

PSC 202

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

# **INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ANALYSIS**

**MORE ON QUALITATIVE ANALYSES**

# SPONSORED CONTENT

## Washington, D.C., Internships & Careers 101: Navigating the Application Process

- Are you looking for internships or jobs in DC?
- Do you want to learn about strategies to make your application stand out?
- Want to hear more about funding opportunities to make a semester/summer more affordable?

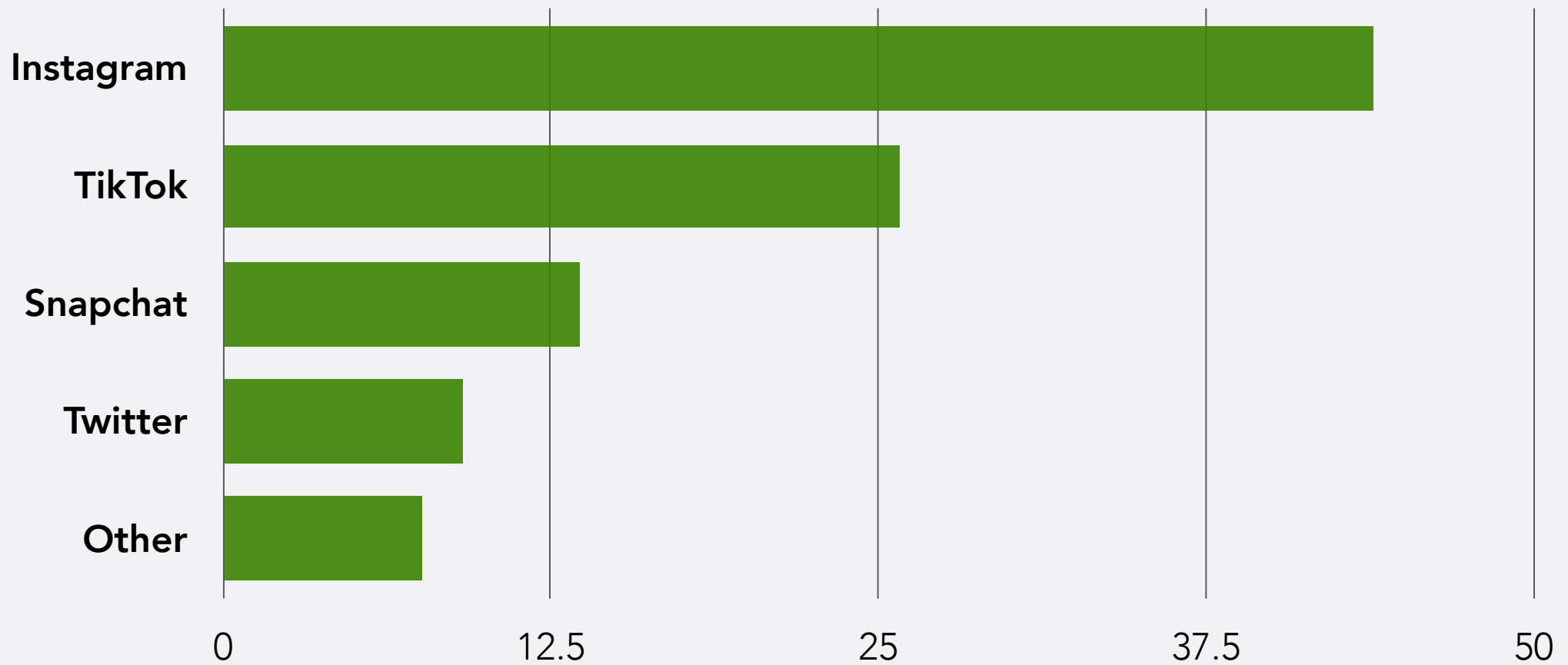
Come celebrate Orange Central and hear from a Maxwell Alum currently working on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Following this session, Andrew Regalado will be available for resume reviews, mock interviews, and career advice.



**Andrew Regalado**  
Legislative Aide &  
Operations Director  
U.S. House of Representatives

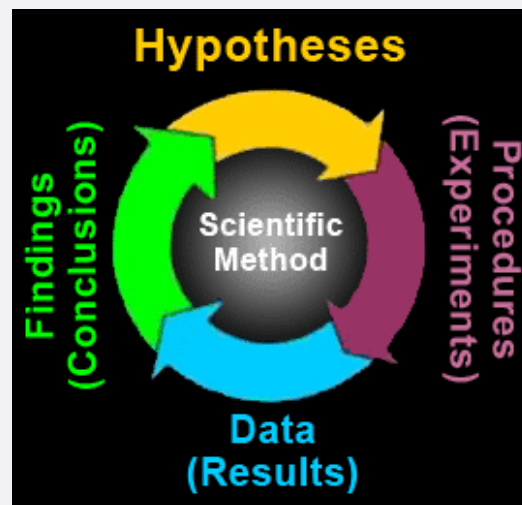
**Friday, October 29th**  
**2:00 PM-2:45 PM**  
**100 A Eggers Hall**

# SURVEY



# WHERE WE ARE

- Formulate research question
- Propose explanation/theory, hypotheses
- Data collection process
- Use data to evaluate hypotheses
- Reassess explanation



# RECAP

- Two ways to do empirical studies:
  - Qualitative, small n
  - Quantitative, large n
  - n=number of observations

# QUALITATIVE STUDIES

- Two kinds of small-n studies
  - Case studies
  - Comparative method

# HOW TO DO A CASE STUDY



# PROCESS TRACING





# (DIS)ADVANTAGES

- **What are the benefits and drawbacks of small-n case studies?**

# INTERNAL VALIDITY

- Does the study isolate the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable?
  - If yes: high validity
  - If no: low validity
- Case studies tend to have *high* internal validity
  - Researcher knows and understands case very well
  - Case study can uncover complex causal processes

# EXTERNAL VALIDITY

- Can we generalize the finding of the study to other settings?
  - If yes: high external validity
  - If no: low external validity
- Case studies often have *low* external validity
  - Not clear if results would be similar if study done in other contexts
  - Limited ability to generalize findings

# MULTIPLE METHODS

- Case studies often performed together with other analyses
  - Comparative case study (today)
  - Large-n statistical analysis (starting on Wednesday)
- Helps illuminate the causal process behind the findings using these other approaches

# QUALITATIVE STUDIES

- **Two kinds of small-n studies**
  - Case studies
  - Comparative method

# SPANISH CIVIL WAR





# SPANISH CIVIL WAR



Pablo Picasso, *Guernica*

- 1936-1939, Republicans (left-leaning) vs. Nationalists (right-leaning)
- ends with Nationalist victory and dictatorship of Franco
- hundreds of thousands of deaths

# SWEDEN IN 1936



Signing of Saltsjöbaden Accord

- 1936: a lot of class conflict between left and right as well
- But: no civil war
- Instead: Negotiation of long-lasting agreement between left and right. Why?



# BUFFET

	Mom	Dad	Brother	Sister
Oyster	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beef	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Salad	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Noodles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gotten Sick	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

# BUFFET

	Mom	Dad	Brother	Sister
Oyster	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beef	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Salad	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Noodles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gotten Sick	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

# DIFFERENT BUFFET

	Mom	Dad	Brother	Sister
Soup	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chicken	Yes	No	Yes	No
Shrimp	Yes	No	No	Yes
Homemade Liquor	Yes	Yes	No	No
Gotten Sick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# DIFFERENT BUFFET

	Mom	Dad	Brother	Sister
Soup	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chicken	Yes	No	Yes	No
Shrimp	Yes	No	No	Yes
Homemade Liquor	Yes	Yes	No	No
Gotten Sick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# WHAT DID WE JUST DO?

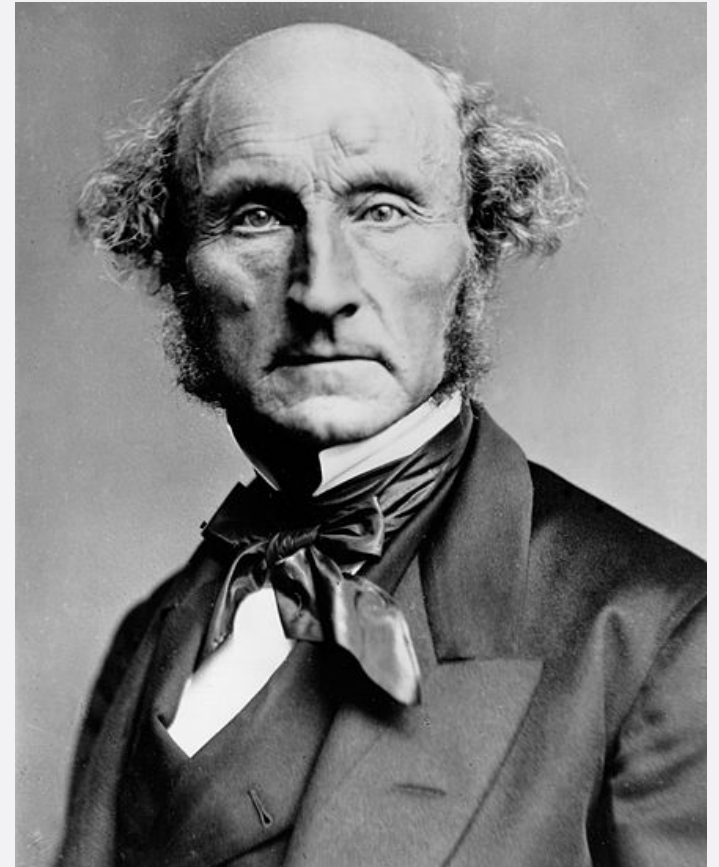
- Using  $n=4$ , we were able to identify which food (independent variable) caused illness (dependent variable)
  - At same time, were able to exclude other foods (confounding variables) as causes for illness

# HURDLES TO CAUSALITY

- Is there a credible causal mechanism that connects  $X$  to  $Y$ ?
- Can we rule out the possibility that  $Y$  could cause  $X$ ?
- Is there covariation between  $X$  and  $Y$ ?
- Have we controlled for all confounding variables ( $Z$ ) that might make the association between  $X$  and  $Y$  spurious?

# COMPARATIVE METHOD

- John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)
  - *A System of Logic* (1843)
- Mill's methods
  - Method of difference
    - "most-similar method"
  - Method of agreement
    - "most-different method"



# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

	Mom	Dad	Brother	Sister
Oyster	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beef	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Salad	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Noodles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gotten Sick	Yes	Yes	Yes	No



# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

- Cases where dependent variable is *different* between cases
  - some people are sick, others are not
- Identify independent variable that is different among cases in the same way as DV is
- Can use this approach in political science research
  - Lapuente and Rothstein (2014): "Civil War Spain Versus Swedish Harmony: The Quality of Government Factor". *Comparative Political Studies*.

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# SWEDEN IN 1936



Signing of Saltsjöbaden Accord

- 1936: a lot of class conflict between left and right as well
- But: no civil war
- Instead: Negotiation of long-lasting agreement between left and right

# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

	Sweden (1936)	Spain (1936)
Outcome	No Civil War	Civil War

# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

	Sweden (1936)	Spain (1936)
Class Conflict	Yes	Yes
Outcome	No Civil War	Civil War

# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

	Sweden (1936)	Spain (1936)
Class Conflict	Yes	Yes
Strong Left Party	Yes	Yes
Outcome	No Civil War	Civil War

# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

	Sweden (1936)	Spain (1936)
Class Conflict	Yes	Yes
Strong Left Party	Yes	Yes
Union Mobilization	Yes	Yes
Outcome	No Civil War	Civil War

# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

	Sweden (1936)	Spain (1936)
Class Conflict	Yes	Yes
Strong Left Party	Yes	Yes
Union Mobilization	Yes	Yes
Politicized Bureaucracy	No	Yes
Outcome	No Civil War	Civil War



# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

- **One causal hurdle: Is there covariation between X and Y?**
  - **Spain and Sweden have different outcome, and there also is a difference in whether politicized bureaucracy existed**

# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

- **Another causal hurdle: Have we controlled for all confounding variables (Z) that might make the association between X and Y spurious?**
  - **Sweden and Spain different on the dependent variable, different on the key independent variable**
  - **Similar on other variables (class conflict, left party strength, union mobilization), so they cannot explain the difference in the dependent variable**

# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

- Another causal hurdle: Have we controlled for **all** confounding variables (Z) that might make the association between X and Y spurious?
  - Sweden and Spain different on the dependent variable, different on the key independent variable
  - Similar on other variables (class conflict, left party strength, union mobilization), so they cannot explain the difference in the dependent variable

# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

- **Unlikely that politicized bureaucracy is only relevant difference between Spain and Sweden**
  - e.g. strong Catholic church was a major actor in Spanish civil war
  - Catholic church not very strong in Sweden

# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

	Sweden (1936)	Spain (1936)
Class Conflict	Yes	Yes
Strong Left Party	Yes	Yes
Union Mobilization	Yes	Yes
Politicized Bureaucracy	No	Yes
Strong Catholic Church	No	Yes
Outcome	No Civil War	Civil War

?

# METHOD OF DIFFERENCE

- A bit confusing: called “Method of Difference” *and* “most similar method”
  - Different value of dependent variable, looking for difference in values of key independent variable
  - Most similar b/c cases are similar in everything *except* outcome and independent variable that causes outcome
- So: Method of difference because you’re looking for differences in cases that are otherwise most similar

# METHOD OF AGREEMENT

	Mom	Dad	Brother	Sister
Soup	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chicken	Yes	No	Yes	No
Shrimp	Yes	No	No	Yes
Homemade Liquor	Yes	Yes	No	No
Gotten Sick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

# METHOD OF AGREEMENT

- Cases where dependent variable is *same* between cases
  - everyone is sick
- Identify independent variable that is also the same among cases
- Can use this approach in political science research
  - Skocpol (1979): "States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China". *Cambridge University Press*.



# METHOD OF AGREEMENT

	France	China	Russia
Outcome	Successful Revolution	Successful Revolution	Successful Revolution

# METHOD OF AGREEMENT

	France	China	Russia
Dominant Class With Leverage In State	Yes	Yes	No
Prosperous Economy	Yes	No	No
Autonomous Peasant Community	Yes	No	Yes
Outcome	Successful Revolution	Successful Revolution	Successful Revolution

# METHOD OF AGREEMENT

	France	China	Russia
Dominant Class With Leverage In State	Yes	Yes	No
Prosperous Economy	Yes	No	No
Autonomous Peasant Community	Yes	No	Yes
International Pressure For Reform	Yes	Yes	Yes
Outcome	Successful Revolution	Successful Revolution	Successful Revolution

# METHOD OF AGREEMENT

	France	China	Russia
Dominant Class With Leverage In State	Yes	Yes	No
Prosperous Economy	Yes	No	No
Autonomous Peasant Community	Yes	No	Yes
International Pressure For Reform	Yes	Yes	Yes
Outcome	Successful Revolution	Successful Revolution	Successful Revolution

# METHOD OF AGREEMENT

- **One causal hurdle: Is there covariation between X and Y?**
  - **Three countries have same outcome, and all experienced international pressure for reform**

# METHOD OF AGREEMENT

- **Another causal hurdle: Have we controlled for all confounding variables (Z) that might make the association between X and Y spurious?**
  - **Three countries (with same outcome) differ in other relevant independent variables**

# POSSIBLE PROBLEM, AGAIN

	France	China	Russia
Dominant Class With Leverage In State	Yes	Yes	No
Prosperous Economy	Yes	No	No
Autonomous Peasant Community	Yes	No	Yes
International Pressure For Reform	Yes	Yes	Yes
Some Other Factor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Outcome	Successful Revolution	Successful Revolution	Successful Revolution

?

# SMALL-N

- Can expand comparative case study to moderate number of cases
  - ~30-40
  - Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)