



A review of Foucault's theory and Political science

Ajay Kumar

NET, JRF

Akkhatkar08@gmail.com

Abstract

Academics have known for some time that emotions play a significant role in politics, but recent studies have sought to more fully include affect into models of political activity. Many of the problems that political scientists have been trying to solve for decades may now have their missing component revealed: human emotions. Democracy, at its core, presents a problem of communal action. Involvement in politics may be beneficial for society as a whole, but the additional rewards per individual citizen might occasionally outweigh the costs. However, there are occasions when people appear to break out of cold individual value assessment and become involved in politics because of how they feel about an issue. In spite of this, emotions may also skew information processing; so, scholars should keep this in mind as we advance our understanding of the role of emotion in politics.

Keywords

collective action, deliberation, emotion, information processing, information seeking, political participation, politics, tolerance

Introduction

The “Foucauldian Turn in Political Science” was proposed as a title for this piece. However, I do not believe that such a shift has taken place in the field. Foucault has, on the other hand, hijacked the traditional primary concerns of the discipline, especially power and governance, while the field as a whole has moved away from a serious examination of these issues. Foucault's discussions and analyses of power and government are so novel and striking in their significance for the way we do political science, but also for our lives, thoughts, and practices as scholars, that they should have become a focal point for the revival of these topics and their restoration to centrality in the field. If I could paraphrase Verne and call this piece something like Foucault Revolutionizes Political Science, I would. I will use some examples from political science to illustrate how Foucault's ideas on power and governance are relevant to the field. To encourage other academics



to consider Foucault's ideas, I also present a few examples from contemporary political science that illustrate his influence. Although I have touched on some of Foucault's most important ideas, I have avoided discussing his views on other essential aspects of the study of politics, such as political practices, freedom, justice, ideology, political resistance, revolution, and gender studies. I have chosen to focus on his ideas on power and governance. Many research in the so-called behavioral revolution didn't intend to address the larger picture, despite the claims of some of its supporters. While formal methods of analysis have become more common in political science, these approaches lean more heavily on mathematics and analysis than simulation. Although the use of computer-based simulation exercises has increased over the last decade, they are still rather rare. The potential and advantages of employing simulation modeling in political science are discussed in this article. It begins by analyzing the role that simulation research has played in various subfields of political science, and then continues on to examine simulation's place among other theory- and model-building” approaches.

Review of literature

(Johnson, 1999) studied “Political Science” The field of political science has benefited greatly from simulation studies. This article details many simulation studies, contrasting simulation with other research methodologies, and highlighting the benefits and drawbacks of each. Research in the field of simulation excels in modeling complex systems that involve many autonomous, interacted-with entities. While statistical and formal techniques of analysis have made strides in many areas, simulation has much room for improvement. This is investigated in a variety of settings, including as game theory, international politics, the prisoner's dilemma, and agent-based simulations of group dynamics.

(Berkeley, 2018) studied “Political Science” The naturalism “tendencies within qualitative concept creation, most notably articulated by Giovanni Sartori and David Collier, are criticized from an anti-naturalist philosophical perspective in this article. To start things off, we define naturalism and anti-naturalism in philosophical terms. While naturalism holds that studying Anti-naturalism stresses the importance and malleability on the basis that the study of human existence is not fundamentally different from the study of natural phenomena, the situatedness of the researcher, and the resultant dialogical nature of social science. These two schools of thought are polar opposites and produce incongruent worldviews because of it. Naturalism places an emphasis on



reification, essentialism, and an instrumentalist reading of language in its conception of the creative process. Anti-naturalism, on the other hand, questions the use of essentialist notions by questioning whether they hide the role of chance and if they hide the situatedness of the researcher and the dialogical character of social science via the language they employ. After laying this theoretical framework, we provide a philosophical analysis of the conceptualization of qualitative ideas. We demonstrate that the conceptual approaches to language stated by Giovanni Sartori and David Collier reflect the reification, essentialism, and instrumentalism typical of the naturalistic worldview. While Collier's work on the development of ideas is more complex and adaptable than that of Sartori, it yet remains committed to a debunked” naturalism.

(McDermott, 2002) studied “Experimental Methods In Political Science” In this essay, we take a look back at how political scientists have used experiments. The first part of the paper gives a brief summary of experimental design and measurements, examines potential dangers to internal and external validity, and lays out the pros and cons of doing experiments. A look back at how many and where exactly those political science experiments took place. The majority of the article is dedicated to analyzing the findings of experiments in the fields of behavioral economics, political economy, and human choice.

(Groenendyk, 2011) studied “Research in Political Science” Although academics have known for some time that affect is crucial to politics, new studies have tried to more fully integrate affect into models of political action. It's possible that emotions will provide the solution to a number of problems that have baffled political scientists for decades. Democracy, by its very nature, creates difficulties for groups to work together. The extra policy gains that may be realized by active citizen participation are not always worth the expense to the individual citizen. Emotions, however, tend to encourage individuals to sometimes go beyond calculating their own value and instead become involved in politics for a number of reasons. However, researchers should be aware that emotions may potentially distort information processing as they expand our knowledge of the part emotions play in politics.

(Brass, 2000) studied “Political Science” Foucault has hijacked the concepts of power and governance that have long been deemed important to political science, however there has been a general trend away from these kinds of serious discussions in the profession. Foucault's discussions and analyses of power are so innovative and striking in their implications for the way we do



political science, for our lives, for our thought, and for the practices of scholars, that his work should have become a focal point for the revival of these topics and their restoration to centrality in the field by now.

(Muller et al., 1982) studied “Political Science” Researchers in the field of political science, in general, did not take the suggested direction. As a result, various research methods have become more prevalent in the sector. Many researchers have ignored the fundamental challenge raised by and instead focused on smaller, more specific studies of human behavior. While some proponents of the so-called "behavioral revolution" advocated for looking at the big picture, the vast majority of studies didn't set out to do so. While formal techniques of analysis have gained popularity in political science, they tend to be more mathematical or analytical than simulation-based. While computer-based simulation exercises have become more prevalent during the last decade, they remain unusual.

Conclusion

These “examples are aimed to show how Foucault's theories may breathe fresh life into political science and take it in a different path. For all its variety, political science is primarily concerned with classical hermeneutics in fields like political theory and constitutional law; state-centered studies of governance and intergovernmental relations; analyses of the internal dynamics of political parties and their outcomes in elections; partisan discussions of pressing contemporary policy issues like affirmative action, race, and gender; and dissections of voter behavior, among other things. I have argued and demonstrated that the work of Foucault and others who have followed in his footsteps or who have grappled with or been subverted by his thought can provide entry points into new topics and new forms of theoretical, comparative, and policy analyses of subject matter that falls within the traditional domain of political science. But it would be a mistake to suppose that the discipline can gain much from the simple introduction of Foucauldian ideas into political science or from his revival as a canonized theorist, whose writings are to be analyzed for their own sake or for the acquisition of his hidden knowledge. If you want to know who the most subversive living philosopher, historian, and political analyst is, go no farther than Michel Foucault. For those who have doubts about the veracity of their disciplinary enterprise, the methodologies they employ, and their rationalistic and mechanistic underpinnings, as well as their implication in existing power relations that are politically and academically conservative, a



thorough and clear reading of Foucault can be deeply unsettling. Reading Foucault may make one question the value of their own work and the work of others, and force one to ask what matters most. There is reason to expect that simulation approaches will play an increasingly significant role in the future, despite the fact that empirical research methods and rational choice theory have expanded more fast. Numerous subdisciplines within political science have explored the potential use of simulation. Due to the inherent difficulty of formal/analytical approaches, simulation has been used on occasion. This is true for models that depict international warfare as well as those that are used to determine the likelihood of voting cycles. In other instances when the subject matter is a good fit for the simulation method, simulation models have been used. Since simulation permits the investigation of various options in a complex situation, it has been very useful for studying cooperative behavior in anarchic circumstances, for example. Similarly, political processes involving dynamic adjustment and loosely bound networks are well-suited to models that integrate adjustment and learning under situations of limited knowledge or restricted” rationality.

References

1. Berkeley, U. C. (2018). UC Berkeley Proposing New Temporal Differential Modeling Strategies: From Model-Free to Model-Based Deep Reinforcement Learning. 1–9.
2. Brass, P. R. (2000). F s p s. 305–330.
3. Groenendyk, E. (2011). Current emotion research in political science: How emotions help democracy overcome its collective action problem. *Emotion Review*, 3(4), 455–463. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1754073911410746>
4. Johnson, P. E. (1999). Simulation modeling in political science. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 42(10), 1509–1530. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00027649921957865>
5. McDermott, R. (2002). Experimental methods in political science. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 5, 31–61. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.polisci.5.091001.170657>
6. Muller, E., Jukam, T., & Seligson, M. (1982). Diffuse Political Support and Antisystem Political Behavior. In *American Journal of Political Science* (Vol. 26, Issue 2, pp. 240–264).