

Normative Political Expressivism and its Policy Effects

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Politics, Philosophy, and Economics

What is the effect of political messaging on policy outcomes?

Case: Coronavirus discourse in popular media and health outcomes

What mechanisms may it operate by?

Does the mechanism illustrate any breakdown in our democracy?

COVID-19 Pandemic

Amid Record Daily New COVID Infections, Trump Says 'Millions of Lives' Saved

By Steve Herman
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Politicization

Saliency

Scope

Intensity

Political Mobilization

Position Taking

Selective Emphasis → (High potential)

Justification Framing → (for coercion)

Accountability:

Is there a disconnect between political will and outcome?

Citizenship

Free-willed → Subjective (liberalized democracy)

Coerced → Objective (authoritarian)

Methodology

40 articles from 4 countries each

Code each article for incidence of PT, SE, or JF

Regression Analysis

JF and SE should be more predictive of poor outcomes

Potential Solutions

- No golden bullet, cultural/structural shift necessary
- Expansion of electoral system, e.g. Proportional Representation
- Publicly funded media, political campaigns
- Engage in a multitude of small-scale political conflicts, not one large one

Key Texts

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