NEW INSTITUTIONALISMS

• Old v New Institutionalism
• Various Classifications of New Institutionalism
• Most common: Rational Choice; Historical; Sociological
• A fourth institutionalism – Discursive (Schmidt), Constructivist (Hay).
Discursive Institutionalism 1

- For Schmidt not just about role of ideas
- A broader notion of discourse – similar to its use in discourse analysis (eg. Laclau and Mouffe) – includes context as well as ideas (is there an extra-discursive realm?). Schmidt distances herself from post-structuralism
- Agents and structures, ideas and institutions co-constituted – argues for example that institutions both given and contingent, they are internal to agent and constrain and facilitate action.

Discursive Institutionalism 2

- Other 3 institutionalisms sticky – explain stability, but not change.
- Over-emphasis on change?
- Contrasts foreground (agency and change) and background (rule-following, culture, habitus) discursive ideational abilities
**DISCURSIVE v HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONALISM**

- DI criticises HI for failing to explain change – equates path-dependency with path-determinancy. Argues HI sees change as caused by exogenous shocks.
- DI emphasise co-constitution of structure and agency, institutions and ideas, material and ideational. Argues that Hi privileges structure, institutions and material relations.

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**HISTORICAL v DISCURSIVE INSTITUTIONALISM**

- My version of HI, sees structure and agency, institutions and ideas, the material and the ideational as dualities with each element of each pair ontologically separate from the other, with the relationship between them being dialectical.
- Argue that DI focuses too much upon change, and see the relationship between stability and change as also dialectical – stability (or rather path-dependency) is the context within which change occurs.
- Suggest that there are 3 path-dependencies, institutional, discursive and socio-economic – these provide context within which change occurs, they constrain and facilitate, but don’t determine the actions of agents.
IN CONCLUSION