Abstract

Two studies (N=229 and 112) were designed to investigate the underlying determinants of political evaluations (including policy and government evaluations) by contrasting the effects of Economic Models, Justice-Based Models and Model of Symbolic Politics. In these two studies, social outcome favorability, societal distributive justice and interpersonal justice of the policy emerged as the major predictors of public policy evaluations. For the government evaluation, effects of justice judgments were dominant. Personal Outcome exerted a moderating effect in which symbolic predispositions were more highly correlated with policy evaluation for those with a desirable outcome received. In addition, Social Identity also showed a moderating effect: societal outcome favorability had a stronger effect on policy evaluation for the high social identity group than the low social identity group.