

# Research Methods for Political Science PO3110 (TCD)

HT: Tutorial 5 - Week 6

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<https://github.com/letmeni/research-methods>

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## Expanding Homework 2

Work in groups. Make three new regression analyses: v0530\_02 is the dependent variable in each, but each model has only one independent variable (v0490\_02, v0239\_02 or v0900\_07).

- 1 Compare the size of the coefficient in the main model and the three separate models. Are they similar or different? Provide an explanation for any differences you may find.
- 2 Compare the standard errors between the main model and the three separate models. Look for any (major) differences and try to come up with an explanation.
- 3 Compare  $R^2$  between the four models (the three separate models and the main model). Why is  $R^2$  necessarily larger for the main model than for any of the other models?
  - Think about two things:
  - $R^2 = \frac{SS_M}{SS_T}$
  - OLS minimises  $SS_R$ .  $SS_R = \sum (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$
  - $SS_R = \sum (y_i - \beta_0 - \beta_1 \times x_i)^2$

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# Flyvbjerg's 'misunderstandings'

Critically evaluate Flyvbjerg's (2006) 'misunderstandings'. For each of these, argue whether these represent:

- 1 A misunderstanding by those that criticise case studies.
- 2 A misunderstanding by Flyvbjerg himself.
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# Flyvbjerg's 'misunderstandings'

- 1. MIS: General, theoretical knowledge is more valuable than concrete, practical knowledge
- 2. MIS: One cannot generalise on the basis of an individual case
- 3. MIS: Case studies are useful in generating hypotheses, but are not so useful in hypothesis testing and theory building.
- 4. MIS: Case studies are biased towards verification.
- 5. MIS: Often difficult to summarise case studies and develop propositions and theories from them. (i.e., the study becomes a rant).

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