

Political Science Scope and Methods

Observation, Measurement, and Political Implications II

- ### Finishing up...
- This week: Measurement, part 2
 - Concerns
 - Interviews
 - Verbal Reports of Decision-making
 - Verbal Reports of Behavior
 - Examples
 - Butterfly Ballot
 - SATs
 - Your Projects

- ### Interviews
-
- Systematic Observation
 - Access
 - Data collection
 - Example: Fenno
 - Problems?

- ### Verbal Reports: Decision-Making and Behaviors
-
- Decision-Making
 - Nisbett and Wilson
 - Implications for research
 - Reports of Behavior
 - Sensitive questions
 - Faulty memory
 - Solutions?
 - Example: Vote over-reporting

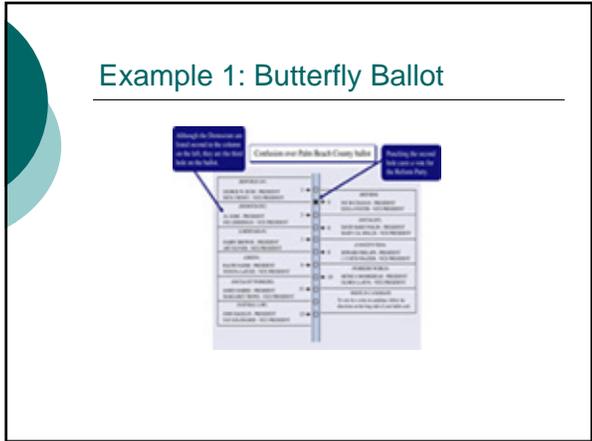


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Strategy of Analysis

- Simple votes vs. vote for Buchanan graph
 - Could be misleading
 - Palm Beach is a large county
 - Cases; limited to Florida
 - Vote for Buchanan small (<1%)

Strategy of Analysis (continued)

- Look at *all* counties in the U.S.
 - Expected vote: Palm Beach is an outlier
- Are votes for Buchanan coming from Gore voters?
 - Look to other counties; compare Palm Beach to Broward and Miami-Dade
- Overvotes
 - Compare Gore/Buchanan votes to Gore/Bush
- Absentee Ballots
 - Natural experiment

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SATs

- What do they measure?
 - Ability vs. aptitude
 - Questions of validity
 - Berkeley study
 - SAT preparation works: Kaplan
- Implications: University of Michigan Lawsuit



More Examples

- Your Projects

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