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Title: Subjective Measures of Group Affiliation

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Dataset(s): 1985 Pilot Study

Abstract

This paper makes a case for retaining the follow up probe to the experimental 1985 Pilot Study group affiliation question that measures subjective evaluations of a group's political activities. Walker argues that groups should be divided along political/non-political lines using the subjective evaluations of respondents, rather than the traditional objective measures of group type. The Pilot Study data demonstrates that affiliation with political groups -- measured both subjectively and objectively -- has an independent impact on political participation, even once controls for political efficacy are introduced. Walker's analysis, however, indicates that the subjective method provides a cleaner and more definitive distinction between political and non-political groups than the objective method.