

# **IPSA Multi-Method: Lab 8**

Due on Eighth Day

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## Problem 1

### *Design an Experiment*

For a research topic that interests you, brainstorm and design an experiment that could test a meaningful hypothesis. Design a treatment and a way of measuring the outcome, and build in qualitative measurement components that allow for multi-method analysis. If at all possible, design the experiment so that it can be implemented right now.

When you have designed it, find a partner and take turns running through one round of the experiment. (If you can successfully get one person through the experiment, then actually implementing the experiment is just a matter of numbers.) Were there problems or unexpected discoveries? If you were to implement the experiment in real life, how would you alter it compared with what you just designed?

## Problem 2

### *We Can't Do Experiments!*

Political scientists routinely complain that they can't possibly do experiments for their topics of interest. Indeed, for some topics, more can be learned in other ways — but experiments connected with a given topic are almost always possible with enough creativity. Find a small group and, together, brainstorm experiments that would speak to each of the following “impossible” research topics. A good strategy is to think about testable implications that are pieces of an overall hypothesis.

- The effects of candidate gender on voter decision-making
- The democratic peace hypothesis
- Authoritarians are mostly motivated by maintaining power.
- Climate change is increasing the salience of ethnic politics.
- Social media makes people more polarized.

## Problem 3

### *Multi-Method Experiments in Practice?*

Choose a topic of interest to you for which you expect that a large number of laboratory or field experiments have been done. Read quickly through as many as you can, and note what (if anything) these experiments do to test SUTVA and experimental realism. Select what you see as the best experiment in the bunch and design a multi-method component for the study that would better test SUTVA and experimental realism.