

# Approaches: Sociological

Joe Greenwood-Hau

L2929 Political behaviour  
School of Government & Public Policy  
University of Strathclyde  
Thursday 13 October 2022



# Agenda

- Practical points
- Student presentation
- Basic tenets of the sociological approach
- An example: Schlozman et al.
  - Resources, engagement, and recruitment
  - Causal process: background to participation
  - The funnel of causality
- Discussion of readings



# Practical points

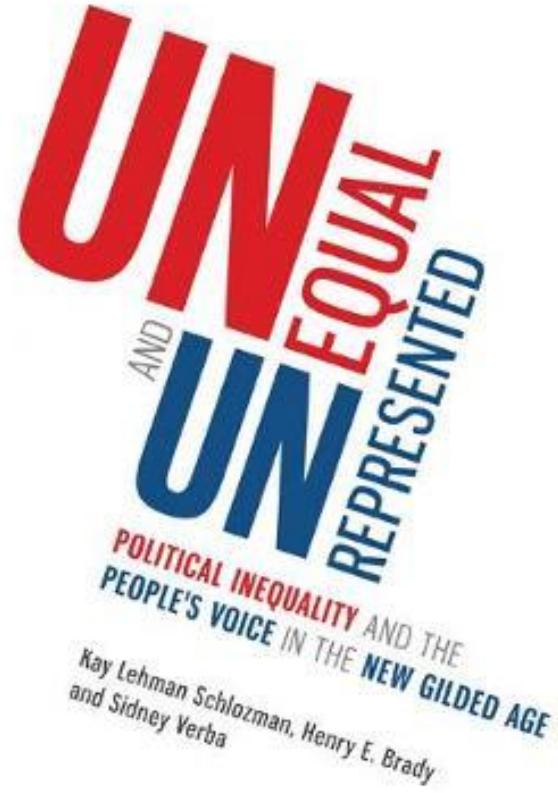
- Class representative
  - How best to raise any issues
- Essay discussion
  - Due at 12:00 on Friday 21 October
  - Any questions?



# Basic tenets of the sociological approach(es)

- Social cleavages and privilege matter
  - (Krenshaw 1989, Schlozman et al. 2020)
- Socialisation matters
  - (Dassonneville and McAllister 2018, Dinas 2013)
- Social context matters
  - (Dinas 2014, Grasso et al. 2017)
- Norms and enforcement matter
  - (Gerber et al. 2008, Habyarimana et al. 2007)





An example:  
Schlozman et al.



# Schlozman et al.: The Civic Volun- tarism Model

## Resources:

- Money
- Time
- Civic skills

## Engagement:

- Interest
- Efficacy
- Knowledge
- Party identity

## Recruitment

- Requests to participate

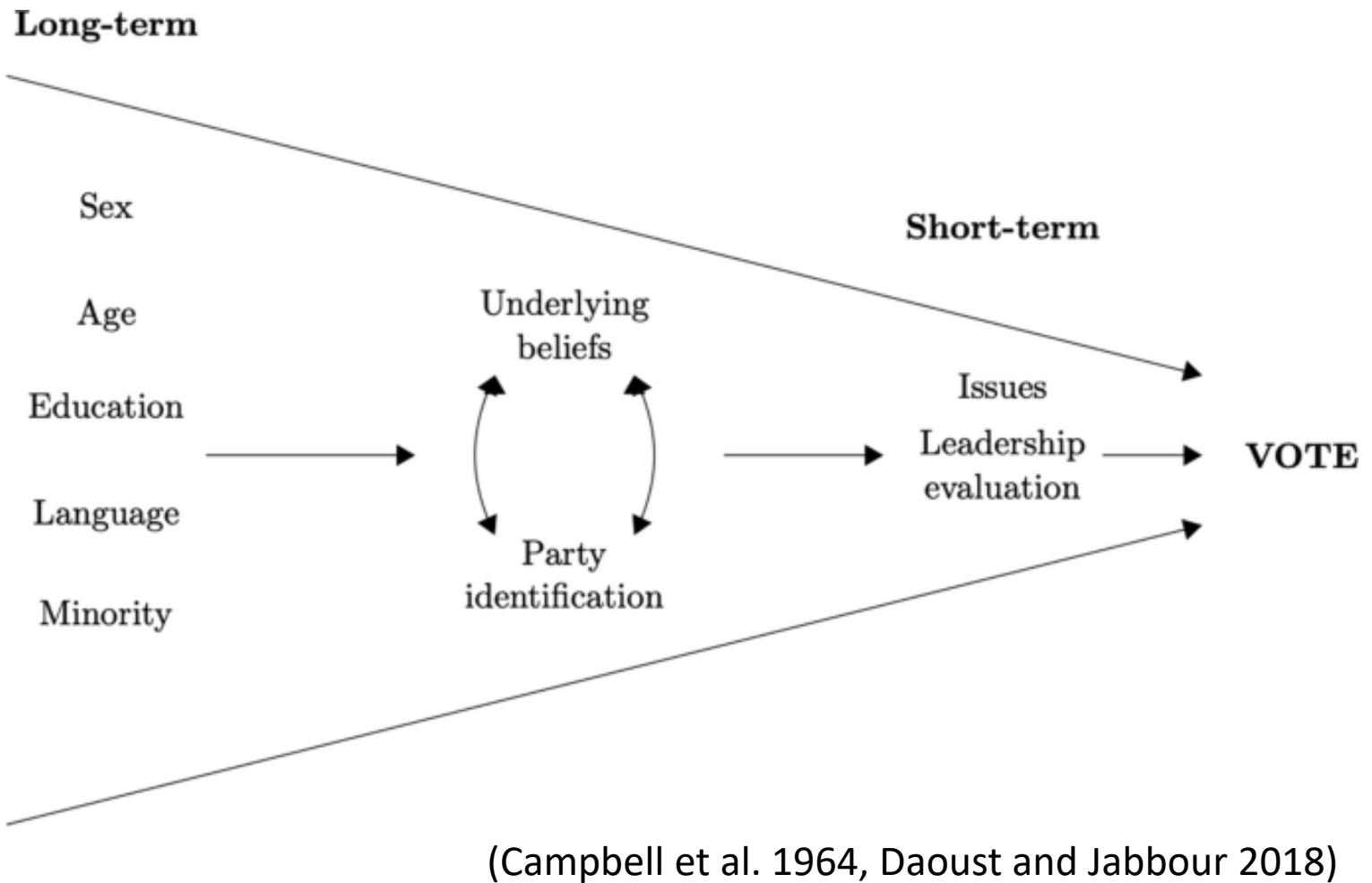




Schlozman et al.:  
Causal process



# The funnel of causality



# Essential reading overview

**Grasso et al.** show that people who had formative years during Blair's tenure were less economically progressive than people who had formative years during Thatcher's tenure (though socially progressive values started to rebound).

**Heath** demonstrates that policy indifference and alienation have a weak effect on the turnout gap between working and middle class people, whilst social alienation (as Labour reduced its number of working class MPs) has a sizeable and robust effect.

**McNeil and Haberstroh** show that social origin, as well as current social status (based both on education and occupational class), has an impact on likelihood of voting for Brexit, but that mobility itself does not have an impact.



# Group discussion

- In a random order, each group chooses two questions from the handout, which is available via [Myplace](#) (L2929 > Week 3 – Approaches: Sociological)
- Each group discusses their questions and summarises the discussion on padlet, including any uncertainties or questions about the ideas, concepts or arguments:
  - <https://padlet.com/joegreenwoodhau/L2929>
- At least one group member should be prepared to feed back



# References

- Angus Campbell, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller and Donald E. Stokes (1964), *The American Voter* (New York, John Wiley & Sons).
- Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989), 'Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics', *University of Chicago Legal Forum*, pp. 139-168.
- Jean-François Daoust and Alexandra Jabbour (2020), 'An extraordinary election? A longitudinal perspective of the Québec 2018 election', *French Politics*, Vol. 18, pp. 253-272.
- Ruth Dassonneville and Ian McAllister (2018), 'Gender, Political Knowledge, and Descriptive Representation: The Impact of Long-Term Socialization', *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 62, No. 2, pp. 249-265.
- Elias Dinas (2013), 'Opening "Openness to Change": Political Events and the Increased Sensitivity of Young Adults', *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 66, No. 4, pp. 868-882.
- Elias Dinas (2014), 'Why Does the Apple Fall Far from the Tree? How Early Political Socialization Prompts Parent-Child Dissimilarity', *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 44, No. 4, pp. 827-852.
- Alan S. Gerber, Donald P. Green, and Christopher W. Larimer (2008), 'Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment', *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 102, No. 1, pp. 33-48.
- Maria Teresa Grasso, Stephen Farrall, Emily Gray, Colin Hay and Will Jennings (2019), 'Thatcher's Children, Blair's Babies, Political Socialization and Trickle-down Value Change: An Age, Period and Cohort Analysis', *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 49, No. 1, pp. 17-36.
- James Habyarimana, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, and Jeremy M. Weinstein, 'Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?', *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 101, No. 4 (Nov. 2007), pp. 709-725.
- Kay Lehman Schlozman, Henry E. Brady and Sidney Verba (2020), *Unequal and Unrepresented: Political Inequality and the People's Voice in the New Gilded Age* (Princeton, NJ, Princeton University Press).