

POLI210: Political Science Research Methods

Lecture 2.1: Studying Politics Scientifically

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Plan for today

- What is science?
- What is political *science*?
- What is social science for?

Political science as a science

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- See [Kerry and Massie](#)

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Definition by negation: Michael Moore

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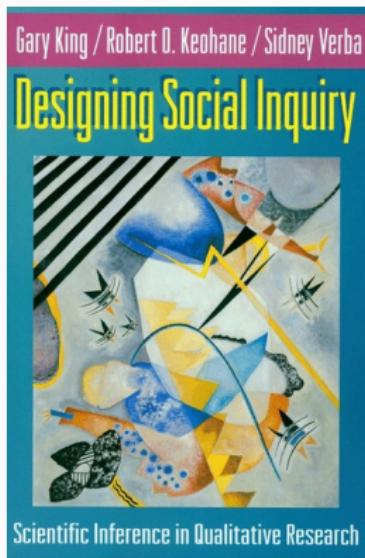
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Science as rules-based

King, Keohane and Verba (1994): “The content of ‘science’ is primarily the methods and rules, not the subject matter, since we can use these methods to study virtually anything.”



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- Findings can be contradictory; the “body” of literature not coherent
 - Annual Review of Political Science

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Learning about empirical methods will allow you to develop your own “epistemology”

References i

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