

Agenda

1. Administrative
2. Discussing fatness
3. Felon disenfranchisement
(Uggen and Manza, 2002)
4. Political participation
5. Discussion: non-voting
disenfranchisement

Communication

- ∴ I am behind on replying to messages (I was sick over the break), but I am catching up!

Synthesis essay 1

- ∴ Final marks will be distributed this week
- ∴ TA feedback is brief. For more detailed feedback please message me on Teams for a face-to-face discussion

Synthesis essay 2

- ∴ Due next Wednesday at 11:59pm

Midterm grades soon!

March 19 reading

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

Discussing fatness

- ⋮ Being fat is not a medical condition needing treatment, nor is it 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
- ⋮ Do not single out individual bodies for comment (celebrity or otherwise)
- ⋮ 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

***Democratic Contraction?
Political Consequences of Felon
Disenfranchisement in the United States***
(Uggen & Manza 2002)

- ⋮ What is the *research question*?
- ⋮ What is the *theoretical framing*?
- ⋮ What *methods* were used?
- ⋮ What are the *findings*?

Table 2. The Impact of Felon Disenfranchisement on U.S. Senate Elections: 1978 to 2000

| Election Year | State | Disenfranchised Population | | | Estimated Voting Behavior | | | Republican Victory Margin | | | Senate Composition | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Current Felons | Ex-Felons | Total | Turnout Percent | Percent Democratic | Net Democratic Votes Lost | Actual Margin | Counter-factual Margin | Republican Held Seat Through | Actual ^a | Limited Counter-factual | Cumulated Counter-factual |
| 1978 | Virginia ^b | 21,776 | 71,788 | 93,564 | 16.4 | 80.2 | 9,268 | 4,721 | -4,547 | 2008+ | 58:41-D | 60:39-D | 60:39-D |
| 1978 | Texas ^c | 100,707 | 89,662 | 190,369 | 13.4 | 80.2 | 15,408 | 12,227 | -3,181 | 2008+ | 58:41-D | 60:39-D | 60:39-D |
| 1980 | <i>Unchanged</i> | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | — | 53:46-R | 51:48-R | 51:48-R |
| 1982 | <i>Unchanged</i> | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | — | 54:46-R | 52:48-R | 52:48-R |
| 1984 | Kentucky ^d | 20,583 | 54,481 | 75,064 | 38.5 | 68.9 | 10,925 | 5,269 | -5,655 | 2008+ | 53:47-R | 52:48-R | 50:50 — |
| 1986 | <i>Unchanged</i> | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | — | 55:45-D | 56:44-D | 58:42-D |
| 1988 | Florida ^e | 87,264 | 206,247 | 293,512 | 26.5 | 79.4 | 45,735 | 34,518 | -11,217 | 2000 | 55:45-D | 58:42-D | 60:40-D |
| 1988 | Wyoming ^f | 3,013 | 6,969 | 9,982 | 24.5 | 79.4 | 1,438 | 1,322 | -116 | 2006+ | 55:45-D | 58:42-D | 60:40-D |
| 1990 | <i>Unchanged</i> | .— | .— | .— | — | .— | .— | .— | .— | — | 56:44-D | 58:42-D | 61:39-D |
| 1992 | Georgia ^g | 131,911 | 0 | 131,911 | 29.6 | 74.7 | 19,289 | 16,237 | -3,052 | 2000 | 57:43-D | 60:40-D | 63:37-D |
| 1994 | <i>Unchanged</i> | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | — | 52:48-R | 51:49-R | 54:46-D |
| 1996 | <i>Unchanged</i> | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | — | 55:45-R | 54:46-R | 51:49-D |
| 1998 | Kentucky ^h | 31,456 | 94,584 | 126,040 | 25.4 | 69.7 | 12,614 | 6,766 | -5,848 | 2004+ | 55:45-R | 54:46-R | 50:50-D |
| 2000 | <i>Unchanged</i> | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | .— | — | 50:50 — | 51:49-D | 55:45-D |

Sources: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., *America Votes* (1978–2000); Current Population Survey (1978–2000); National Election Study (1978–2000).

^a Data on actual Senate composition taken from U.S. Senate (2002).

^b In Virginia, J. Warner (R) defeated Miller (D) in 1978, Harrison in 1984, Spannaus in 1990, M. Warner in 1996, and Spannaus in 2002.

^c In Texas, Tower (R) defeated Krueger (D) in 1978; Gramm (R) defeated Doggett in 1984, Parmer in 1990, and Morales in 1996; Cornyn defeated Kirk in 2002.

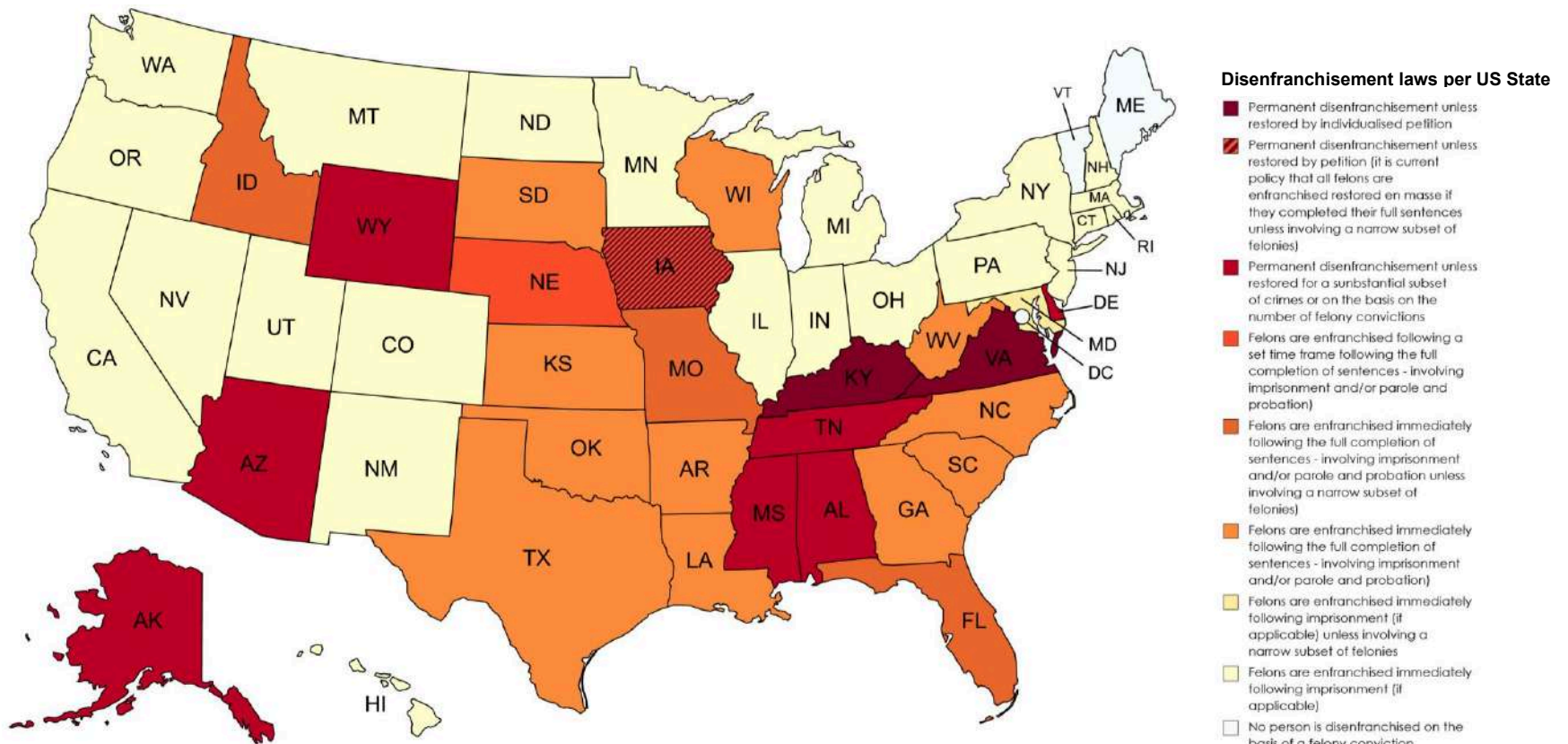
^d In Kentucky, McConnell (R) defeated Huddleston (D) in 1984, Sloane in 1990, Beshear in 1996, and Weinberg in 2002.

^e In Florida, Mack (R) defeated MacKay (D) in 1988, and Rodham in 1994; McCollum (R) defeated Nelson (D) in 2000.

^f In Wyoming, Wallop (R) defeated Vinich (D) in 1988, and Thomas (R) defeated Sullivan in 1994.

^g In Georgia, Coverdell (R) defeated Fowler (D) in 1992, and Coles in 1998. After Coverdell's death in 2000, he was succeeded by Miller (D).

^h In Kentucky, Bunning (R) defeated Baesler (D) in 1998 (Class 3 election).



Source: [Wikimedia user Dashing24](#)

Political partici- pation





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 or 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, criminal record, location, ...
- ‡ *Suffrage*: the legal right to vote

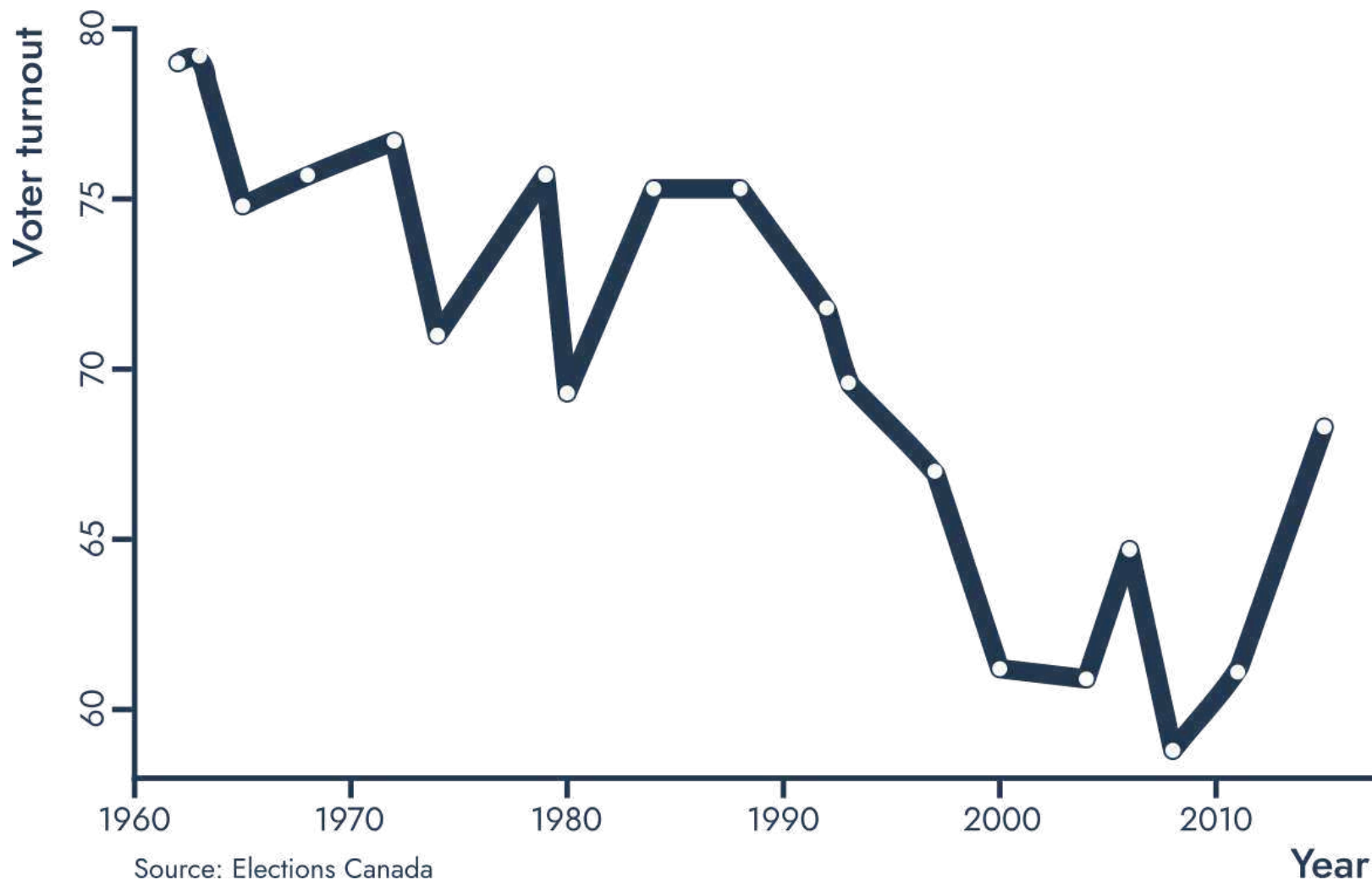
Informal means often limit electoral participation among certain groups

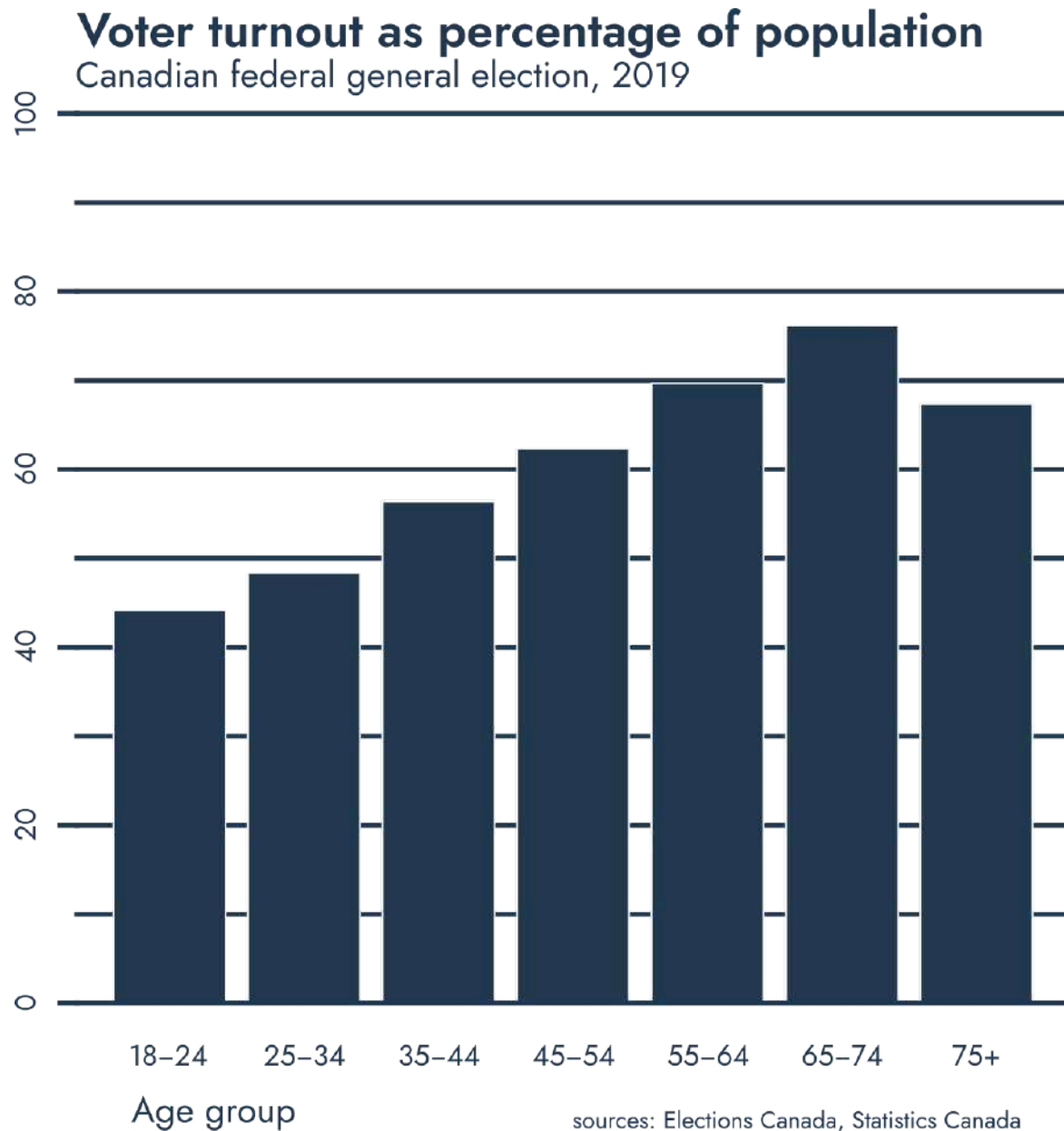
- ‡ Literacy tests exploit correlation between education and political positions
- ‡ Voter ID laws exploit correlation between socio-economic factors, race, and political positions
- ‡ Polling place accessibility laws exploit correlation between ability/geography and political positions
- ‡ *Also applies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



Voter turnout in Canada (percent)

Federal elections and referendums, 1960–2015





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**

Uggen and Manza (2002) discuss felony conviction as a major source of voter disenfranchisement in the United States. However, as we have just discussed, voting is only one form of political participation.

Consider another form of political participation (e.g. direct action, boycotts, holding office, etc.) in the United States, Canada, or elsewhere, and discuss forms of explicit and implicit *barriers to participation*.

- ‡ *Individually*: Spend 2-3 minutes thinking of one or two examples.
- ‡ *In pairs (or groups of 3)*: Discuss your examples. Try to complicate or expand on them!
- ‡ *As a class*: Discuss a few examples.

Image credit



Image via [sub.media](#)

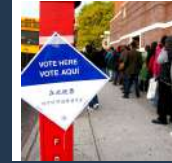


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