Conclusions

Department of Government
London School of Economics and Political Science

1 Mixing methods?!

2 Where do we go from here?

3 Where have we been?

What can be mixed?

- Anything!

- Either:
  - Methods that complement each other (trade-offs)
  - Methods that can inform each other

- Common pairings
  - Large-n quantitative and in-depth case studies
  - Process-tracing methods with large-n or medium-n
  - Interviews or archival work with anything else
  - Observational and experimental methods

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- Strengthen a single causal claim with multiple forms of evidence

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  - *Conceptual* replication
  - Accumulation

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- Integration
  - "Synergy"

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- Goal is *replication*
    - Do the inferences drawn from different research designs agree?

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  - How would we know if they agree *enough*?
  - What do we conclude from non-replication?

Triangulation: Example

- Brexit

- Large-*n* analysis of survey data

- Analysis of aggregated, district-level results

- Qualitative interviews and/or focus groups

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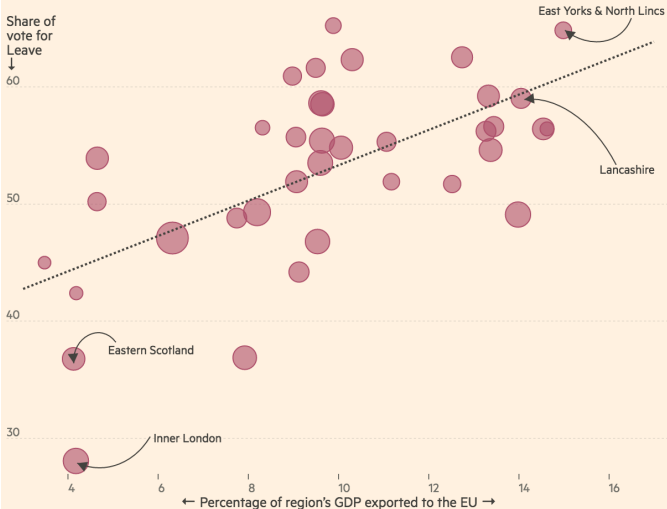 - Have we missed any confounding factors?

Integration: Example 1

- Brexit: Qualitative driving quantitative

- Long-form qualitative interviews to identify how Britons think about Brexit

- Large-n survey analysis that measures concepts identified in interviews

Integration: Example 2

- Brexit: Quantitative driving qualitative

- Quantitative analysis regional voting patterns
- In-depth case studies of:
  - "Typical" cases
  - "Deviant" cases
  - "Extreme" cases

Leave vote was strongest in regions most economically dependent on EU

The regions with the highest share of votes for Leave also tend to be the most economically intertwined with the EU. A higher percentage of East Yorkshire & Northern Lincolnshire's economic output is sold to other EU countries than is the case for any other UK region, yet 65 per cent of its electorate voted to Leave

Referendum results: Press Assocation
EU trade research: John Springford, Philip McCann, Bart Los and Mark Thissen
Graphic by John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch

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- Contradictory findings drive new research!
    - Scope conditions
    - Heterogeneity
    - Bad conceptualization
    - Bad measurement
    - Bad methods
    - Bad inferences from evidence

- Content analysis, qualitative coding
- Discourse analysis, framing analysis
- Quantitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)
- Focus groups, elite interviewing
- Archival/historical evidence-gathering
- Interpretative and post-positivist methods
- Political theory

- Factor analysis, principal components, IRT
- Regression trees, classifiers, SVM
- K-means clustering, hierarchical clustering
- Nonparametric statistics
- Bayesian statistics
- Time series analysis and panel data
- Quantitative text analysis
- GIS, spatial data, mapping
- "Big data"

Continuing Your Research

- LSE Groups[1]

- Dissertation (GV390)

- Some research-based GV3xx courses
    - GV314: Empirical Research in Government
    - GV316: Advanced Issues in Applied Political Theory
    - GV318: Building Democracies from Conflict?
    - GV[tbd]: Experimental Politics

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[1]http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/TLC/
Research-informed-education-and-LSE-GROUPS/lseGroups.aspx

[2]https://www.coursera.org/, https://www.edx.org/

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- Online education[2]

- Postgraduate study

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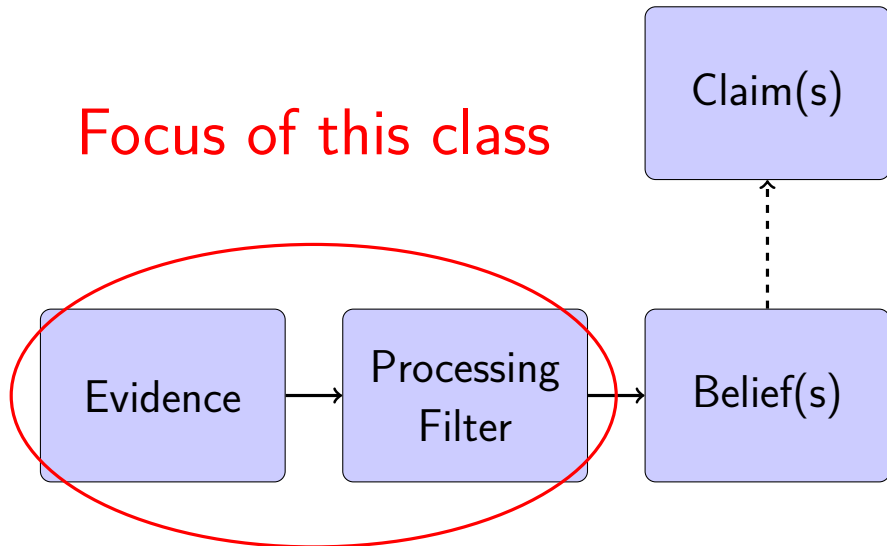
Claims

- Politics is full of claims

- The credibility of claims depends on the strength of evidence and argument

- This class aims to give you tools to:
  - make credible claims, *and*

  - evaluate claims made by others

Drawing Inferences
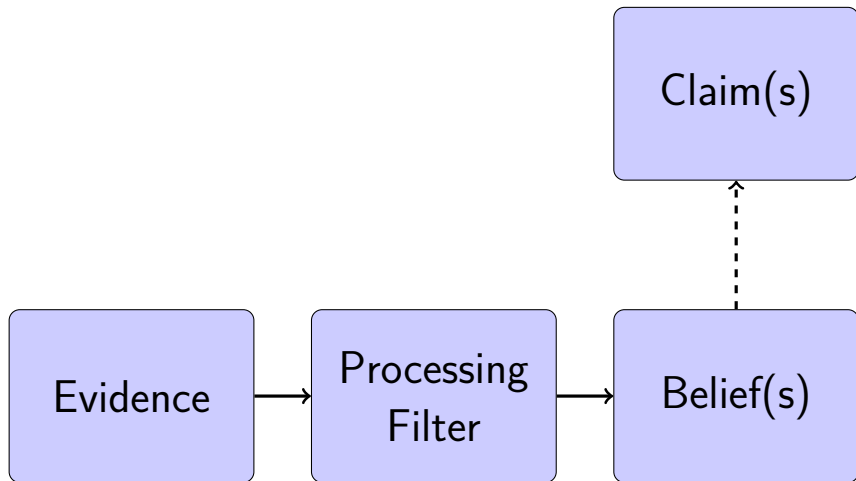
Drawing Inferences

What have we learned since then?

The Exam!

What do you think will be on the exam?

The Exam!

The exam has three parts:

1. Short-answer questions
2. Essay analysing/evaluating an empirical article
3. Research proposal section

Sample paper is on Moodle.

Part B Readings

- Munck and Verkuilen (2002) (MT3)

- Young and Soroka (2012) (MT7)

- Goffman (2009) (MT8)

- Mershon (1996) (MT9)

- Wedeen (1998) (MT9)

- Tannenwald (1999) (LT3)

- Lange, Mahoney, vom Hau (2006) (LT4)

- Doner, Ritchie, Slater (2005) (LT4)

- Brady (2004) (LT5)

- Hibbs (1978) (LT8)

- Cusack, Iversen, Soskice (2007) (LT9)

- Bhavnani (2009) (LT10)

- Campbell and Ross (1968) (LT10)