PLSC 308: Introduction to Political Research

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The Scientific Model

"The game of science is, in principle, without end. He who decides one day that scientific statements do not call for any further test, and that they can be regarded as finally verified, retires from the game."

- Karl Popper, The Logic of Scientific Discovery

The Scientific Model

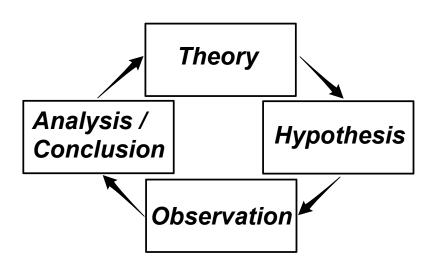
There's no single model of scientific reasoning / inquiry.

Some common characteristics:

- Reality is uncertain.
- ullet ightarrow Reasoning is probabilistic
- → Inquiry is ongoing.
- Inquiry proceeds via <u>falsification</u>.

How do we do this?

(One) Scientific Approach



The Scientific Model: Consequences

- Importance of patterns/trends over cases
- Emphasis on (measurable) outcomes
- Emphasis on the positive over the normative
- Importance of method

Key Components of Empirical Research

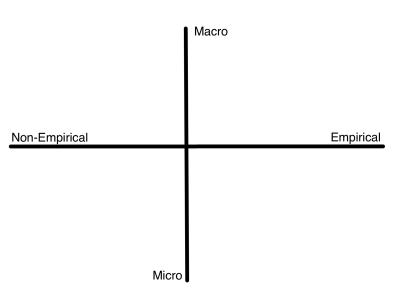
- Research Design
- Operationalization
- Measurement / Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- Communication of Findings

(U.S.) Political Science: An Overview

Four "subfields":

- Political Theory
- International Relations
- Comparative politics
- American Politics

Political Science: An Overview



Political Science: An Overview

Political Theory		Comparative Politics		Macro	International Relations
Non-Empi	ric	al			Empirical
			Micro		American Politics

Political Science: An Alternative View

Political Psychology Public Opinion		Interest Groups	Public Policy Making Judicial Politics				
опримента примента пр	Political Par	ticipation	Political Parties	Legislative Politics		Separation of Powers	
Mass Political B	ehavior	Representation		Presidency		Bureaucracy	

BEHAVIOR

INSTITUTIONS