POLI210: Political Science Research Methods

Lecture 3.1: Literatures and RQs

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Falsifiability

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- Godfrey-Smith (2021, 95): | "theories can appear to have lots of contact with observation when in fact they only have a kind of 'pseudo-contact' with observation, because they avoid all risk."

KKV (1994, 19): "We need to be able to give a direct answer to the question: What evidence would convince us that we are wrong?"

Is my theory falsifiable?

KKV (1994, 19): "to make sure a theory is falsifiable, choose one that is capable of generating as many *observable implications* as possible."

Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2021. *Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*. 2nd edition. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.