

Causation in international relations - reclaiming causal analysis

Cambridge University Press - Hume on Causation

Description: -

	Regularity approaches	Probabilistic approaches	Counterfactual approaches	Manipulative approaches
Methodological assumptions	Causal explanations are usually constituted by conjunctions of causal factors	Hypothesis testing requires statistical manipulation to isolate the additive impact of variables	Causal arguments must be tested against consistent, valid, plausible counterfactuals	Human agency is required
Heuristic focus	Cases	Variables	Thought experiment	Actions
What is a cause?	An INUS condition	An event increasing the probability of its effect	A sine qua non condition of its effect	What actors can control or manipulate
What connects causes to effects?	A causal chain	A probabilistic relation	A counterfactual logical support	A deliberate action
Goal	To fully account for a (set of) effect(s) in a (set of) number of particular cases	To estimate the interacting individual interactive impact of one or more causes	To envisage the effect when the cause does not occur (and vice versa)	To highlight the consequences of human intervention
Main advantage	Permits 'thick' explanations	Permits generalizations	Is a component of causal inference	Operationalizes 'action' room for manoeuvre
Disadvantages	Epistemologically rigid; sometimes unrealistic assumptions about information and relationships among variables	Not appropriate for a small number of cases; sometimes misalignment between theory and methodology	Requires speculation about unobserved phenomena; is a complementary, not alternative, approach	Strictly speaking, no explanation should be applied in conjunction with other approaches

Portugal -- History -- Revolution, 1974 -- Personal narratives.

Letria, José Jorge.

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Poland -- History -- 19th century

Poland -- Politics and government -- 1918-1945

Poland -- Politics and government -- 1796-1918

Nova Scotia -- Politics and government.

Legislation -- Nova Scotia.

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International relations -- Philosophy.

International relations -- Research.

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Process Tracing Methods

Returning to the Tannenwald example, if we were to unpack a causal mechanism linking individual moral convictions and behavior, we would first have to develop what type of causal logic we are drawing on.

Causal Inference In Set

Rationalist theorists, the democratic peace theorists, for example, have often, on the basis of the regularity evidence, proceeded to make objectivist and universalistic claims about the nature of democracies and their foreign policies.

The Impact of Roy Bhaskar and Critical Realism on International Relations

Indeed, Morgenthau was fiercely opposed to any efforts to pursue predictive social science and, instead, emphasised the complexity and flux of social life and the need for historical and contextual judgements in dealing with world politics. If experiments only furnished closest possible worlds, then the direction of causation would be indeterminate without additional information.

Causation in International Relations: Reclaiming Causal Analysis by Milja Kurki

Journal of Philosophy, 70: 556—67. Humeanism and rationalist causal analysis in IR 123 the rationalist approaches have undoubtedly made certain important contributions in IR, it is not obvious that the rationalist frameworks are unproblematic. See also discussion in Chalmers 1996.

Causation in International Relations

It is when we first have a reasoned belief that there might actually be something to trace that it makes sense to engage in the intensive theoretical and empirical work of unpacking each part of the mechanism and empirically tracing the observable manifestations left by the activities of entities.

Critical realism (philosophy of the social sciences)

In that case, in the treatment group, when C occurs, E occurs, and when E occurs, C occurs.

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The formal cause, as the cause of a statue, would be the idea, image or shape that the sculptor moulds the marble into.

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