

Logic 1: Quantitative research designs

LQRPS

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February 6th, 2017

1 Introduction to the course

- Presentation of participants
- Principles
- Plan for the week

2 Classic views on the logic of quant polisci

- Lijphart
- Nørgaard
- Rejoinder: Dahler-Larsen & Sylvest

3 The perestrojka debate

- Context: the (polisci) Perestroika movement
- Laitin
- Flyvbjerg

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- 2017-: Postdoc, Dept. of Political Science, Univ. of Copenhagen

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- my main function is as facilitator, not lecturer
- depends on your active participation
- questions/comments welcome at any time
- focus is on your work

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In two minutes, write down one-sentence answers to:

- ① which question does my dissertation (try to) answer?
 - ② using only layman's terms, what method do I use to arrive at that answer?
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Table: Plan for the week

Day	Block	Teacher	Paper
Monday	Logic 1	Frederik	Benjamin Livia Joe
	Logic 2		
Tuesday	Regression 1	Frederik	
	Regression 2		
Wednesday	Natural experiments 1	Jacob	
	Natural experiments 2	Asmus	
Thursday	Experiments 1	Frederik	
	Experiments 2		
Friday	Content analysis 1	Frederik	
	Content analysis 2		

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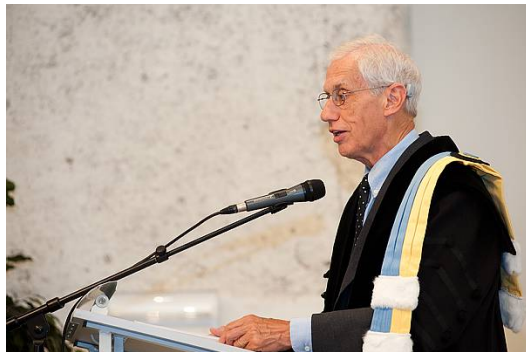
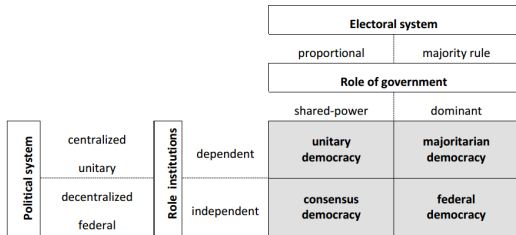
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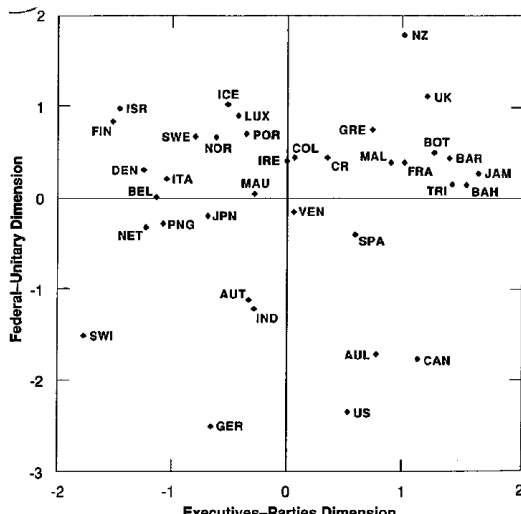
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Arend Lijphart

Most famous claim: 'consensus democracy' associated with 'kinder, gentler' societal outcomes



Empirical analysis in *Patterns of Democracy* (1999)



Borrows distinction from Sartori:

- ‘unconscious thinkers’
- ‘overconscious thinkers’

Contrasts with earlier interpretations:

- Lasswell: scientific approach as “unavoidably comparative”
- Almond: “if it is a science, it goes without saying that it is comparative in its approach”

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- ① Comparative
- ② Experimental
- ③ Statistical

→ where does your research fit in?

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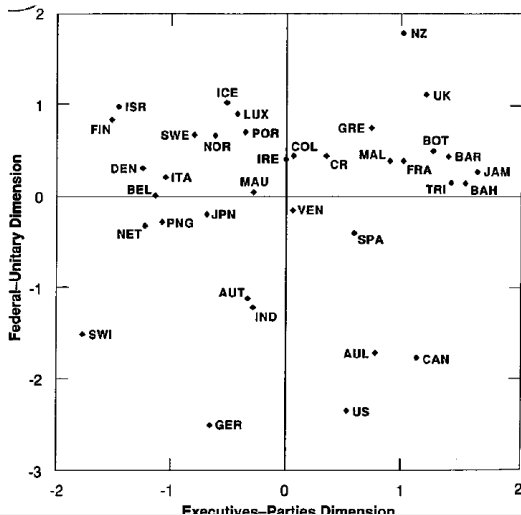
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Strenghts and weaknesses of the comparative method

»The principal problems facing the comparative method can be succintly stated as: many variables, small number of cases.« (685)

Can we see this problem in Lijphart's own work?



Suggested remedies:

- ① increase the number of cases
- ② reduce the 'property space' of the analysis
- ③ focus on 'comparable cases'
- ④ focus on 'key' variables

→ how could these remedies apply to Lijphart's work?

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What is good political science?

»the social sciences cannot capture or deal with anything unique, i.e. the genuinely creative. In that sense, the social sciences are boring.« (3)

2 implications:

- ① reliance on abstract categories
- ② confinement to boundary conditions

»we must create a theoretically meaningful categorization of the effect which can reasonably be impacted by a given cause. Much research fails to meet this requirement and lacks a clear conception about the counterfactual situation; that *something* has significance for *something else* is casual chit-chat devoid of precise meaning, not a causal claim worth debating and analyzing.« (8)

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What role for case studies?

As 'first step':

»Good interpretations, credible descriptions and the development of solid concepts are necessary to be able to take the next step, which is to make coherent causal arguments and develop causal propositions and ultimately test their empirical implications.« (10)

As building block:

»The ambition of political science is to formulate and study causal propositions. Still, a well-conceived descriptive study can be far more interesting and bring research much further than a mediocre analysis testing shaky causal explanations. Research is a collective venture.« (14)

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large vs. small N: approaches to testing the 'asymmetry thesis'

Figure 3: Causal models: (a) control for third variables or (b) causal mechanisms

Figure 3.a.: Many cases, control for third variables:

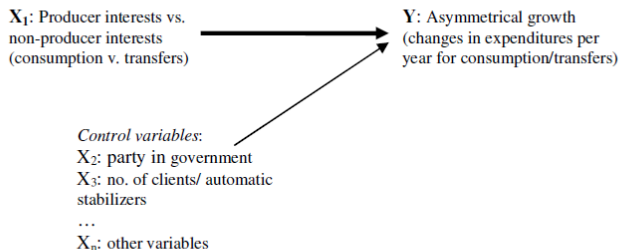
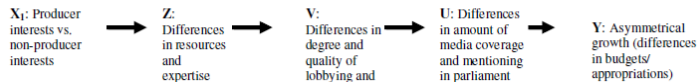


Figure 3.b.: Few cases, causal mechanisms (intermediary variables):



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»[vores problem i denne artikel] er en mere eller mindre eksplicit ambition om, at al samfundsvidenskab skal formes som kausalanalyse eller forstadier hertil og som følge heraf vurderes ud fra bestemte kausalanalytiske regler.« (59)

On “witchcraft”

»Ordet heksekunst har i sammenhængen en righoldig metaforik, fx. i modstillinger af det kunstneriske versus det vidensbaserede og det feminine versus det maskuline. Terminologien bør iværksætte en urovækkende refleksion: Har sådanne kategorier ikke historisk befordret magthaveres forsøg på at kanøfle særlige grupper? Hvad var det, man gjorde ved hekse? (...) Hvor meget bevisførelse skulle der til?«



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On the need for a 'reflexive turn':

» Det er gode og ærlige erkendelser, som efter vor opfattelse kunne give anledning til, at et 'reflexive turn' i højere grad indbefattede det kausale paradigme.«

Against 'methodologism':

» "an overdone focus on methodological techniques, especially techniques for measuring causal relationships" (Evera, 2010: 4). Metodologisme kan blive en spændetrøje, der leder til skolastik, fragmentering og intellektuel stagnation.«

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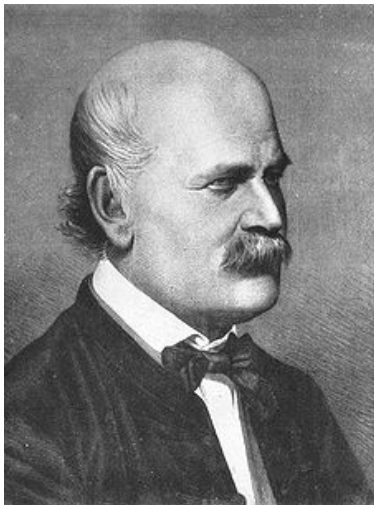
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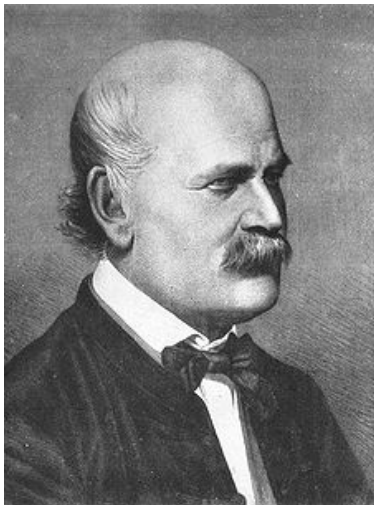
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case: Ignaz Semmelweis and the (belated) discovery of germ theory

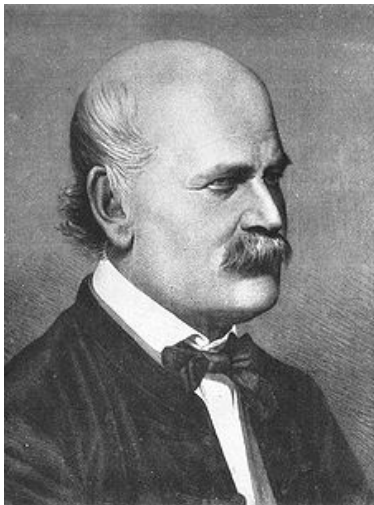




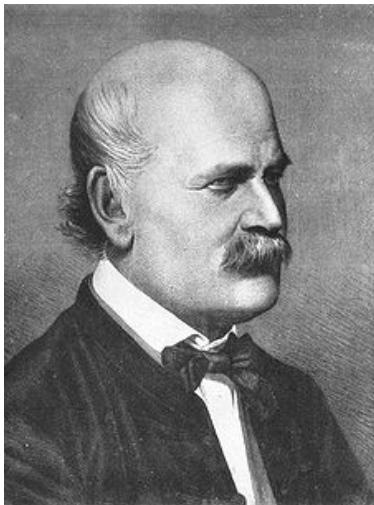
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- what made earlier 'great scholars' great?
- e.g. Tocqueville, Mill, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, etc.
- if their work is so great, why is yours so different from theirs?



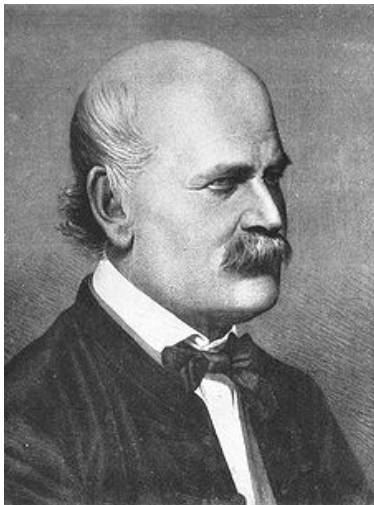
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email sent by 'Mr. Perestroika' to APSR editors in October 2000

Untitled

Original Email By Mr. Perestroika on Oct. 17, 2000 with first few responses

From: "Perestroika Glasnost"

To: ps@a. . . , apsa@a. . .

Subject: On the irrelevance of APSA and APSR to the study of Political Science !

Date: Tue, 17 Oct 2000 21:50:47 GMT

*****Please Spread this Letter as widely as Possible*****

*****Let them know we Exist*****

To,

The Editor, October 15, 2000

PS and APSR

On Globalization of the APSA and APSR: A Political Science Manifesto

Questions to ponder over:

1) why do people like Benedict Anderson and James C. Scott find APSA and APSR irrelevant? These are probably the most famous political scientists in the world. They are equally famous abroad and in other disciplines compared to the "stars" of Political Science: Hey, Hey, Vee (look at their classic book on literary methodologies).

2) Related to above is the question: why do a majority of political scientists who do comparative politics ignore APSA and APSR and go to their regional meetings and read regional association journals--such as those associated with East Asia, Latin America, Hispanic Studies etc?

3) why does a "coterie" of faculty dominate and control APSA and the editorial board of APSR--i scratch your back, you scratch mine. I give award to your student from Harvard and you give mine from Duke or Columbia. In short why do the "East Coast Brahmins" control APSA?

4) why are a few men who make poor game-theorists and who cannot for the life-of-me compete with a third grade Economics graduate student---WHY are these men allowed to represent the diversity of methodologies and areas of the world that APSA "purports" to represent?

5) Why are FAILED Africanists and Economists allowed to dominate a discipline which has a rich history of intellectual contributions from the likes of: James Scott, Charles Tilly, Aristide Zolberg, Leonard Binder, Benedict Anderson, R. Bendix, Susanne Rudolph, Theda Skocpol etc.

6) Have we learned any lesson from the thousands of pages of research that was funded by APSA in the name of political science to examine the former Soviet Union and make "predictive" models? What happened to those models and why did they fail? How is it that those esteemed colleagues failed to predict the collapse of the Soviet Empire while Sovietologists from Korea, Japan, India and even one from Tanzania could predict the fall of the empire. Are we making the same mistake by ignoring diverse knowledges and methodologies present in the study of Politics?

7) Why isn't APSR subscription made separate from the APSA membership so that APSR becomes truly representative of a "coterie" that rules APSA while the rest of the true political scientists can devote their money to buying the more important regional journals. Either reform the APSR board and have more political historians, area specialists, political-sociologists and constructivists on the board or let the market decide--you will find a sharp drop in APSR's subscription as soon as APSR is delinked from the membership of APSA.

8) Why are the overwhelming majority of Presidents of APSA or editorial board members of APSR WHITE and MALE? Where are the African-Americans, Hispanics, women, Gays, Asians---in short, where is the diversity of United States and the world that APSA "pretends" to study--is somebody afraid that APSA will slip out of their hands???

untitled

9) why are all the articles of APSR from the same methodology--statistics or game theory--with a "symbolic" article in Political Theory that is often a piece that has been rejected by the journal "Political Theory. " Where is political history, International history, political sociology, interpretive methodology, constructivists, area studies, critical theory and last but not the least---post modernism. Why can't you have 5 per cent of the articles in APSR allocated under the category:incomprehensible. Then just go ahead and publish game theory, statistics and post-modernism under the category.

10) At a time when the free market models of economics are being challenged in IMF and World Bank, discredited in much of Asia, and protested by numerous groups; why are simple, baby-stuff models of political science being propagated in our discipline. If these psuedo-economists know their Maths so well--let them present at the University of Chicago's Economics workshop--I assure you every single political science article will be trashed and thrown into the dustbin. Then why are these people allowed to throw their weight around based on undergrad maths and stats--an Econ 101. We are in the business of Political Science and not failed Economics. Lastly,

11)When are you going to offer the APSA presidency to Benedict Anderson or Charles Tilly or Richard Falk or Susanne Rudolph or Ari Zolberg or James C. Scott or Theda Skocpol who are more representative of our discipline than the "coterie" that runs APSA.

I hope this anonymous letter leads to a dismantling of the Orwellian system that we have in APSA and that we will see a true Prestroika in the discipline.

Mr. Perestroika

Consequences ('effects'?) of the Perestroika movement (non-exhaustive)

- Jim Scott & Jon Elster join APSA Council
- Launch of *Perspectives on Politics*
- Theda Skocpol APSA president 2002-2003
- new APSA section on 'New Political Science'

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- *techne*
- *episteme*
- *phronesis*

Laitin's 'tripartite method'

- ① narrative
- ② formal models
- ③ statistical analysis

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What role for narrative?

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Against 'unjustified pluralism'

»The approach taken to science in this article, while carrying no brief against pluralism, entails a caution against a pluralism that sees formal and statistical research as only two of a thousand flowers that should be permitted to bloom. The caution is to insist that if theoretical logic or scientific evidence finds a theory or procedure to be fallacious, that procedure's flowerbed should no longer be cultivated within the discipline in which it was originally seeded. There can be no hope of cumulation if we insist that all methods, and all procedures, must be protected. (...) Pluralism without updating is not science.« (179f)

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»The Aalborg Project may be interpreted as a metaphor of modern politics, modern administration and planning, and of modernity itself. The basic idea of the project was comprehensive, coherent, and innovative, and it was based on rational and democratic argument. During implementation, however, when idea met reality, the play of Machiavellian princes, Nietzschean will to power and Foucauldian rationality-as-rationalization resulted in the fragmentation of the project.«



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On Laitin's 'subordination' of narrative

»Laitin (176) says he sees narrative as a co-equal to the formal and statistical elements of the tripartite method. But he immediately contradicts himself by identifying three roles for narrative that subordinate and define this approach in relation to formal and statistical methods.«

Phronetic social science based on four value-rational questions:

- ① Where are we going?
- ② Who gains and who loses, and by which mechanisms of power?
- ③ Is this development desirable?
- ④ What, if anything, should we do about it?

Examples of phronetic social science:

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Break for lunch