

- Agenda** |
1. Administrative
 2. Discussing fatness
 3. Political participation

Reminder: worksheet deadlines

- ⋮ 11:59pm deadline is *strict*
- ⋮ Peer evaluation tool cannot allow late submissions
- ⋮ Submit your worksheets first to FeedbackFruits

Reminder: worksheet word limits

- ⋮ 500 word limit is strict
- ⋮ *The best (and highest scoring) answers are usually much shorter than this*

March 12 reading

- ∴ *Coming Out as Fat: Rethinking Stigma* (Saguy and Ward 2011)
- ∴ Being fat is *extremely* stigmatized
- ∴ Anti-fat stigma is often considered acceptable in ways that, e.g., anti-queer stigma is not (e.g. media, government, science, ...)

Discussing fatness

- ∴ **Being fat is not an indicator of poor health**
- ∴ Medicalized terms like 'obese' and normative words like 'overweight' should be avoided, as should euphemisms that try to avoid saying the word fat
- ∴ Trauma surrounding bodies is common — be sensitive in your Perusall comments and group discussions
- ∴ Because of the sensitivity of these issues, I will be ***moderating the Persuall comments*** more closely than usual

Political participation





Many types of political participation

- ⋮ Voting
- ⋮ Direct participation
E.g. running for office
- ⋮ Collective pressure
E.g. committees and interest groups
- ⋮ Direct action
E.g. strikes, occupations, marches, sabotage, service, ...
- ⋮ Money
E.g. campaigns, influence, bribery, ...

Social categories matter

- ⋮ Associations between social identity and political ideals mean turnout influence outcomes
- ⋮ Non-participation widespread
- ⋮ Non-participation results from preferences and institutional barriers

In US, most likely voters are wealthy, older, educated, employed, and white

Politics and social identity

- ∴ Political ideals tend to correlate with social categories
- ∴ Gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, religion, ...

E.g.: Democrat vs Republicans

(US, 2016)

- ∴ ***Republicans disproportionately:*** white, men, straight, protestant / evangelical Christian, upper-middle class
- ∴ ***Democrats disproportionately:*** non-white, women, LGBTQIA+, agnostic/atheist or Jewish, lower class
- ∴ ***Black Americans ~20x more likely Democrat than Republican***



Disenfranchisement

- ∴ Commonly, certain groups are excluded from voting, either formally or informally.
- ∴ **Historically:** race, gender, ...
- ∴ **Currently:** age, citizenship, imprisonment, location, ...
- ∴ **Suffrage:** the legal right to vote

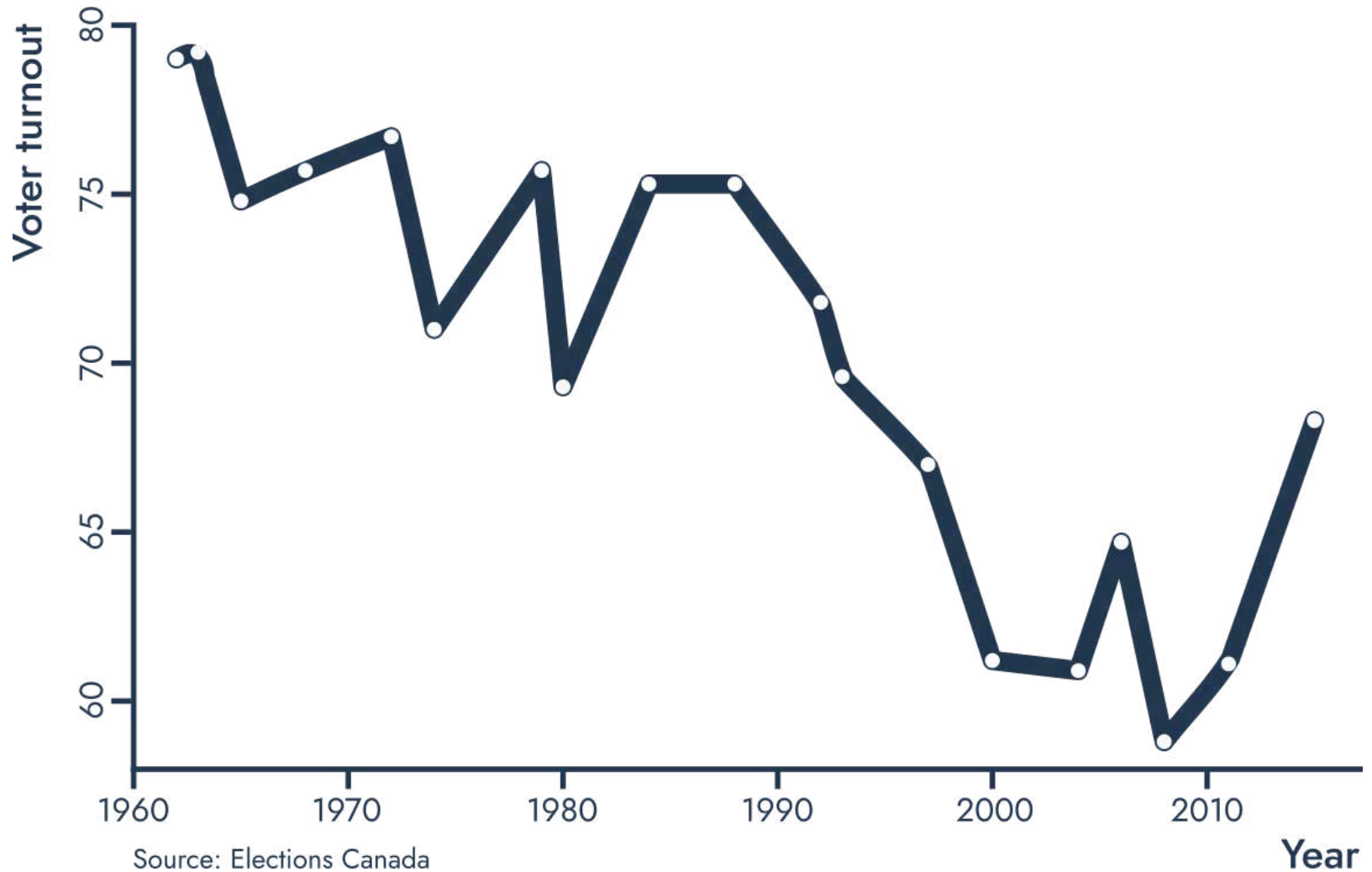
Informal means often limit electoral participation among certain groups

- ∴ Literacy tests exploit correlation between education and political positions
- ∴ Voter ID laws exploit correlation between socio-economic factors, race, and political positions
- ∴ Polling place accessibility laws exploit correlation between ability/geography and political positions
- ∴ **Also applies to non-electoral participation**



Voter turnout in Canada (percent)

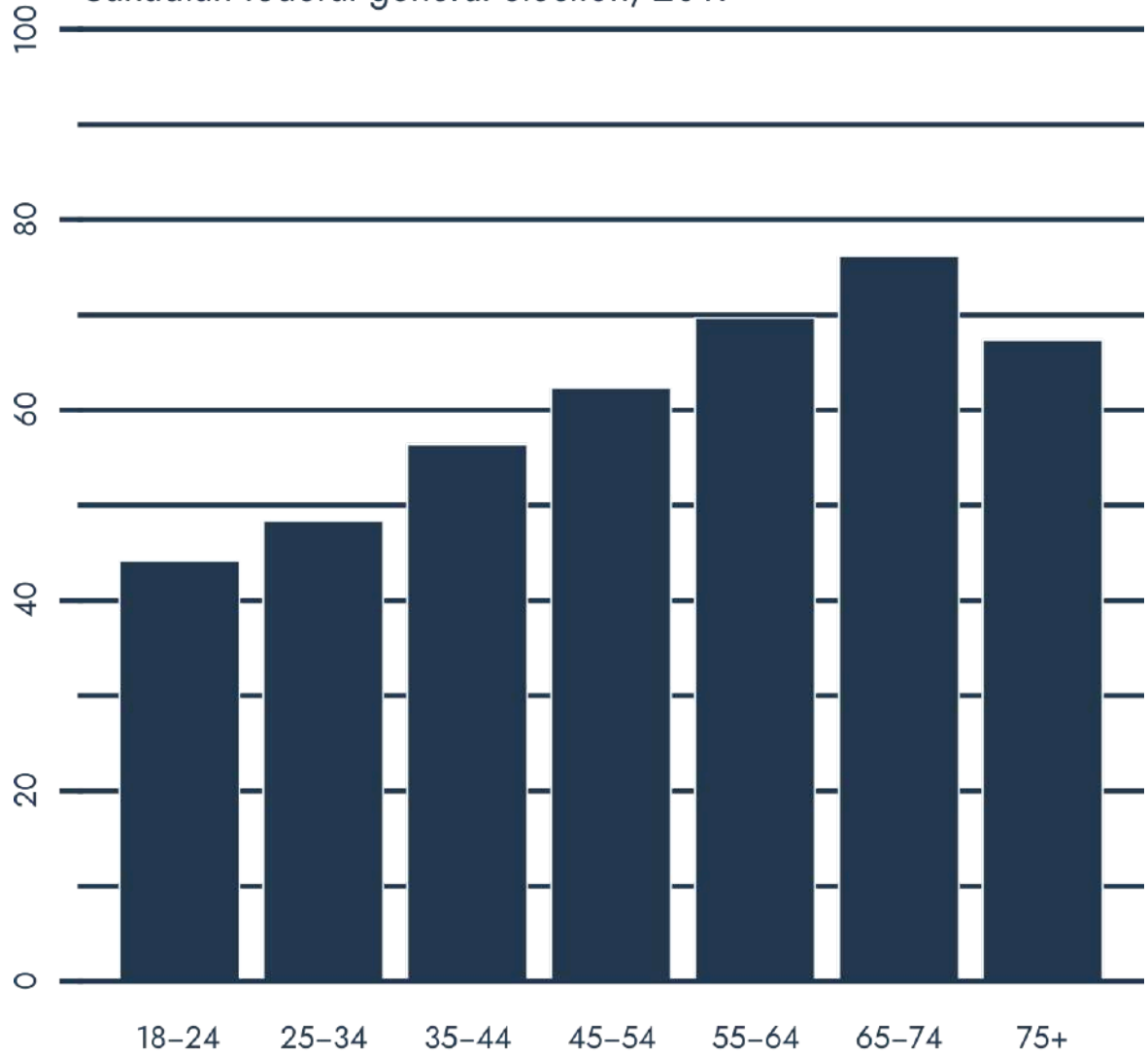
Federal elections and referendums, 1960–2015



Source: Elections Canada

Voter turnout as percentage of population

Canadian federal general election, 2019



Age group

sources: Elections Canada, Statistics Canada

Rational choice theory

- ∴ *Political economy*
- ∴ Voter decisions based on expected costs and benefits
- ∴ Rational choice predicts *extremely* low voter turnout

Theories of socialization

- ∴ Democratic participation is learned
- ∴ Necessary to know the *norms and procedures* of political engagement
 - Knowledge of government processes
 - Engagement with politicians
 - Sources of news
 - Understanding of formal and informal voting practices

Structural barriers

- ∴ Structural constraints can explain most patterns of voter turnout
- ∴ Time
 - Employment, family structure, access to transit
- ∴ Geography
 - Location of polls, rural versus urban setting, neighborhood
- ∴ Language
 - Ballots and instructions, get-out-the-vote initiatives

Alienation

- ∴ Lack of trust in political institutions
- ∴ Legitimacy of state in question
- ∴ Voting as implicit endorsement of system of governance
 - Non-participation as voice
- ∴ Voter suppression
 - Misinformation, unequal resources, districting patterns, voter intimidation
- ∴ Structural barriers → alienation

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