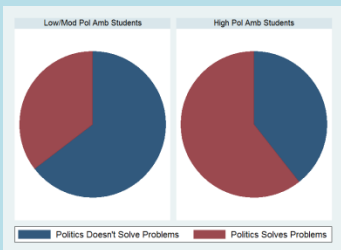
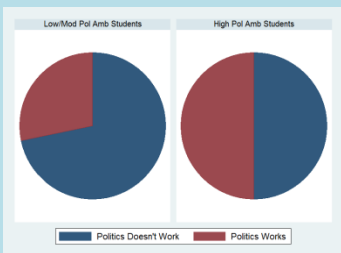


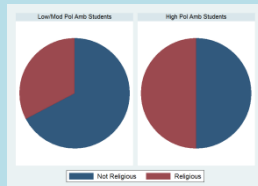
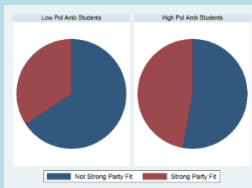
# The Positive Feedback Loop of High Political Ambition

Shauna L. Shames, PhD Candidate, Harvard University: [shames@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:shames@fas.harvard.edu)

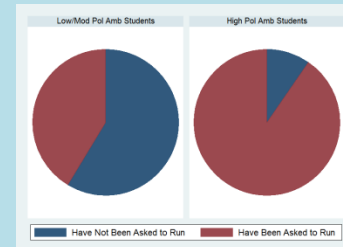
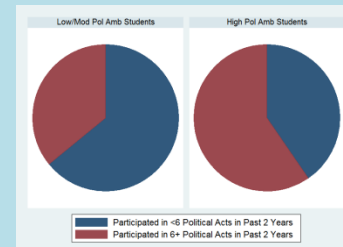
Highly-Politically-Ambitious (HPA) Students More Likely to Believe Politics Works, Solves Problems



HPAs More Likely to Fit into One of the Two Major Parties, and to be Religious

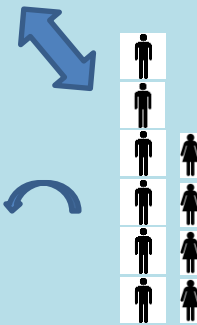
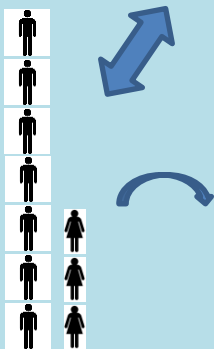


HPAs More Likely to Participate in Politics, Have Been Asked/Told to Run for Office

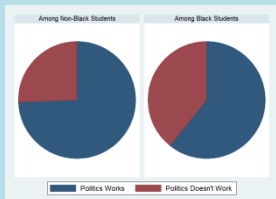


**"Accumulation of Advantage" Theory:**

- Burns, Schlozman, and Verba (2001, 3) finds "[a] long, cumulative pattern of gender-differentiated experiences in the principal social institutions of everyday life – the family, school, workplace, voluntary associations, and the church..." They conclude: "[T]he gender disparity in citizen participation is the result of inequalities with respect to a large number of factors" (Ibid).
- Valian (2004, 210): "One might be tempted to dismiss concern about such imbalances as making a mountain out of a molehill. But mountains are molehills, piled one on top of another over time. Small imbalances add up to disadvantage women. Success is largely the accumulation of advantage, exploiting small gains to obtain bigger ones."

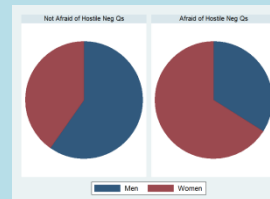
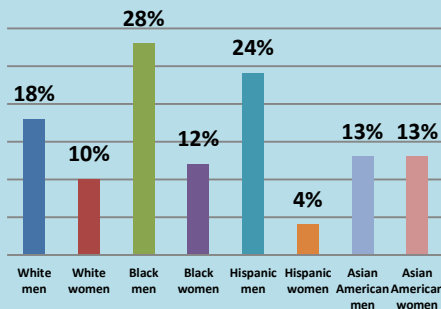


More than twice as many men as women are HPA



Minorities (esp blacks) less likely than whites to think politics works, solves problems

**Significant Race/Gender Diff's in HPA**



Women (and esp. women of color) are highly likely to anticipate hostile negative questions from media and voters if they ran

Significantly more men than women are asked to run