Choosing a Research Question + Doing an Annotated Bibliography

March 3, 2023

Think-Pair-Share

- Get into pairs and share **at least one** of your research questions
- Does your question:
  - generalize beyond one instance?
  - apply to groups instead of a specific person/event?
  - examine empirically observable patterns?
- Does your research question:
  - elicit more than a yes/no response?
  - add to what we already know about a topic
  - answerable with a simulation (**brainstorm**)
- Is your question:
  - feasible?
  - socially important?
  - scientifically relevant?

Annotated Bibliography

- Search recent literature for topic (2010-present)
- Resources:
  - Duke library sociology guide: https://guides.library.duke.edu/c.php?g=613305&p=4261020
  - Annual Review of Sociology: https://www.annualreviews.org/journal/soc
  - University of Washington libraries annotated bibliography guide: https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/iss/bibliography

Finding Sources

- Google Scholar
- Duke Libraries→ Research Databases → Sociology Database
- Duke Libraries→ Research Databases → JSTOR
- Duke Libraries→ Research DB → Academic Search Complete
- Follow articles that cite an article you found.
- Look up citations that appear often in other articles

Example walkthrough

- https://scholar.google.com/

How to read social research

- Begin with the abstract.
  - Summary of a research article.
  - Usually begins the article and states the purpose, methods used, and major findings.
- Skim the piece.
- Read the conclusion to get a good sense of what it is about.
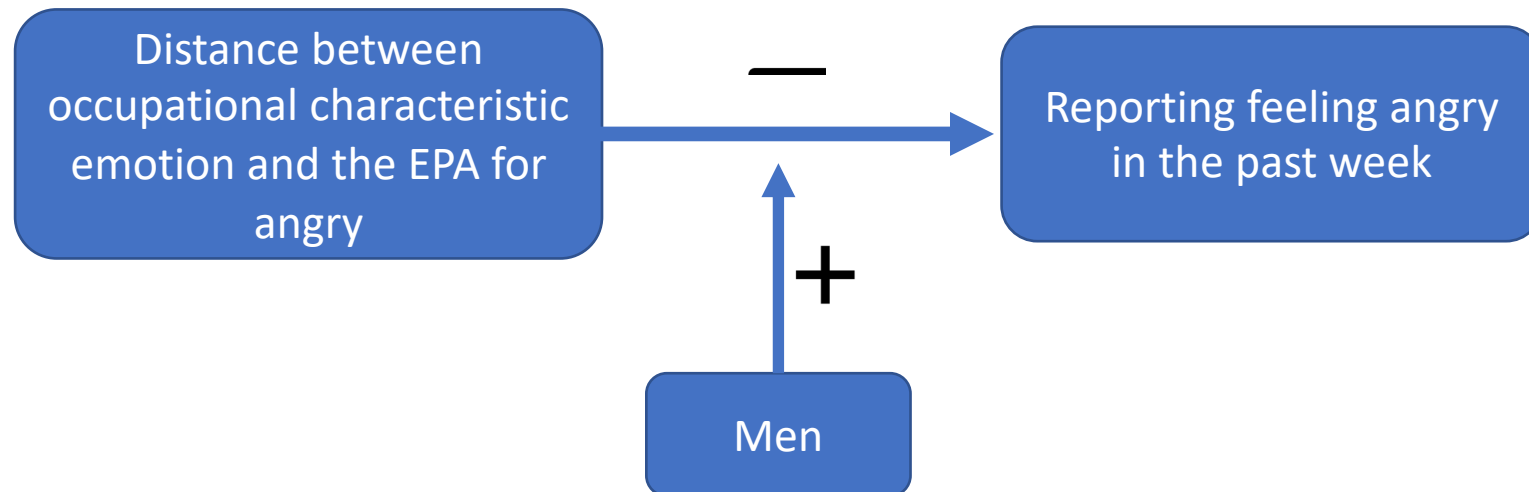- Form questions as you read and take notes.

Ask yourself…

- What was the author(s) research question?
- Was their method adequate to answer the research question?
- Did the article largely agree with prior literature or point out an issue with prior research?
  - If the former, how does it extend our prior knowledge?
  - If the latter, has the debate been resolved or is the debate still active?
- How applicable are the findings to what you want to study? Does it contribute more to your substantive topic or possible methods?

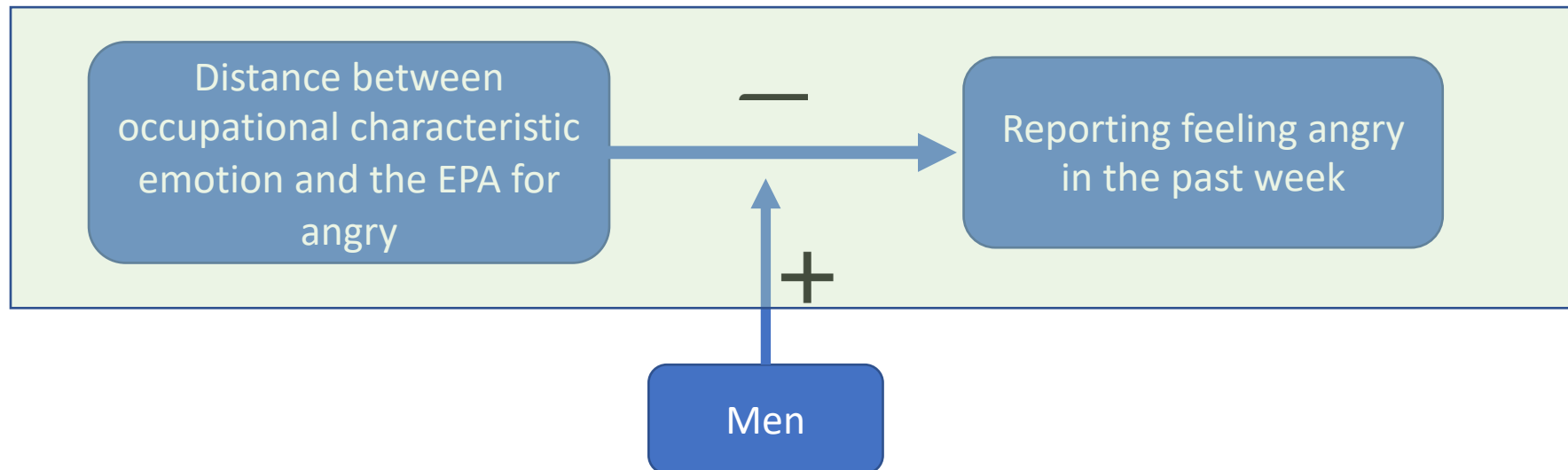# Want good coverage around all dimensions of your topic

- Example: How does occupational identity shape daily emotional experience? Does this relationship vary by gender?

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┌─────────────────────────────┐           ─           ┌─────────────────────────┐
│   Distance between          │                        │  Reporting feeling angry │
│ occupational characteristic │ ────────────────────▶  │    in the past week      │
│   emotion and the EPA for   │           ▲            │                          │
│          angry              │           │            └─────────────────────────┘
└─────────────────────────────┘           │
                                           +
                                  ┌─────────────┐
                                  │     Men     │
                                  └─────────────┘
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Distance between occupational characteristic emotion and the EPA for angry
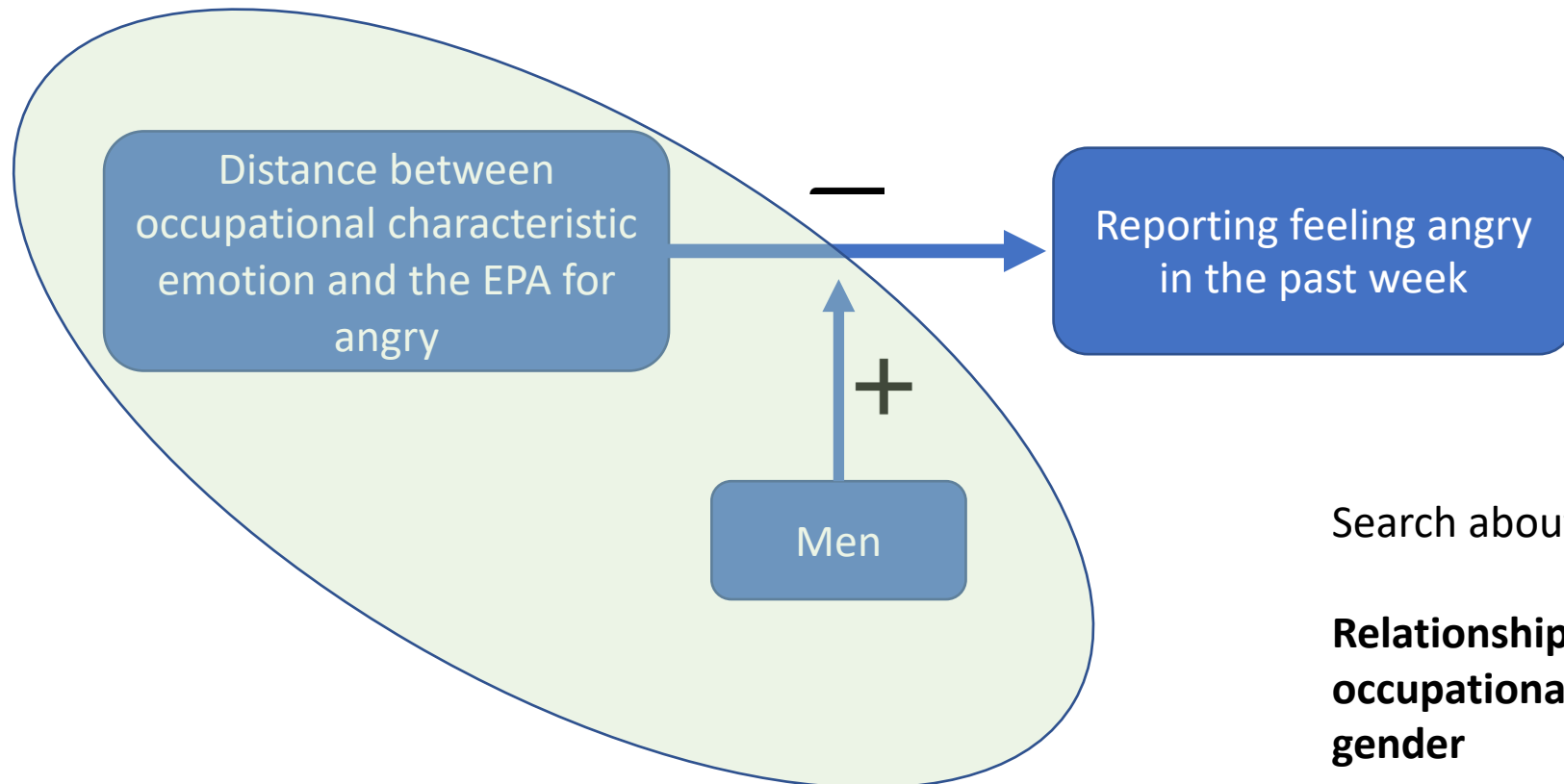
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Reporting feeling angry in the past week

+

Men

Search about:
Occupational status and emotional experience

Emotional labor

ACT Characteristic Emotions

Want good coverage around all dimensions of your topic

- Example: How does occupational identity shape daily emotional experience? Does this relationship vary by gender?

Distance between occupational characteristic emotion and the EPA for angry
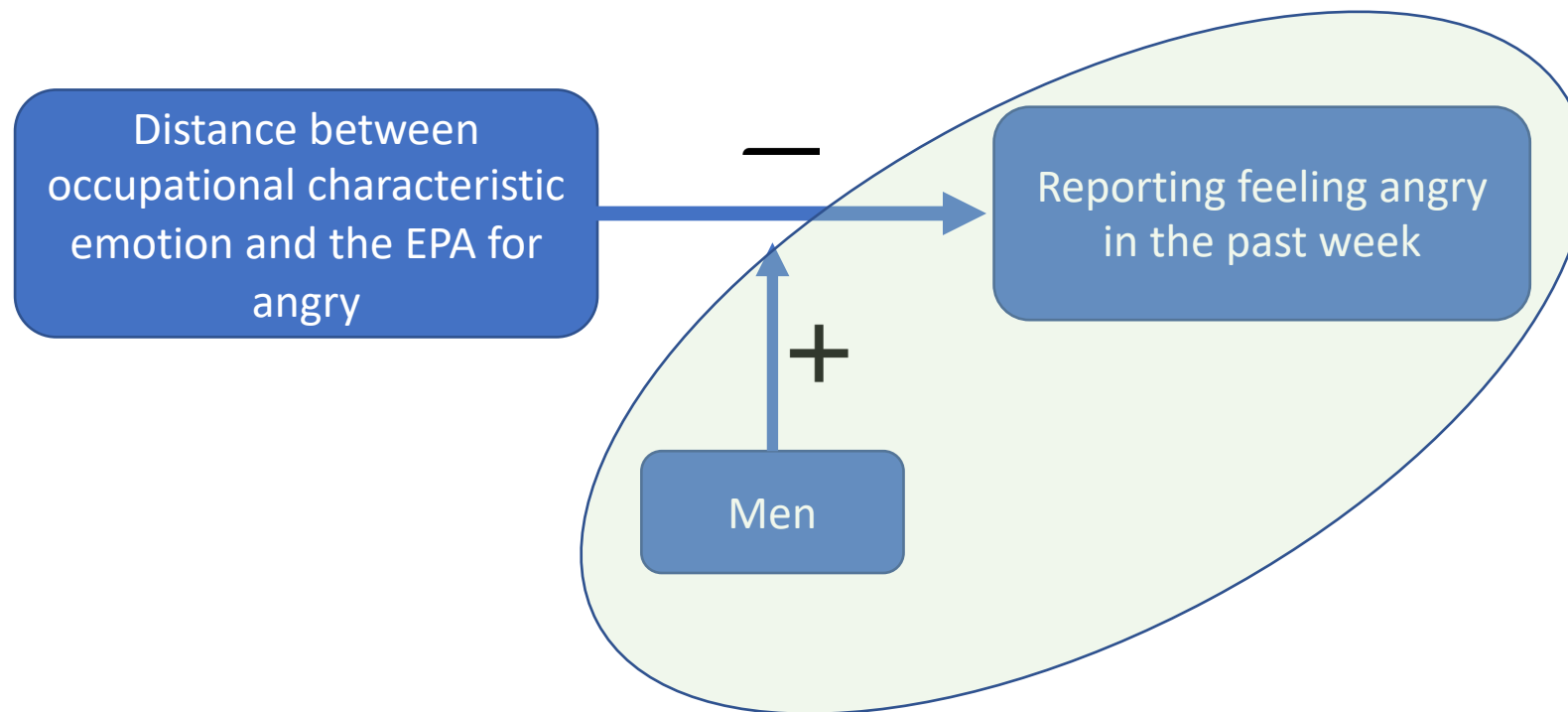
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Reporting feeling angry in the past week

+

Men

Search about:

Relationship between occupational identity and gender

Want good coverage around all dimensions of your topic

- Example: How does occupational identity shape daily emotional experience? Does this relationship vary by gender?

Types of sources

Background source
- Generally accepted information about the topic
- Providing definitions of concepts, statistics

Argument source
- Providing evidence to support your hypothesis / overall argument
- Show existing viewpoints in the literature

Theory source
- Sociological theories and ideas (classic – Marx, Goffman, Weber; contemporary – ACT!)

Method source
- Justify your method, how to measure something, why do a simulation, ACT inner workings

Citation – APA Format

- Journal articles should follow this format:
Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical, volume number*(issue number), pages.

- Books should follow this format:
Author, A. A. (Year of publication). *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle*. Location: Publisher.

- Chapters in edited book should follow this format:
Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year of publication). Title of chapter. In A. A. Editor & B. B. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pages of chapter). Location: Publisher.

Citation – APA Format

- Government document:
  Name of Organization or Agency. (Year of publication). *Title of publication (*Report No. XXX). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

- Report from Organization
  Name of Organization. (Year of Publication). *Title of publication.* Organization's base city: Author (or organization if no author).

Zotero example

- https://www.zotero.org/

- Guide: https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/zotero

Annotated Bibliography Assignment

- Choose one research question based on your conversation with your partner or a broad topic that covers one or two of your questions
- 15-20 sources
- Rubric on the website
- Email to em.k.maloney@duke.edu by **midnight** on March 10