

Title: Making Democracy Work

Authors: Robert Putnam

Year: 1993

Research Question: Why are some parts of Italy governed better than others?

Answer/Causal Argument: Places with more civic social interactions have better government

Scope of Argument (in Time, Space, Demographics etc.): Advanced Democracies

Concept/Variable	Measure	Unit of Analysis	Role (DV, XV, Control)
Civil Society	Density of sports clubs, newspapers, electoral turnout	Region	Explanatory Variable
Government Performance	12 Indicators, eg. Budget on time, number of day care centres per child	Region	Dependent Variable
Wealth	GDP per capita	Region	Control Variable

Theory: Civic interactions between people and groups create trust and more 'horizontal' relationships that prevent government from being predatory

Evidence: Regions of Italy with similar institutional rules and similar wealth but with more civil society have, on average, better performing government

Methodology:

- ☐ Case Study, Process Tracing
- ☒ Comparative Cases
- ☐ Regression with Controls
- ☐ Matching
- ☐ Field Experiment
- ☐ Lab/Survey Experiment
- ☐ Natural Experiment
- ☐ Instrumental Variable
- ☐ Regression Discontinuity
- ☐ Difference-in-Differences

Causal Diagram (DAG):