

POLS 541
Fall 2006
Prof. Baumgartner

Questions for Week 7, Oct 19.

Readings: Druckman, Druckman, Druckman, Berinski, two Baumgartner et al papers.

1. Compare the three Druckman papers. What does the research consist of? How does he design his data collection projects? Evaluate.
2. Evaluate the Berinski-Kinder data collection project. What is good, innovative, convincing about it? What are the drawbacks?
3. Consider the experimental approach to the study of framing and its limits as in the first four papers for this week, and in other experimental papers from previous weeks. What is the strength of this approach? What other questions from the literature could fruitfully be addressed with experiments?
4. In *The Structure of Political Conflict*, we use some very simple descriptions to get across a simple point: even though the issues themselves are extremely complex and therefore subject to possible framing effects, the structure of conflict is typically very simple. What are the implications of this for the study of policy making?
5. In the case of the death penalty, we use aggregate, system-wide indicators of framing in the media to assess the rise of a new frame, and then relate that statistically over time with measures of the policy outcome. Discuss the drawbacks of that approach. What questions relating to framing effects can and cannot be addressed with this aggregate approach? How would be best to get at those questions that this approach cannot address?
6. This is the end of the section of the class on framing. What do we know? What do we not know? What would be the most interesting next research projects that enterprising grad students could tackle?