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Title: Belief in a Just World and Perceptions of Fair Treatment by Police

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Dataset(s): 2006 ANES Pilot Study Report Modules 4 and 22

Abstract:

Lempert examines voting behavior with two measures in the 2006 ANES Pilot: perceptions of fair treatment by police and belief in a just world. The set of items measuring perceived police fairness was a significant predictor of vote choice even when controlling for demographic and political characteristics. There is also evidence that perceptions of police fairness partially mediate the effects of race on vote choice. However, beliefs about police fairness did not have a discernable effect on turnout, once demographics were controlled for. Belief in a just world is not significantly correlated with any of the standard demographic and political predictor variables save education. It is also a very weak predictor of vote choice, and an inconsistent predictor of turnout.