

POLI210: Political Science Research Methods

Lecture 6.2: Case studies

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Descriptive case studies

K&A, p.211: “the phenomenon is either completely or partially unknown...[the goal is] describing the phenomenon as the basis of contributing to an emerging or future research agenda.”

Generalizability and scope conditions

“Failed most-likely” vs “successful least-likely”

Qualitative vs quantitative

We've said before that one is not better than the other

They are *complementary*

- Sometimes one approach is best suited to a given RQ

Qualitative vs quantitative

We've said before that one is not better than the other

They are *complementary*

- Sometimes one approach is best suited to a given RQ
- Other times, we can approach the same RQ from different perspectives

Berman vs Satyanath et al. on social capital and Nazis

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