

Day 6: Opinion and Framing

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PUBPL 481

Road map

- The roles of social movements and interest groups
- How public opinion changes over time
- Frames of thinking on the environment

Social Movements vs. Interest Groups

Social Movements vs. Interest Groups

- Lots of interests, not all are demanded
- Common interest + organization for influencing policy
- Types of groups:
 - Professional
 - Social movements
 - Advocacy organizations



Policy Theories

How do social movements and interest groups fit into the policy theories that we discussed last week?

Public Opinion

Thermostatic ([Wlezien 1995](#))?



Figure: “Thermostat” by midnightcomm, CC BY 2.0

Public Opinion

Thermostatic ([Wlezien 1995](#))?



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$$R = P^* - P \quad (1)$$

R Public's relative policy preference; P^* Public's preferred policy position;
 P Actual policy

Environmental Discourse

- Dryzek's Nine
- "...how we see the world and thus frame environmental problems (our worldview) guides us to specific and limited solutions or perhaps to even denying the problems altogether" (Smith, 44)
- What you do not talk about is just as important as what you say
- Remember our mural analogy

Environmental Discourse

Dryzek's Nine

- 1 Survivalism
- 2 Prometheans
- 3 Environmental Skepticism (Added by Smith)
- 4 Administrative Rationalism
- 5 Democratic Pragmatism
- 6 Economic Rationalism
- 7 Sustainable Development
- 8 Ecological Modernization
- 9 Green Romanticism
- 10 Green Rationalism

What is emphasized by each? What is ignored? How does each view point us towards specific policy solutions to environmental problems?

Questions?



Figure: Q&A by [Libby Levi](#), CC BY-SA 2.0