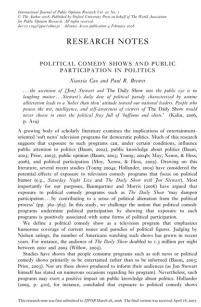

International Journal of Public Opinion Research Vol. 21 No. 1
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doi:10.1093/ijpor/edn042 Advance Access publication 4 February 2008

RESEARCH NOTES

POLITICAL COMEDY SHOWS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

Nianxia Cao and Paul R. Brewer

[…the ascension of Jon] Stewart and The Daily Show *into the public eye is no laughing matter … Stewart's daily dose of political parody characterized by aimless affirmation leads to a 'holier than thou' attitude toward our national leaders. People who possess the wit, intelligence, and self-awareness of viewers of* The Daily Show *would never choose to enter the political fray full of 'buffoons and idiots.'* (Kalin, 2006, p. A14)

A growing body of scholarly literature examines the implications of entertainment-oriented 'soft news' television programs for democratic politics. Much of this research suggests that exposure to such programs can, under certain conditions, influence viewers' knowledge (e.g., Baum, 2003; Hollander, 2005), attitudes (Baum, 2003; Feldman, 2005; Prior, 2003), public opinion (Baum, 2005; Young, 2004b; Moy, Xenos, & Hess, 2006), and political participation (Moy, Xenos, & Hess, 2005). Drawing on this literature, several recent studies (Young 2004a; Hollander, 2005) have considered the potential effects of exposure to television comedy programs that focus on political humor (e.g., *Saturday Night Live* and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*). Most importantly for our purposes, Baumgartner and Morris (2006) have argued that exposure to these programs may depress political participation, thereby contributing to a sense of political alienation from the political process[1] (pp. 362–363). In this study, we challenge the notion that political comedy programs undermine political participation by showing that exposure to such programs is positively associated with some forms of political participation.

We define a political comedy show as a television program that emphasizes humorous coverage of current issues and parodies of political figures. Judging by Nielsen ratings, the number of American watching such shows has grown in recent years. For instance, the audience of *The Daily Show* doubled to 1.5 million per night between 2000 and 2004 (Baum, 2005).

Studies have shown that people consume programs such as soft news or political comedy shows primarily to be entertained rather than to be informed (Baum, 2005; Prior, 2003). Nor are these shows produced to inform their audiences (as Jon Stewart himself has stated on numerous occasions regarding his program). Nevertheless, such programs may exert a positive impact on public knowledge about politics. Hollander (2004, p. 416), for instance, concluded that exposure to political comedy shows

[1]This research note was first submitted to *IJPOR* March 16, 2006. The final version was received April 18, 2007.

Water Politics And Public Involvement

WATER POLITICS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

water politics and public pdf

Water politics, sometimes called hydropolitics, is politics affected by the availability of water and water resources, a necessity for all life forms and human development.The first use of the term, hydropolitics, came in the book Hydropolitics of the Nile Valley. Arun P. Elhance's definition of hydropolitics is "the systematic study of conflict and cooperation between states over water ...

Water politics - Wikipedia

Water privatization is used here as a shorthand for private sector participation in the provision of water services and sanitation.Private sector participation in water supply and sanitation is controversial. Proponents of private sector participation argue that it has led to improvements in the efficiency and service quality of utilities. It is argued that it has increased investment and has ...

Water privatization - Wikipedia

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Water Capitalism: The Case for Privatizing Oceans, Rivers

Strategies for building resilience to hazards in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems: The role of public private partnerships

Strategies for building resilience to hazards in water

City Leaders Announce Assistance For Furloughed Federal Workers Public Utilities will waive penalties to any furloughed federal employees who reside in the city of Columbus and are unable to pay their city utility bills. Eligible federal employees will make minimal monthly payments until the shutdown is over.

Public Utilities - Columbus, Ohio

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Stan Meyer's Dune Buggy that ran on water. Hydrogen/Oxygen fuel in an ICE motor. On board electrolysis, no hydrogen tanks, no bombs on-board, just water. (1998) It ran 100 miles per gallon!

Stan Meyer's Dune Buggy - Water Powered Car
California cities taking cue from attorney generalâ€™s decision not to disclose police disciplinary files

government â€“ Orange County Register
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REPORT Condition for Success 1 â€˜â€™Good Governanceâ€™â€™ Coordinator and Author: Aziza Akhmouch, Administrator of the Water Governance Programme of the Organisation for