Abstract

The 1997 Pilot Study included an experiment designed for the developmental purpose of investigating the reactivity of batteries of questions investigating political orientations regarding social groups and public reactions to group politics. This experiment also allows a substantive test of the impact of "groups talk" -- focusing on the differences among social groups, their different problems, and their different political demands and views -- on self-reports of basic political orientations toward politics and social life, including personal and political trust and political interest. In other words, it facilitates investigation of a set of orientations often currently labeled as aspects of "social capital."