#### Gov 99r: Lecture 5

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#### Outline

Introduction

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Hypotheses
- 3 Data
- 4 Process Tracing
- 5 Next Time



In general, methodology is often difficult to teach quickly, due to a multiplicity of perspectives



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Qualitative vs Quantitative



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- Positivist vs. Normativist vs. Interpretavist



**Process Tracing** 

# Methodology: A Basic Primer

In general, methodology is often difficult to teach quickly, due to a multiplicity of perspectives

- Qualitative vs Quantitative
- Frequentist vs. Bayesian
- Positivist vs. Normativist vs. Interpretavist
- etc

Thus, possible better to ignore differences and focus on least common denominators



## Types of Research

There are however two main goals/types of research that should be distinguished



Introduction

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Descriptive inference



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**Process Tracing** 

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**Process Tracing** 

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$$D_i =$$

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- $\begin{cases} 2 & \text{if if unit } i \text{ received treatment 2} \\ 1 & \text{if unit } i \text{ received treatment 1} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$
- Estimate the causal effect of treatment



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Introduction

Hypotheses Data Process Tracing

#### Causal Inference in Qualitative Studies

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#### Causal Inference: Pitfalls

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No causal inference is perfect; even experiments fall prey to the fundamental problem of causal inference

Thus, the goal should be to design experiments/studies/research designs which allow us to plausibly defend or refute our hypotheses against counterfactual explanations of the phenomenon



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- Dataset Observations (DSOs)
- Causal Process Observations (CSOs)



Introduction

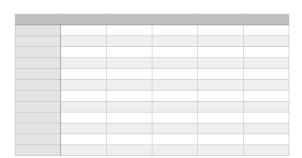
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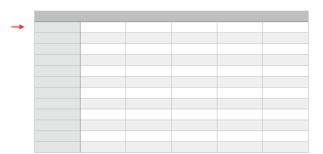
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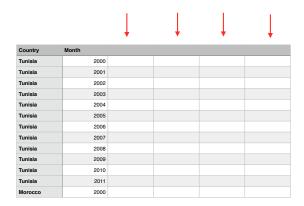






Country	Month		
Tunisia	2000		
Tunisia	2001		
Tunisia	2002		
Tunisia	2003		
Tunisia	2004		
Tunisia	2005		
Tunisia	2006		
Tunisia	2007		
Tunisia	2008		
Tunisia	2009		
Tunisia	2010		
Tunisia	2011		
Morocco	2000		







Country	Month	Protest	Union Density	Wages	Political Party
Tunisia	2000	234	11	201	0
Tunisia	2001	458	11	221	0
Tunisia	2002	847	20	223	1
Tunisia	2003	98	3	267	0
Tunisia	2004	345	12	284	0
Tunisia	2005	726	18	286	0
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## Process Tracing: An Example

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May definitively prove causality, but unlikely to do so. It usually just validates a theory.



#### **Next Class**

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- (Case selection)
- Regression
- Experiment
- Content Analysis

