IPSA Multi-Methods: Lab 4

Due on Fourth Day

Jason Seawright

Problem 1

Inequality and Democracy, Again

Recall this regression from the first lab session:

```
ineqlm2 <- lm(Gini ~ Polity + log(GDP), data=inequality)
summary(ineqlm2)
```

Devise a research plan for case-study analysis that could test key causal inference assumptions for this regression, using resources available to you from this lab. The two cases you should focus on are the Republic of Yemen and Zimbabwe. Describe the research you have designed to test each assumption of interest, carry out your plan, and discuss any modifications to the regression analysis that your research implies.

Problem 2

Design a Multi-Method Follow-Up

Access Lewis-Beck and Ratto's 2013 *Electoral Studies* article, "Economic voting in Latin America: A general model." Which assumptions in this analysis could potentially be tested using in-depth interviews of voters? Carefully design an in-depth interview schedule to test as many assumptions of the model as possible. For each part of the interview, explain what multi-method task it is intended to fulfill and clarify the qualitative causal inferential strategy connected with it.

Now, find someone in the class and administer your interview. Take careful notes, analyze your results, and describe any issues for the model that arise from your interview. What next steps would you take if you wanted to pursue this line of research further?

Problem 3

Design a Multi-Method Follow-Up

Find a published regression-based study on a topic of your interest. Design a suite of qualitative research components to test the key assumptions behind causal inference for that study. Be as detailed as possible about the sorts of findings you will look for, the data sources you will draw on, and so forth. When you have completed work on your design, find a partner. Present your design to your partner, and also offer a constructive critique of your partner's design.

Problem 4

Discussion Questions

Find an example of research using regression in a way that you regard as successful from your area of research. What makes this application of regression successful? What is regression used for, what assumptions are needed, and to what extent do you regard the results as credible?

What difference does it make for the qualitative part of multi-method causal inference when the cases under study are historical vs. contemporary? What about when they are individuals vs. organizations vs. countries?