), an online survey fielded in June 2016 ($N = 716$).
 - American National Election Studies: 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016
 - Online survey experiment using MTurk to induce different types of emotions.

How do We Measure a Sexism?

- How strongly do you agreed or disagreed with the following statements:
 - Many women are actually seeking special favors, such as hiring policies that favor them over men, under the guise of asking for “equality” .
 - Most women interpret innocent remarks or acts as being sexist.
 - Feminists are not seeking for women to have more power than men (reverse-coded).
 - Feminists are making entirely reasonable demands of men (also reverse-coded).
- Problem of social desirability

How do We Induce the Feelings of Fear and Anger?

- Respondents were randomly assigned to one of three emotional conditions: Fear, relaxation (control), and anger.
- Participants in each condition viewed an image of a woman's face expressing a specific emotion, drawn from Ekman's pretested archive of universal emotions.
- Upon viewing the picture, respondents were prompted to recall life experiences that led them to experience the target emotion strongly, and to describe such events.

Table 1. Cross-tabulation of vote choice based on gender and expressed hostile sexism (Study 1)

Cross-tabulation of vote choice based on gender and expressed hostile sexism

Vote choice	Male		Female		N
	Low sexism	High sexism	Low sexism	High sexism	
Donald Trump	23%	54%	20%	47%	218
Hillary Clinton	54%	25%	58%	33%	256
Bernie Sanders	23%	21%	22%	20%	128
	100%	100%	100%	100%	

NOTE.—Low- and high-sexism categories were created using a median split. Another 114 respondents either wrote in another candidate choice (99 respondents) or refused to answer (15 respondents) and were excluded.

Valentino, Nicholas A., Carly Wayne, and Marzia Oceno. "Mobilizing Sexism: The Interaction of Emotion and Gender Attitudes in the 2016 US Presidential Election." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 82, Issue S1 (2018): 799–821. © Oxford University Press for the American Association for Public Opinion Research. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

Table 2. Sexism and support for Republican presidential candidates, ANES 2004–2016

Variables	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	2004	2008	2012	2016
Modern sexism	0.34 (0.66)	0.94 (0.64)	0.23 (0.78)	1.69* (0.81)
Authoritarianism	-0.19 (0.45)	0.25 (0.38)	0.40 (0.43)	1.60** (0.60)
Racial resentment	2.59*** (0.68)	3.33*** (0.60)	1.84** (0.66)	3.02*** (0.75)
Party ID (Rep)	5.80*** (0.57)	5.14*** (0.46)	5.22*** (0.57)	5.45*** (0.69)
Ideology (Con)	3.33*** (0.78)	3.19*** (0.64)	4.03*** (0.78)	1.58 (1.02)
Gender (Female)	0.08 (0.27)	0.25 (0.24)	0.15 (0.28)	-0.02 (0.32)
White	0.47 (0.34)	1.40*** (0.26)	1.58*** (0.42)	1.33*** (0.39)
Age	0.60 (0.57)	1.15* (0.49)	0.61 (0.59)	1.69** (0.61)
Education	0.60 (0.57)	1.11* (0.49)	0.00 (0.55)	-0.82 (1.07)
Constant	-7.44*** (0.78)	-9.47*** (0.72)	-7.99*** (0.88)	-8.56*** (1.22)
Observations	916	1,629	1,217	748

NOTE.—Standard errors in parentheses. Entries are logit regression coefficients.

*** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$ by a two-tailed test. Data are from face-to-face ANES interviews only. All variables recoded 0–1.

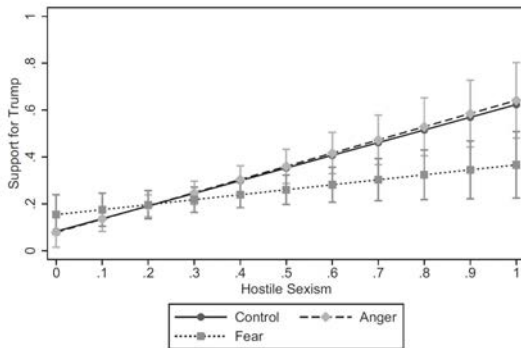


Figure 2. The interaction between emotion and sexism on Trump support (Study 3). Points represent the change in support for Trump (on a seven-point “strongly oppose” to “strongly support” scale) when moving up on the sexism scale. Error bars display the 95 percent confidence interval. All variables recorded 0–1. Drawn from OLS regression with interaction terms of sexism X condition. Full results available in the Online Appendix (table A12).

Valentino, Nicholas A., Carly Wayne, and Marzia Ocen. "Mobilizing Sexism: The Interaction of Emotion and Gender Attitudes in the 2016 US Presidential Election." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 82, Issue S1 (2018): 799–821. © Oxford University Press for the American Association for Public Opinion Research. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

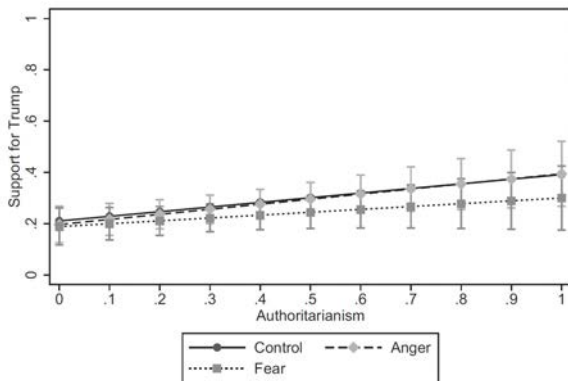


Figure 3. The interaction of emotion and authoritarianism on Trump support (Study 3). Points represent the change in support for Trump (on a seven-point “strongly oppose” to “strongly support” scale) when moving up on the authoritarianism scale. Error bars display the 95 percent confidence interval. All variables recoded 0–1. Drawn from OLS regression with interaction terms of authoritarianism X condition. Full results available in the Online Appendix (table A12).

Remaining Question

- Does sexism explain people's voting behaviors in 2020 Presidential election?

MIT OpenCourseWare
<https://ocw.mit.edu>

17.20 Introduction to the American Political Process
Fall 2020

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <https://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.