

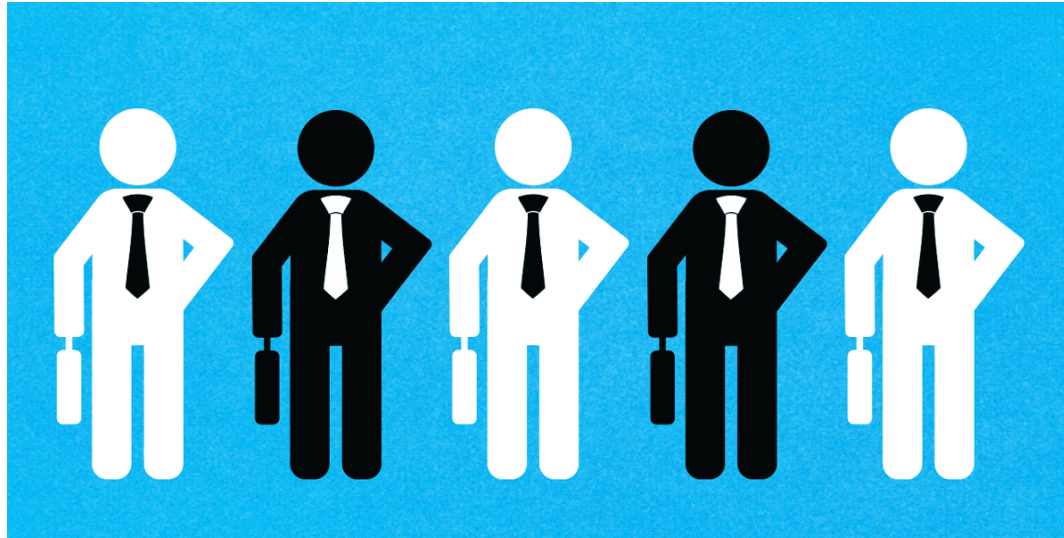


Principles of Case Study

Design Political Research: Week 11

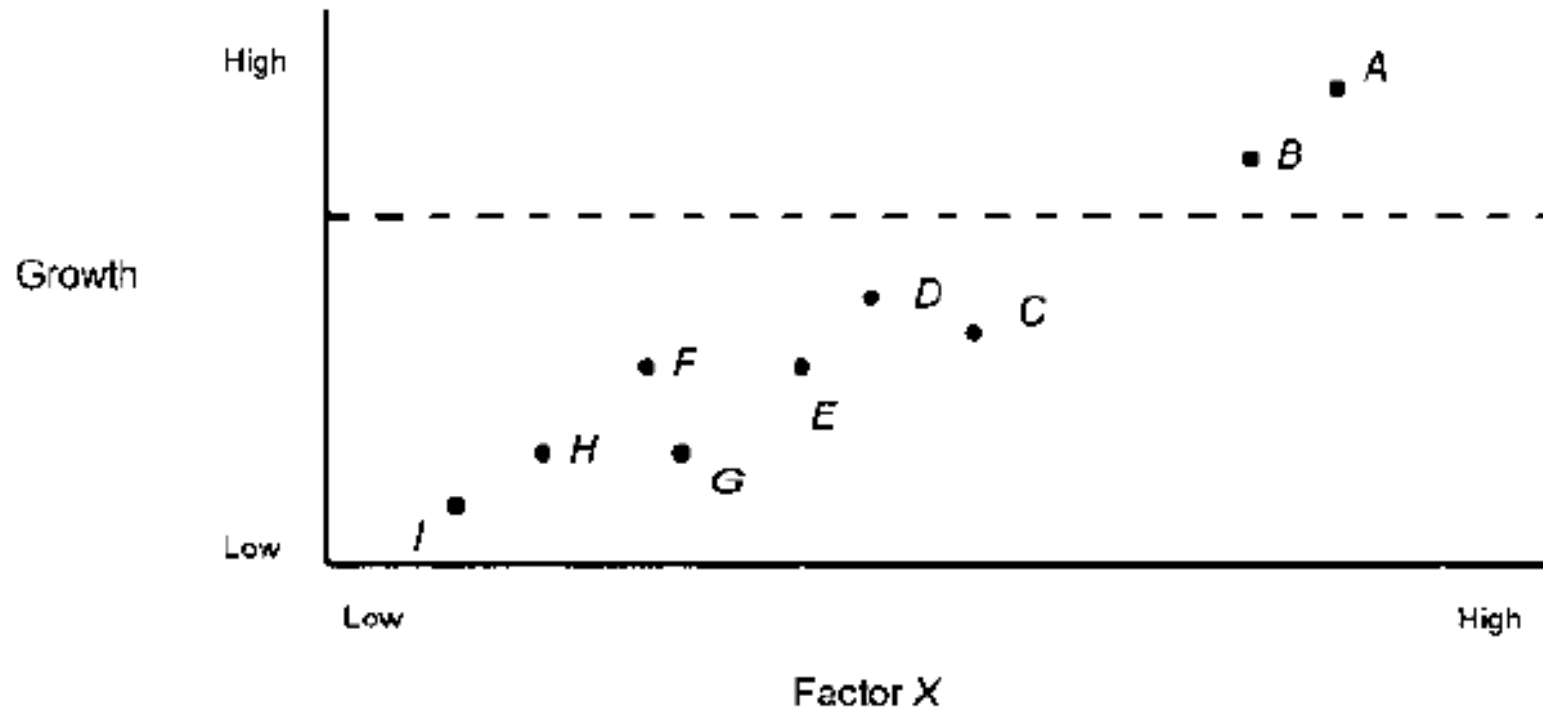
Yue Hu

What's selection bias?



- Selection on IV
- Selection on DV

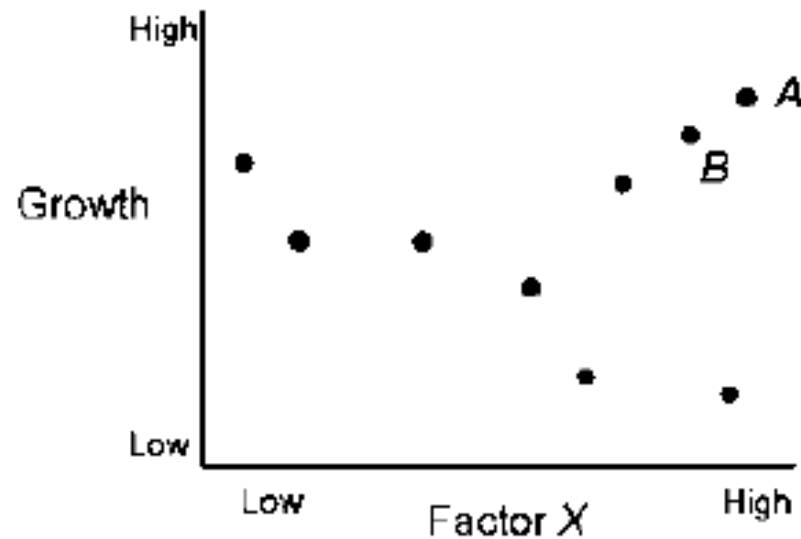
Ideal situation



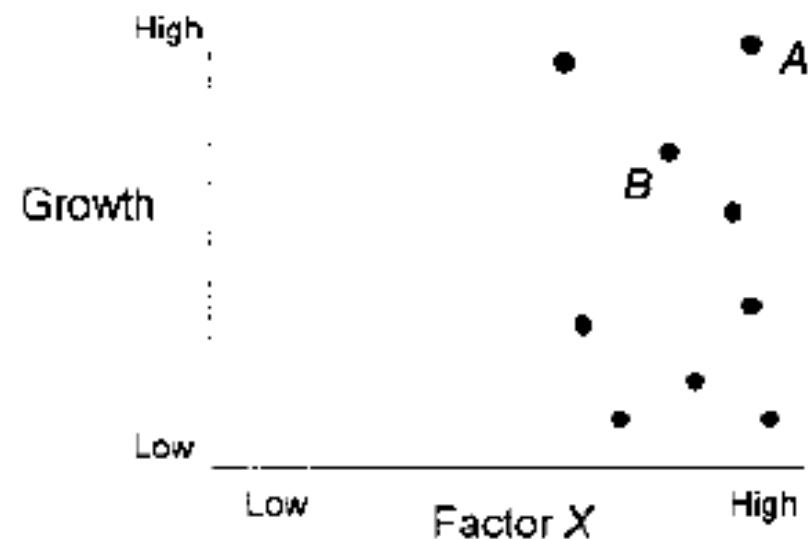
Ideal pattern

Different types of selections

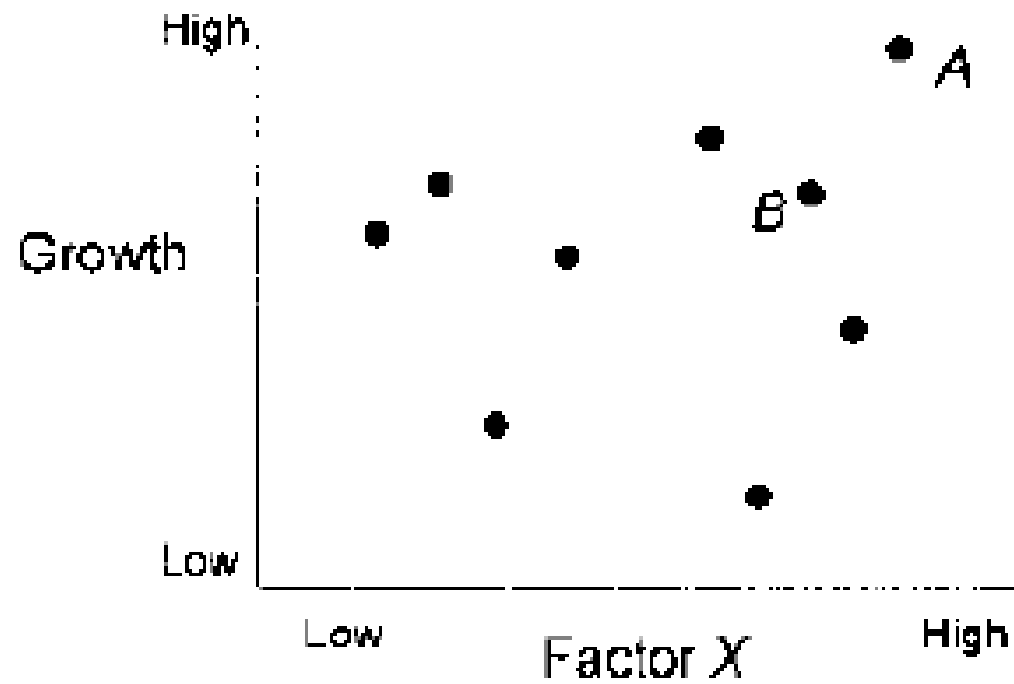
Selection on IV



Selection on DV



Selection on Both



The consequence of selection bias

- When your case study suffers from selection bias,

Darth Vader



- Any characteristics that the selected cases share is a cause.
- The relations between variables within the selected set reflect a general pattern.

Example

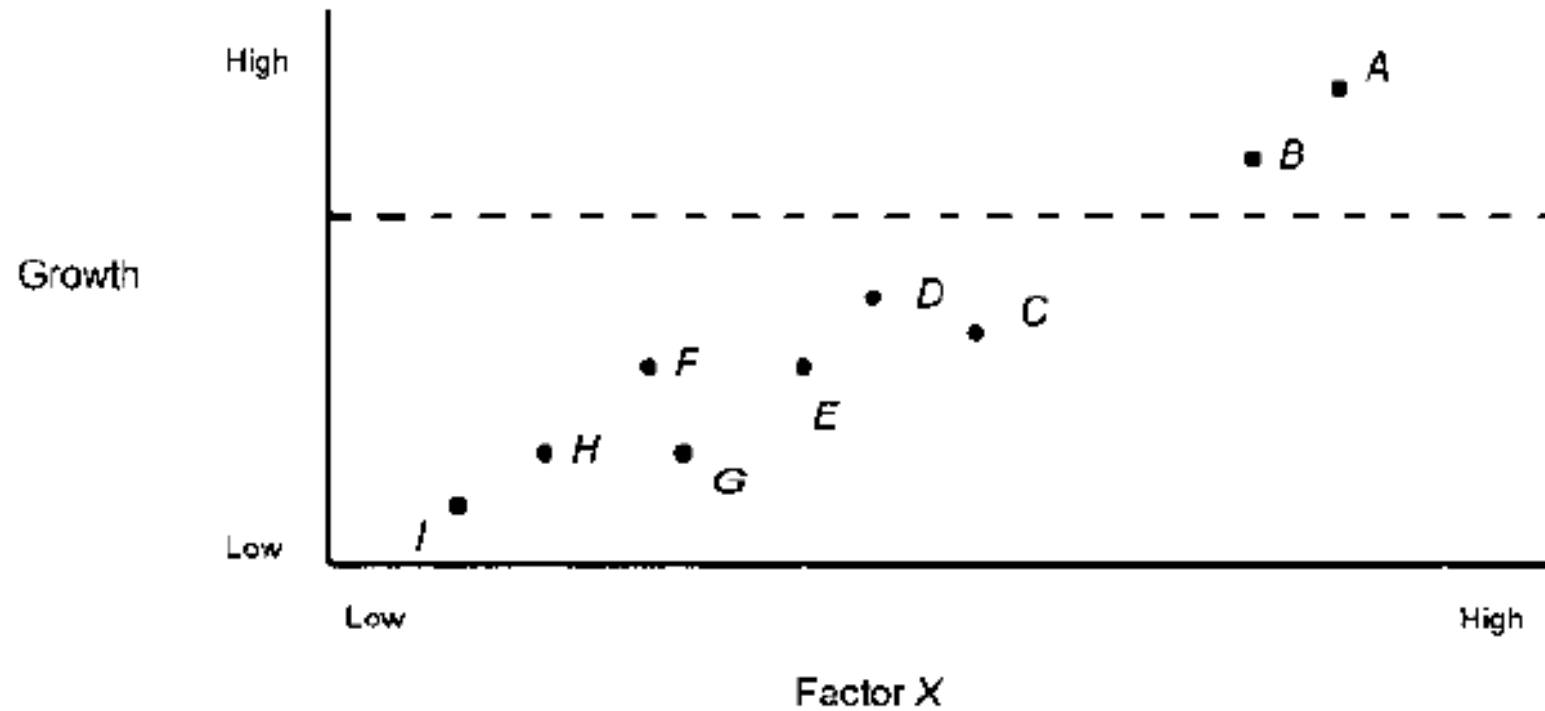
- Question: Why new industrializing countries (NICs) grows more rapidly?
- Theory: The repression of labor

- Case:



- What type of design this is?

What's the problem?



When selection is not a problem

- Theory-oriented
 - Labor repression contributes to growth in a at least mixed economy
 - Case selection: Communist countries are excluded.
- Hypothesis-oriented
 - Theory: Military governments are more likely to negotiate their extrication from power than are personalist regimes.
 - Hypothesis: Incidence of negotiation in military governments during the years in which breakdown occurs is higher than that in personalist regimes.
 - Case selection: Only breakdown regimes are select.

Avoid selection bias (when it's possible)

- Being clear about the domain of the variables
- Coding sheet

Example from Skocpol

	Elite Split	Elite Cohesive
Dominant Class Economically Independent, Shares Power	France China, after Taiping Rebellion	
Dominant Class Dependent, Excluded from Power	Russia, World War I	Prussia Japan China, before Taiping Rebellion Russia, before World War I
	Revolution	No Revolution
Village Autonomy	Russia France China, in area controlled by Communists	
Village Dependence		Britain, 1640-60 Germany, 1848 China, before Communists

Ask a correct question

- "What was the effect of cause X?" ✓
- "What cause Y?" or "Variance of the effect of X?" ✕

Toolbox of case study

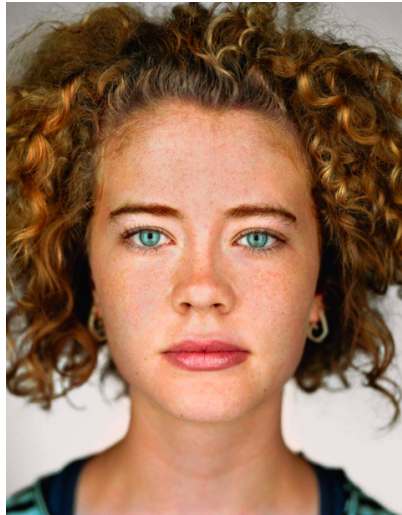
Least-likely case



- If the theory can make it here, it can make it anywhere.

- E.g.: Evangelista(1999)
 - Target: Influence of transnational actor
 - Theory: Transnational actor can affect international relations
 - Case: U.S. vs. USSR
 - Scientists' contact affect the course of U.S. and Soviet defense and arm control policies.

Most similar systems



Marta



Emma

- Control similarity, focus on differences.

- E.g.: Ray(1995)
 - Target: Interstate conflicts
 - Theory: Democratic peace
 - Case: UK-France Fashoda Crisis vs. Spanish-American War
 - Control for confounders (regression effects, mortality, selection bias) and same year
 - Explanatory: regime

Deviant Cases



- Cases that do not conform to the predictions made by the theory or theories under investigation.

- E.g.: Elman(1997)
 - Theory: Democratic peace
 - Case: Finland vs. UK in the Continuation War
 - Finland: Legislature does not balance president
 - Conclusion: decentralized vs. centralized democracies

Process tracing



- Explicit attention to and process tracing on alternative explanations
- Sustained focus on the question of "what else must be true" of the process
- A wide variety of sources