Tutorial 02, Hilary Term

Research Methods for Political Science (PO3600)

Stefan Müller

29 January 2018

Trinity College Dublin
http://muellerstefan.net/research-methods

Session Outline

1. Confidence interval simulation (once again)
2. Research Project

https://istats.shinyapps.io/ExploreCoverage/

Research project

- 2,000 words
- Submission date: March 30, 2018

Good Abstracts: A Template

Everyone agrees that this issue is really important. But we do not know much about this specific question, although it matters a great deal, for these reasons. We approach the problem from this perspective. Our research design focuses on these cases and relies on these data, which we analyze using this method. Results show what we have learned about the question. They have these broader implications.

Source: https://twitter.com/fgilardi/status/805857624642244608

Introduction ($\pm$ 250 words)

- Introduce research question
- Stress relevance and importance
- Use, for instance, recent example
- Set up as a puzzle

Theoretical section ($\pm$ 450 words)

- Conceptualisation and formulation of research hypothesis
- Refer both to classic and recent literature
- Show that you know about existing evidence
- State hypothesis clearly

Methodology section ($\pm$ 450 words)

- Design of study
- Data sources
- Operationalisation and measurement
- Be critical and reflect on possible measurement issues and how to deal with them

Results (± 500 words)

- Properly formatted tables and graphs
- Explain and interpret the meaning of the results and the effect sizes
- Statistically significant does not necessarily imply substantive significance

Discussion/conclusion ($\pm$ 300 words)

- Reflect on your findings
- Findings according to your expectations? If not, can we explain why?
- What further research is necessary?

Team up

- Which section(s) require improvement?
- How are you going to deal with the problems?
- State your research question in one sentence.
- Use keywords from this sentence and conduct a literature research at www.scholar.google.com.