

POLI 30 - Political Inquiry

Introduction

Dr. Umberto Mignozzetti

Today's Agenda

What is POLI 30 D?

Syllabus and bureaucracy

About me

About you

POLI 30 D

POLI 30 D

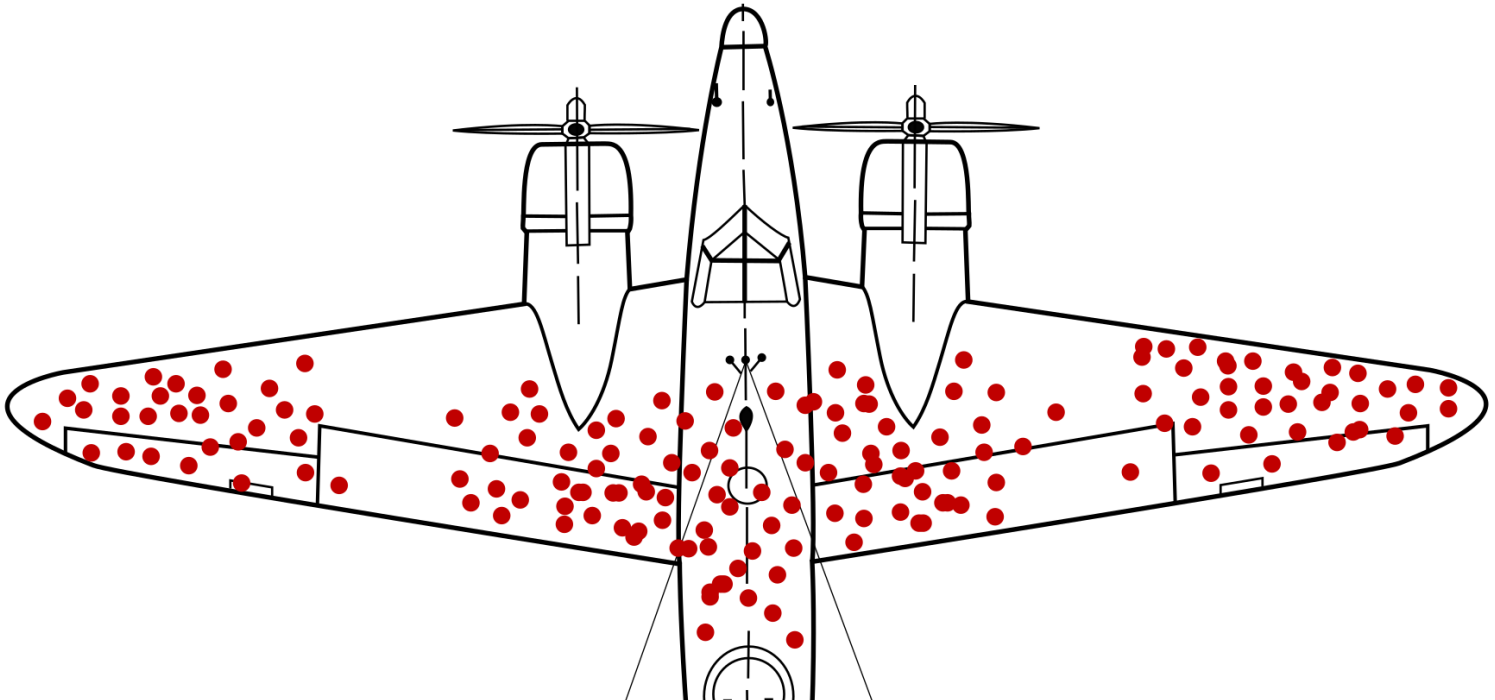
- Political Inquiry
- In this class, you are going to learn how Political Scientists produce rigorous empirical research.
- **Rigorous:** Reproducible and transparent.
- **Empirical:** Using data.

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- This class aims to empower you to consume and produce knowledge.
- You will be able to evaluate the strength of empirical claims, i.e., calling B.S.
- You will be able to produce elementary data analysis using the statistical software R.
- At a minimum, you will look at the newspaper differently.

POLI 30 D

- In WWII, the USAF needed to improve the reliability of their bombers.
- They collected data on planes that went to war and back to see where they should reinforce.



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- My mother-in-law, 65+ years old lady, was diagnosed with hep C.
- I did what any responsible in-law was supposed to do...
- The doctor was sure about her diagnostic: she told my wife that the test had an 80% accuracy (i.e., an 20% false-negative rate).
- But it turns out that the test she ran had a 50% false-positive rate.
- Now, spse of 1000 people that do the test, ten tests positive (1%).
What are the chances that these people indeed have the disease?

	test negative	test positive
does not have disease	$.99 \cdot .5 = .495$	$.99 \cdot .5 = .495$
has disease	$.01 \cdot .2 = .002$	$.01 \cdot .8 = .008$

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Grading:

Assignment	Points	Weight	Due Date
Participation x 28	10	10 %	Through i-clicker
Quizzes x 28	10	20 %	Before the next lecture start
Problem Sets x 4	10	50 %	PS 1 – Jan 27 PS 2 – Feb 10 PS 3 – Feb 24 PS 4 – Mar 10 All PSs will be live two weeks before their due date.
Final Exam	10	20 %	March 22, 8-11 am

100%

Bureaucracy

- Attendance is required. I will use the i-clicker to check it. More on that to come.
- Academic Integrity: feel free to work in groups, but turn in your own work.
- The main book we will use is

Lludet and Imai. Data Analysis for Social Science: A Friendly and Practical Introduction. United States, Princeton University Press, 2022.

Lecture x TA sections and

- Lectures: more theoretical
- TA sections: more computational
- I hold office hours daily, from 11 AM to 12 PM.
- You need to sign in using
<https://calendly.com/umbertomig/office-hours>

About me

- My name is Umberto Mignozzetti.
- I hold a Ph.D. from New York University.
- I study how institution design affects welfare in developing democracies.
- In my free time, I like to watch soccer.

About you

- You are likely sitting close to a future Apple CEO, US Senator, NGO leader, or Eccentric Billionaire.
- Introduce yourself to the person next to you.
- Tell them your name and your majors / minors / study interests.
- Tell them what you like to do in your free time.

Questions?

See you in the next class!
