

This is My Research

Elements of a Conference Presentation

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Preparation for Final Presentations



Figure 1: This is a striking image that informs an interesting story or anecdote

Research Question

What is the question your research answers?

What Do We Know?

- In this section set up the key points in prior research on this topic
(Teorell 2010; Celestino and Gleditsch 2013; Rød and Weidmann 2023)
- This section should be brief, taking up no more than 2-3 minutes
(Karatnycky and Ackerman 2005; Chenoweth and Stephan 2011; Kim and Kroeger 2019)
- Structure as general findings, with indicative citations (Rustow 1970; Ketchley 2017; Pinckney 2020)

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- Highlight what the gaps are in the existing literature
- Clearly set up why your research fills those gaps

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Theory

- This is the core of your argument, lay it out clearly
- You should have a clear sense of the theoretical constructs behind your unit of analysis, IV, DV, and the mechanisms that link them.
- Good theories are grounded in existing literature, but build beyond them
- Don't get too attached to weird, counter-intuitive theorizing

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Case/Data Selection

- What is the data that you're going to use to conduct your research? (qualitative or quantitative)
 - How generalizable is that data source? What is that going to tell us about the phenomenon more generally?
 - If qualitative, what cases have you selected and why? What was your case selection strategy?
- How are you going to operationalize your independent variable?
- How are you going to operationalize your dependent variable?
- What confounders are you going to control for? How are you going to deal with endogeneity and alternative explanations?

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Methods of Analysis

- What is your strategy for making inferences based on your data?
- If quantitative, what kind of statistical model and why?

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Your Biggest Result

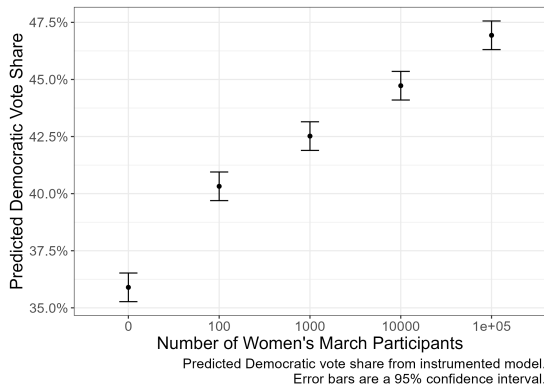


Figure 2: This result captures the most important thing you want people to know

- I **strongly** recommend not putting a big regression table here

Secondary Results that Support Your Biggest Result

- Include a couple of additional figures that support your main finding or build out mechanisms
- Don't crowd your slides, and be realistic about how much you can include in limited time
- Make sure text is big enough to read!

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Robustness Checks

- What are the biggest objections people will have to your findings?
How can you anticipate those?
- What other kinds of models beyond your primary model did you run?
- Usually this is summarizing a lot of stuff, and you can point people to extra slides, or offer to discuss in the Q&A

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Conclusion

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- Keep it simple! No more than 2-3 key points
- You can also include key questions or things you're still struggling with, especially if this is an early-stage project

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Why Have Extra Slides?

- If there are additional visualizations you want to include, particularly of robustness checks

References

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