

# How To Think Like A Social Scientist

## 156A: Russian Politics and Government

Week 2

3/8/2017

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- Social Research = *Input*  $\rightarrow$  *Mechanism*  $\rightarrow$  *Output*

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- ② Change your inputs (add an extra ingredient) →
- ③ Look if your output changed

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  - social scientists cannot “change the input”
- What they usually do?
  - look for a proper comparison unit / group

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- *Online pro-government commentators, or “trolls”* - persons who are paid to support some politician

# Focus on Identification and Tactics

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- **Project Strength:** *"We see all of you and know where you are"*
- **Imitate Anti-government Extremism:** Trolls: *"Let's bribe the military and assault the Kremlin"*, *"Let's also kill chechens because we hate them"*.

# This paper (for now)

# Data collection

Collective photo of treated units