

Go to:

www.mcgill.ca/polling

You must register with your McGill name and ID

In each class I will provide a new session number for you to use

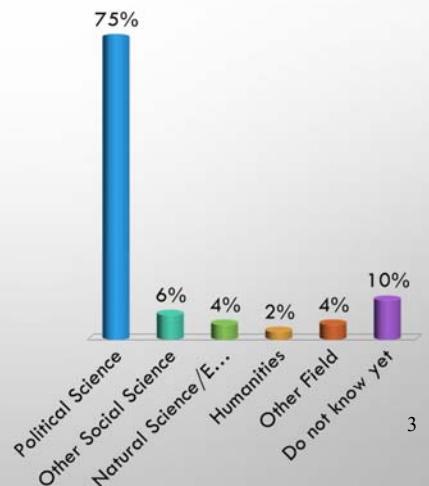
Research Methods

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**This is a Polling test.
I am majoring in...**



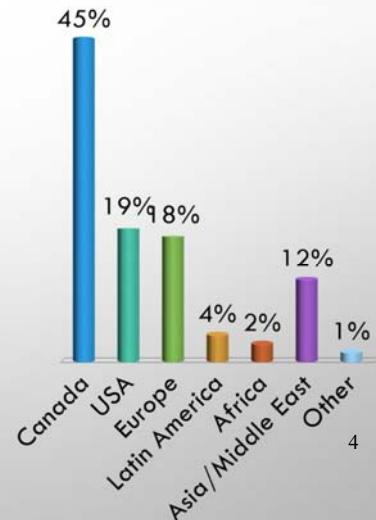
1. Political Science
2. Other Social Science
3. Natural Science/Engineering
4. Humanities
5. Other Field
6. Do not know yet



**This is another Polling Test.
Where are you from originally?**



1. Canada
2. USA
3. Europe
4. Latin America
5. Africa
6. Asia/Middle East
7. Other



ISSUES TO ADDRESS

Access to Readings

Textbook choice

Reading Quiz

Lecture Notes

Conferences/Labs
Sign-Up is open They will start in the
third week only

Other questions so far?

Research Methods

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Types of Inquiries in Political Science

Goals in Empirical Analysis in Political Science

The scientific method

Vocabulary of the Scientific Inquiry

Watching a piece of a movie

Using what we have learned

PLAN FOR TODAY

Research Methods

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WHAT IS POLITICAL SCIENCE?

- Political Science = Scientific Study of Politics
- Politics— "who gets what, when, and how" (Harold Lasswell)
- Scientific Study
 - "Accumulation and establishment of knowledge which has been systematized and formulated with reference to the discovery of general truths or the operation of general laws

Research Methods

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NORMATIVE
VERSUS
EMPIRICAL
QUESTIONS



Normative:

- Focus on: Philosophies, norms or 'shoulds'
- Questions: How something 'ought' to be?
- Character: Value-based
- How: Use general principles, persuasion, logic

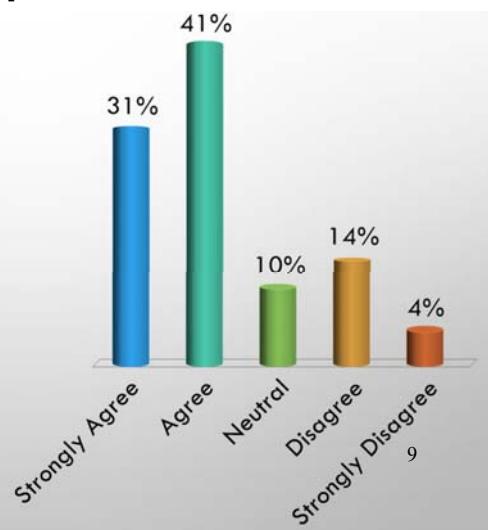
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In a democracy, all people should participate in politics.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

Research Methods

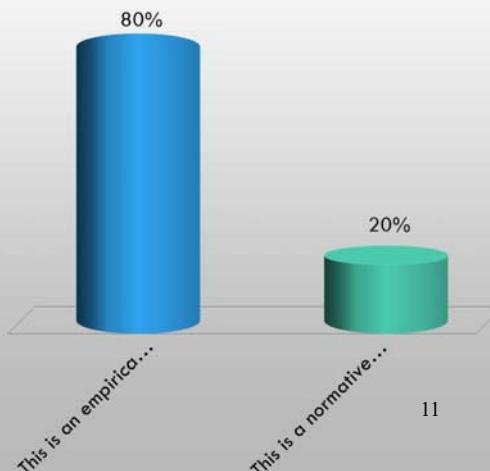


NORMATIVE VERSUS EMPIRICAL QUESTIONS

In comparison to authoritarian systems, democratic countries have better human rights records, on average.

1. This is an empirical statement.
2. This is a normative statement.

Research Methods



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Normative:

- Focus on: Philosophies, norms or 'shoulds'
- Questions: How something 'ought' to be?
- Character: Value-based
- How: Use general principles, persuasion, logic

Empirical:

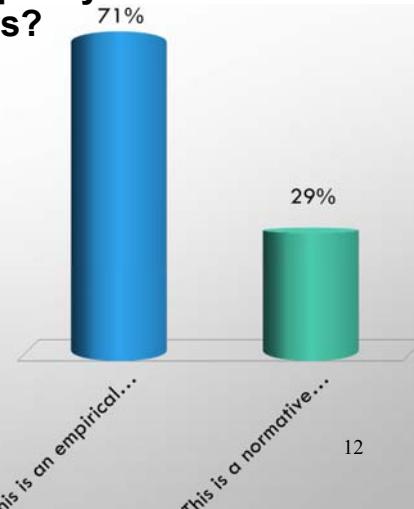
- Focus on: Measurement and observation
- Questions: How something is?
- Character: Observational and descriptive
- How: Collect evidence from real world (facts), use scientific method



Do Countries with a higher Social Safety net have less political inequality than other countries?

1. This is an empirical question
2. This is a normative question

Research Methods

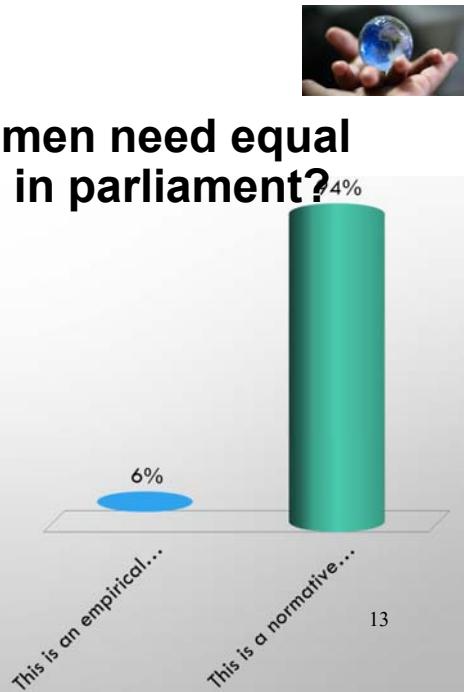


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Do women and men need equal representation in parliament?

1. This is an empirical question
2. This is a normative question

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Example of turning it into an empirical question: Does gender equality in parliament lead to more family friendly policies?

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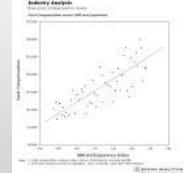


AIMS OF EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

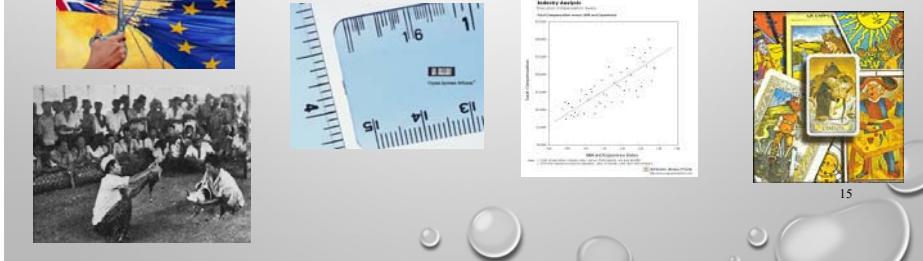
1.Contextual description



2.Classification & Measurement



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PROBABILISTIC SCIENCE?

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VOCABULARY OF THE SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY

- VARIABLES:**

FACTORS THAT CAN VARY OR CHANGE.

- DEPENDENT VARIABLE:**

PHENOMENON TO BE EXPLAINED, OBJECT OF STUDY. ITS CAUSED BY OTHER VARIABLES/FACTORS.

- INDEPENDENT VARIABLE:**

FACTOR THAT INFLUENCES OR CAUSES THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE, THE EXPLANATORY VARIABLE.

- HYPOTHESIS:**

ASSUMPTION THAT NEEDS TO BE TESTED AGAINST RELEVANT EVIDENCE.

- EXPLANATORY THEORY:**

GENERALIZATIONS THAT SEEK TO EXPLAIN (AND PERHAPS PREDICT) RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN VARIABLES.

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Featuring: Michael Moore's Bowling for Columbine

- Academy Award for best Documentary

- During movie think about:

- What is Moore's question?
- Does he have a hypothesis? If so which?
- What are his dependent and independent variables?
- How does he test his question/hypothesis?

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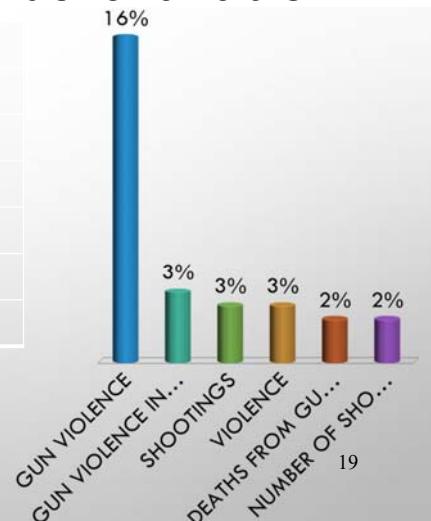
What is his dependent variable?

Rank	Responses
1	GUN VIOLENCE
2	GUN VIOLENCE...
3	SHOOTINGS
4	VIOLENCE
5	DEATHS FROM ...
6	NUMBER OF SH...

Values: Gun violence...

Value Matches: 29

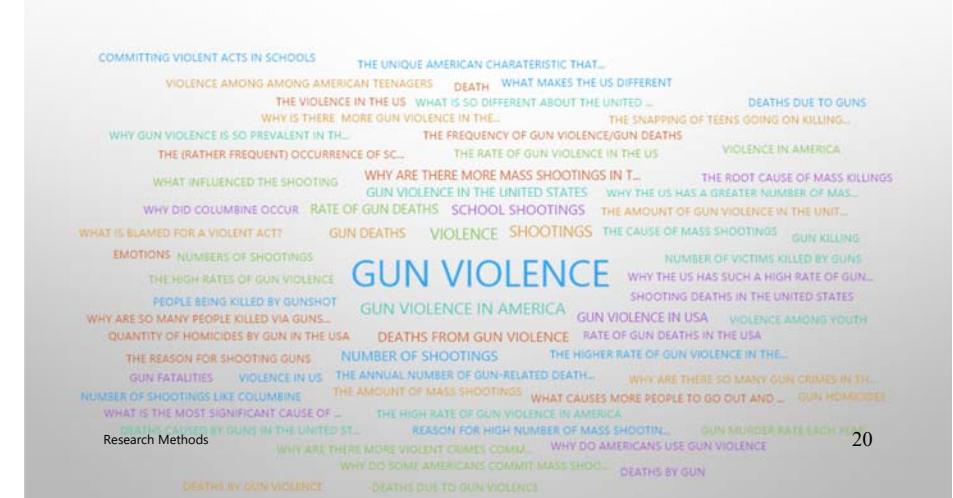
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What is his dependent variable?

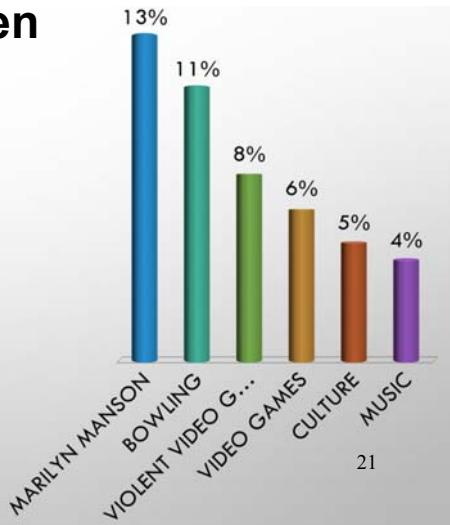


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What are Moore's independent Variables during the Scenes you have seen

Rank	Responses
1	MARILYN MANSON
2	BOWLING
3	VIOLENT VIDE...
4	VIDEO GAMES
5	CULTURE
6	MUSIC

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What are Moore's independent Variables during the Scenes you have seen



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Points	Team	Points	Team
3.2	Latin America		
3.13	Other Field		
2.73	USA		
2.69	Europe		
2.67	Political Science		

Research Methods

- 01 Read chapter 3
- 02 Take short Reading quiz
- 03 Think about a research question that interests you
- 04 Check out assignment #1 (weekend or Monday on MyCourses)

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