

POLITICAL SCIENCE SPEAKER SERIES

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Resilience to Adversity: How Black Voters Are Mobilized to Counter Suppression

Building on the study of resilience in social and personality psychology, I examine the role of racial resilience, defined as African Americans' orientation towards triumph over adversity, towards African Americans' political motivation and participation. Leveraging lay understanding of perseverance among Black voters, I develop a socio-cognitive framework to understand how reactions to adversity are interconnected with obligations to endure hurdles associated with civic-oriented acts. I develop a novel measure of resilience - the racial resilience scale. Racially resilient African Americans anchor their worldview in shared cultural recollections of historical events. Observational data and a survey experiment show that African Americans' racial resilience leads to an increased obligation to withstand obstacles to vote, engage in riskier political acts, and feel more connected to other African Americans. These findings demonstrate the necessity to update existing theories of Black political behavior to specify mechanisms and account for the counterintuitive impacts of persistent inequality.

TIME

Monday, Feb. 6, 2023
12:00PM-1:20PM

LOCATION

Watkins 1000

ZOOM DETAILS

Meeting ID: 935 8412 6350
Passcode: 810374