**Distributional Preferences and Political Behavior**

**Abstract:**

The Distributional Preferences of Voters in the 2016 Presidential Election: We study how distributional preferences, which shape individual opinions on social and redistributive policies, affected political decisions in the 2016 Presidential election. We decompose distributional preferences into two qualitatively different tradeoffs -- fair-mindedness versus self-interest, and equality versus efficiency -- and measure both at the individual level in a diverse group of voters assembled by the American Life Panel (ALP). Trump supporters exhibit less fair-mindedness and greater self-interestedness than the rest of the electorate, but do not exhibit any difference in efficiency-equality orientation. Both patterns present a stark contrast to the 2012 election, when support for the Republican candidate, Mitt Romney, was not correlated to self-interestedness but was significantly correlated to an inclination to favor efficiency over equality. Our findings suggest a partisan realignment concerning redistributive policies: whereas traditional Republicans were distinguished by their efficiency-orientation; Trump Republicans are distinguished by their self-interestedness.