Gov 50.08: Emotions

Prof. Kathleen E. Powers

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Paper Proposals

- Due tonight by 11:59pm in the Canvas Assignment box.
- Remember to bring 2 printed copies to the x-hour tomorrow.
- Questions I've received that all might want an answer to:
  - Yes, resources on our class syllabus – assigned or optional – can count toward your 5 annotated bibliography entries.
  - Yes, primary source material counts, though I encourage you to focus on secondary resources for your annotated bibliography so that I can offer feedback on additional material.

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Learning Objectives

- Use the Appraisal Tendency Framework to explain the distinct effects of anxiety and anger on 1) information processing, 2) risk perceptions, and 3) action tendencies.
  - Apply this knowledge to understand responses to international terrorist threats
- Explain how anger & hatred can shape the prospects for international negotiation, using the Israel-Palestine case as an example.
- Apply theories about anger and anxiety to novel problems international politics.

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"The Passion of World Politics"

- IR scholars have traditionally ignored emotions… and "the result is politics without passion or principles, which is hardly the politics of the world in which we live" (Finnemore and Sikkink 1998, p.916).
- Why? (see e.g., Crawford 2000)
  - Rationality
  - Cold cognition
  - Assume intuitive effects
  - Internal

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"The Passion of World Politics"

- Damasio's research on patients with lesions in their limbic system shows that people with normal skill on intelligence and memory – but improperly functioning emotions – make bad decisions.
  - Participants receive $2,000 and four decks of playing cards.
  - "Bad" decks give them $100 rewards, but also had many cards with high costs. In the long run, you lose most money selecting from these decks.
  - "Good" decks give $50 rewards, but also have smaller penalties. In the long run, you win more money with these rewards.
  - People with limbic lesions never learned, while non-lesion participants quickly learned to choose the good decks.
  - The non-lesion participants didn't know *why* – they just thought it "felt right."
- So what does this have to do with IR?

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"The Passion of World Politics"

- IR scholars have traditionally ignored emotions… and "the result is politics without passion or principles, which is hardly the politics of the world in which we live" (Finnemore and Sikkink 1998, p.916).
- Emotions are everywhere in international relations…
  - Fear drives realists' expectations (e.g. Mearsheimer 2001)
  - Emotional commitments can create issue indivisibility (e.g., Fearon 1995).
  - Foreign policy decision-making occurs under conditions of stress (e.g, Allison).
  - Hate & love connect nationalism to war (e.g., Snyder).
  - Institutions are built from distrust (or trust) (e.g., Keohane, Rathbun 2011, Mercer 2005).
  - Emotions are necessary for rationality (Mercer 2005; Bechara at al 1997).
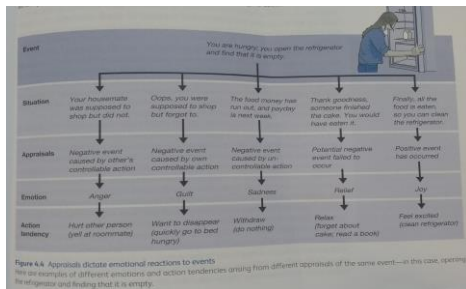
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How do Emotions Affect Behavior?

- Appraisal Theories:
  - We appraise a situation, experience an emotion, and take action (or inaction).
  - Discrete emotions influence how we think and create action tendencies.

- See Lerner & Keltner (2000, 2001) or Lerner et al. (2015) "Emotion and Decision Making" for a thorough review in psychology.

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Appraisal Tendency Framework

From Smith, Mackie, and Claypool 2015, p.115

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Anger & Anxiety in IR

- Threats are a primary source of emotional reactions in the international system.
  - But people respond to threats in different ways, depending on the appraisal.
  - **Anger**: negative event, prevents you from achieving some desired end, caused by someone else's controllable action.
  - **Anxiety**: negative event, source of threat is external and uncertain

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Anger & Anxiety in IR

	Anxiety	Anger
Depth of Information Processing		
Risk Assessment		
Action Tendencies		

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Anger & Anxiety in IR

- Huddy, Feldman, and Cassese (2007) review additional results from their TNSS survey, in which they differentiate between **anger and anxiety**, alongside results from a study by Lerner et al. (2003) in which they show participants **anger- or fear-inducing videos** about the attacks.

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Anger & Anxiety in IR

	Anxiety	Anger
Depth of Information Processing		
Risk Assessment		
Action Tendencies		
U.S. Public Reactions to 9/11?		

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Anger & Anxiety in IR

- Huddy, Feldman, Taber, and Lahav (2005) argue that anxiety & perceived threat produce distinct responses to terrorism.
  - What are their primary findings?
  - How might a leader strategically respond in light of this information?
  - How might a terrorist organization strategically respond in light of this information?

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Anger & Anxiety in IR

- Other applications:
  - How could anger & anxiety affect diplomatic negotiations?
  - Anger, anxiety & prospect theory (Druckman & McDermott, 2008)
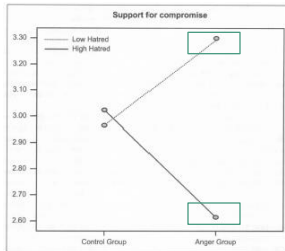
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Anger & Hatred in Israel-Palestine

- Halperin et al. (2011) argue that anger and hatred combine to shape Israeli attitudes toward peace negotiations.
- What is their theory?
- How do they test it?
- What do they find?

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Anger & Hatred in Israel-Palestine

- Hatred moderates the effect of anger on support for compromise.
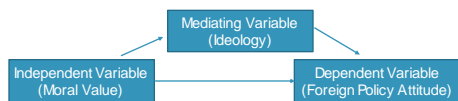

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Anger & Hatred in Israel-Palestine

- Halperin et. al.'s article focuses on normal Israeli citizens. Would this experiment's results differ if it were performed on leaders personally involved in the conflict whose anger/hatred is based on personal interactions with leaders of the other side? Why or why not?
- What are the implications of Halperin et al.'s (2011) argument for "intractable conflicts" more broadly?
- What would be the strategic implications for a leader to induce anger in a negotiation with an adversary?

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Next Week reading: A mediation model

- In the Kertzer et al. (2014) article for next Tuesday, there are "nonparametric mediation analyses." Just like heteroskedastic probit models I don't expect you to know what that means.
- Indeed, these analyses are not the primary empirical contribution of interest. Nevertheless, I want to stave off confusion:
- **Mediation** (not the same as moderation) is a way of understanding the mechanism for a causal effect.

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Fin.

Next time: Values & Morality

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