

POLI 727, Framing
Prof. Baumgartner
Spring 2015

Questions for week 8, race

Answer ONE of the following questions. Come to class prepared to discuss ALL of them. Essays should be limited to one page single spaced and should have perhaps one-third of the essay describing the issue and the rest analyzing it. It is preferable to go into detail on a small part of the issue, giving examples or illustrations, than to remain at a general level. The devil is always in the details.

1. Gilliam and Iyengar give results of a review of LA-area TV coverage and an experiment. How do you evaluate the empirical strength of their findings? That is, what percent of observed behavior do you conclude might be related to these framing effects?
2. Bonilla-Silva lays out a series of common story-lines. Are these frames? What is their importance? How easily can they be touched upon in political discourse? How would you design a study to estimate that?
3. Eberhardt just won a McArthur genius award. Why?
4. The three articles about juveniles, mass incarceration, and about capital sentences are kind of scary. How could one design a content-analysis or real-world study to estimate the impact of these experimental findings in the real world?
5. Is a lot of these as simple as us/them or in-group/out-group distinctions, or is the literature deeper than that? Is race the same as any other in-group / out-group distinction?
6. In the moral foundations literature, how is race incorporated?
7. How does race compare to other important and common frames in politics? What other frames can be as powerful? Partisanship? Religious symbols? Sexuality? How would one estimate the power of various possible framing stimuli?