



Beyond Debate: Understanding the Dynamics of Collective Deliberation in Decision-Making

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Abstract

For the political process to work, elected officials must work together to make the best decisions for their constituents. One central part of the political process in the U.S. is committees, where a select group of elected officials serves on a committee of a specific issue area to hear bills and witnesses. For a bill to come to the floor, it must be voted through by the committee members. In order for there to be a successful outcome, members must work together to pass different legislations with all of their priorities. However, some factors- like power, outside influence, and structure- can influence how effective working together can be. Collective deliberation is when group members come together to debate the pros and cons of each decision to create a more informed outcome.

Methods

This research project consisted mainly of two separate methods of data collection and analysis.

1. The first method used during this research project was the collection of related sources. As a research assistant, I was tasked with going through economic journals and finding recent and related sources from them. These sources would then be cataloged, and ranked by how related they were to committee-decision making by either high, medium, or low. Their sources were then screened through and utilized in the research project.

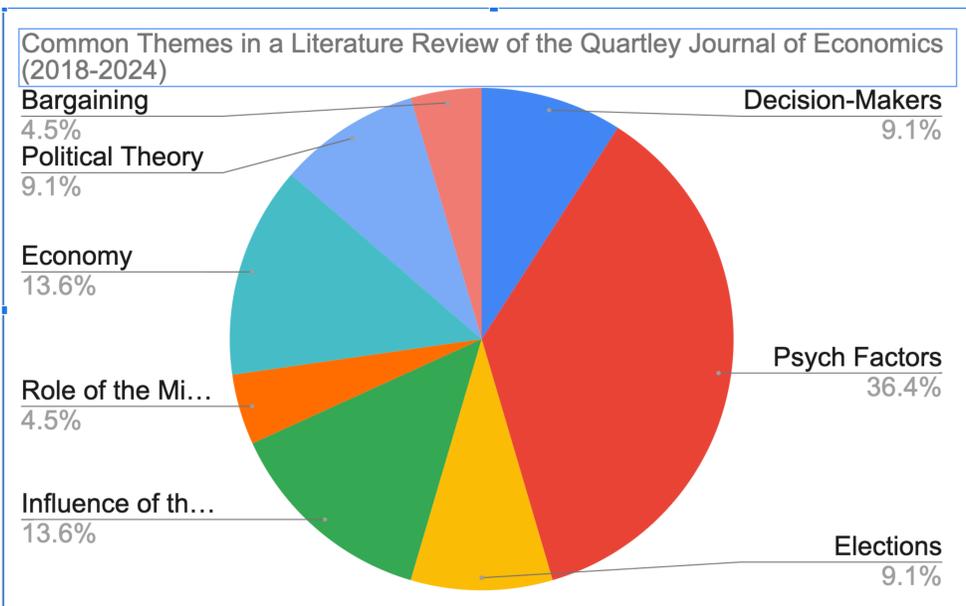
2. The second method used during this research project was literature analyses of key ideas, primarily those concerned with decision-making in committees, and how ranking or other characteristics within the committee affect their decisions. During this process, recent works were analyzed, and reports were made based on their findings.

Conclusion

- In this experiment, we explored how decision-making in a committee context is influenced by numerous outside influences.
- In both the literature review and research review of different phenomenon that impact collective deliberation. Common themes throughout different researcher's findings on how the format and power of leadership have on committee's ability to deliberate.
- In the future, Professor Ou will start a laboratory experiment later this year to explore the themes that was found throughout the research.
- Also, understanding the dynamics of deliberation by lawmakers is essential in learning more about the political process, as most pieces of legislation at the federal and state level have to go through a committee setting to review the merits of the legislation.

Results

- In analyzing the literature across various journals, it becomes evident that decision-making within committee settings is a complex process influenced by factors such as political dynamics, communication strategies, stakeholder interactions, and information asymmetries. Empirical research based on observational data plays a pivotal role in understanding these complexities, providing valuable insights for policymakers, organizational leaders, and researchers alike.
- Most journals agree that internal factors are the most determining in the decision-making process within committees, with factors such as ranking within the group, experience with the subject being deliberated, and varying levels of information between committee members being highlighted.
- While committees respond to their constituents, their decisions ultimately come down to internal pressures within the group. Several studies delve into group behavior and the psychology behind members' decisions, with potential implications for improved communication and bridging information gaps within committee settings.
- By delving into these nuances, scholars contribute to a deeper understanding of governance mechanisms, policy formation, and organizational dynamics, thereby informing more effective decision-making practices in diverse contexts.



References



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