

17.871 Requirements

Spring 2015

Big picture



Final Project

Big picture



Statistics

Final Project

Big picture

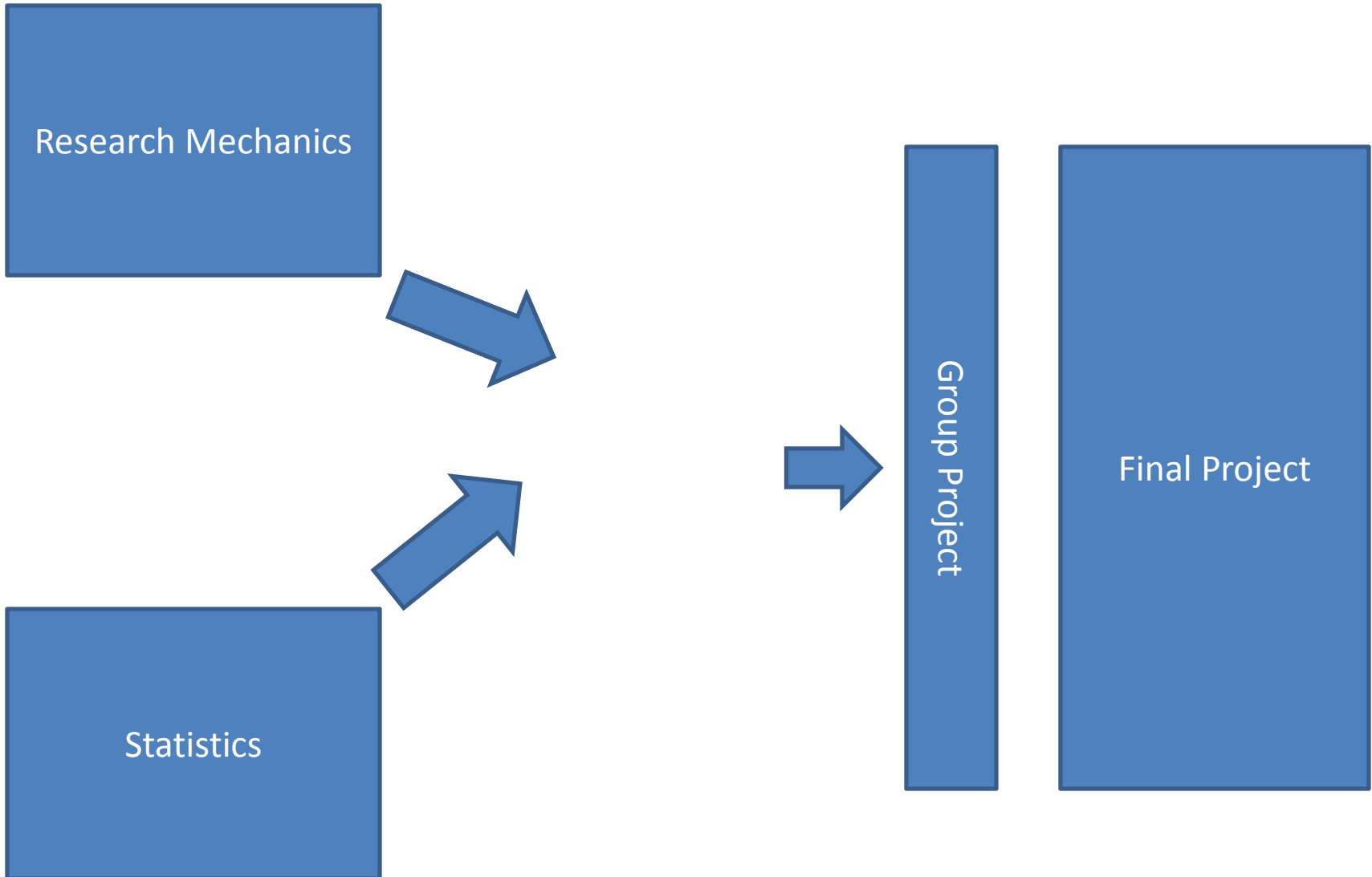
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graph TD; RM[Research Mechanics]; S[Statistics]; FP[Final Project];
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Research Mechanics

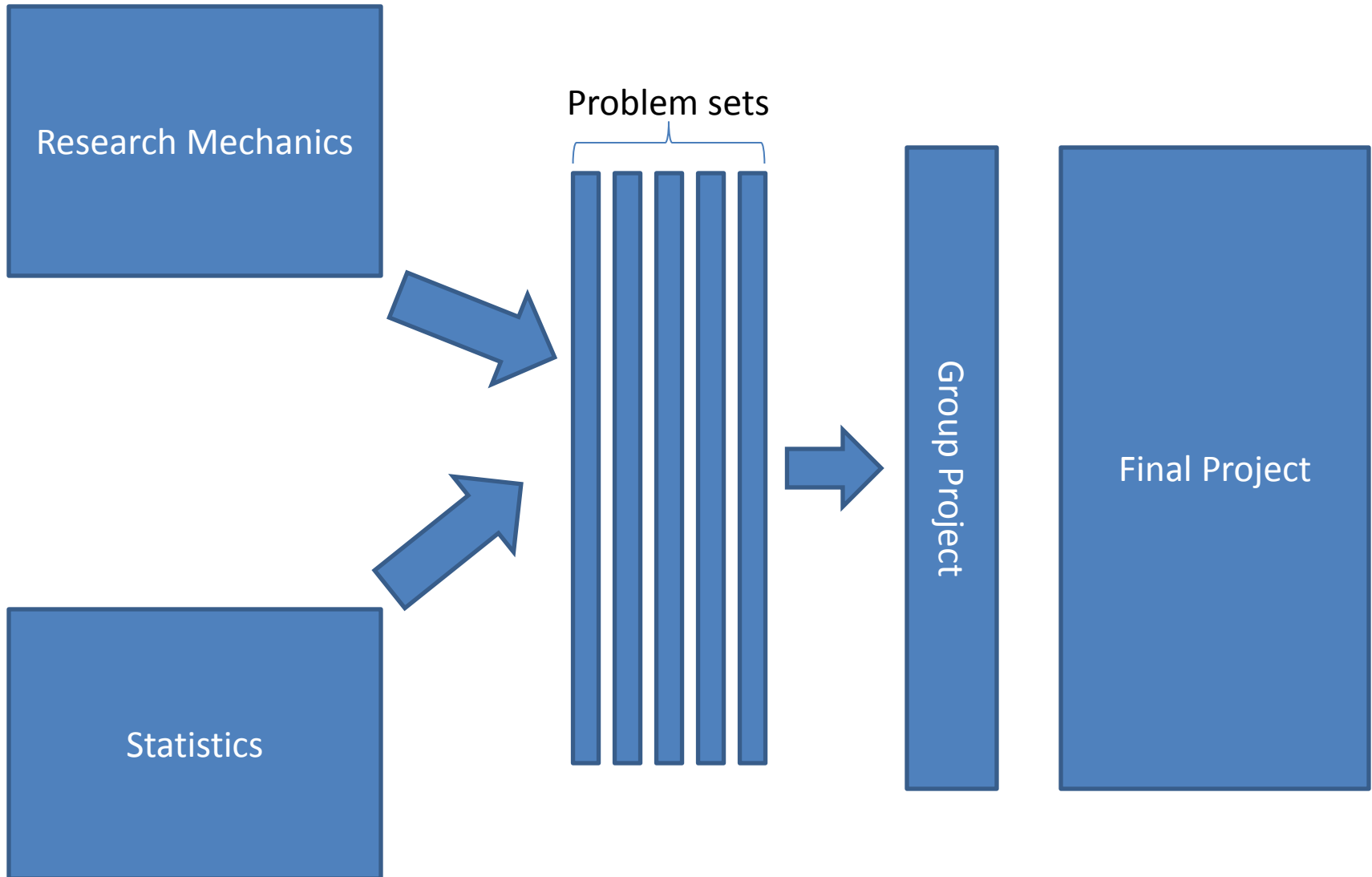
Statistics

Final Project

Big picture



Big picture



Subject organization

Overall structure

	Mon.			Wed.	
Feb.				Introduction and research design	4
	Introduction to Stata I Meet in 14-0637	9		No class meeting	11
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Mostly class

Mostly project

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The Hard-Nosed Empiricist

- Purpose: Identify and evaluate causal claims
- Assignment
 - Find an article that evaluates a causal claim you find interesting (e.g., Romney lost because he was seen as out-of-touch with regular people)
 - Describe and evaluate this article
 - What is the causal claim?
 - What have researchers found about this?
 - Were the studies experimental or observational?
 - Are there obvious problems with the article?

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P-set 1

P-set 2

P-set 3

P-set 4

P-set 5

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3. Group project

Group Project Possibilities

- Foreign aid and the spread of democracy
- Democracy and carbon emissions
- Voter ID and voter confidence
- Economy and Obama's popularity

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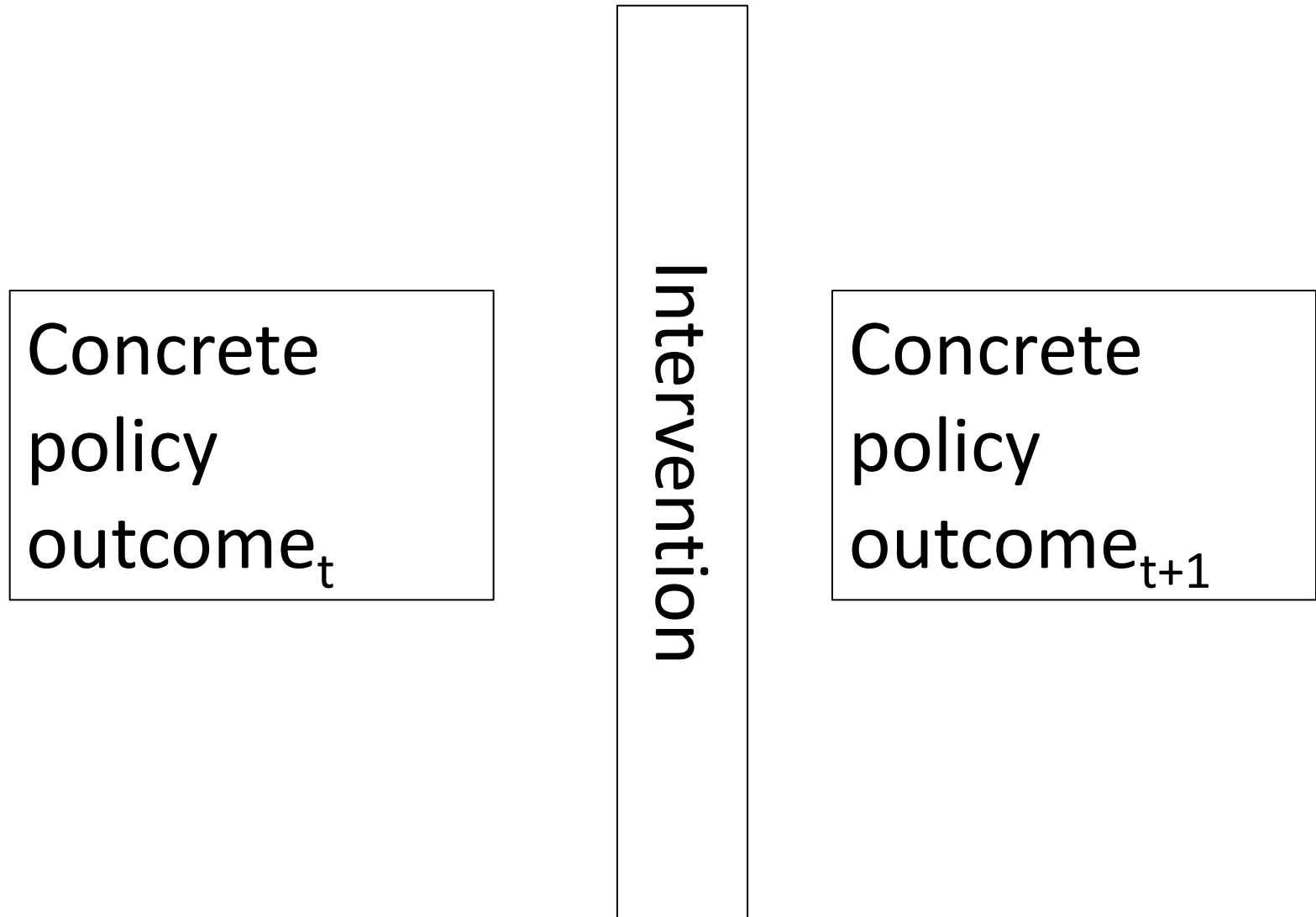
The final project

- Empirical research paper
 - At least 30 cases/observations
 - At least three independent variables
- Must be a topic in the social sciences (not medicine or sports)
- Best: a major portion of your undergraduate thesis

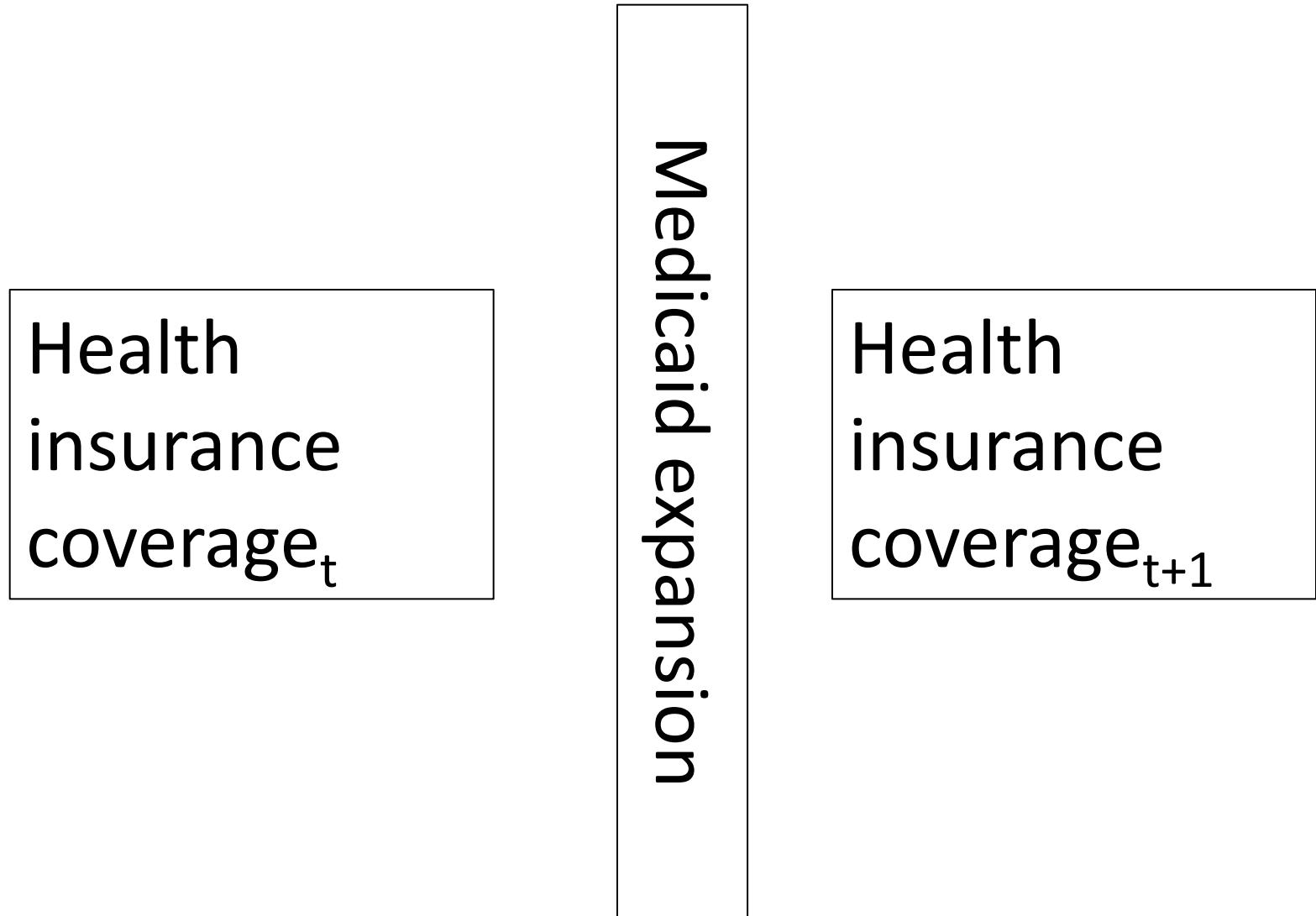
Examples of successful final projects

- The use of public diplomacy by the U.S. (predicting participation in county-to-country exchanges)
- Abortion opinion and the court (predicting approval of the Supreme Court)
- The effect of weather on voter turnout
- The effect of immigration on native employment

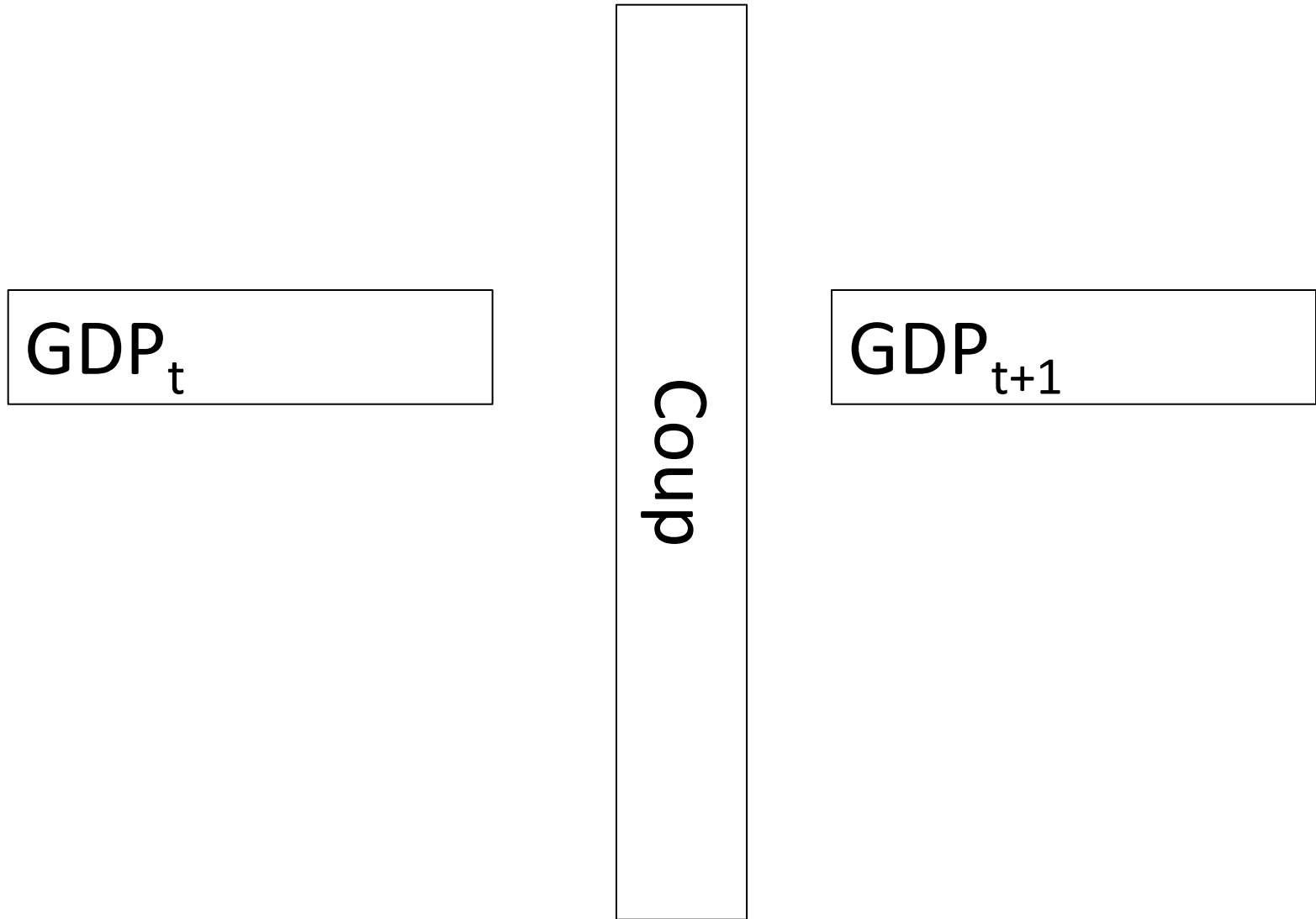
Generic structure(s) of successful projects



Generic structure(s) of successful projects



Generic structure(s) of successful projects



Correlational studies are OK, too

Do _____ with _____
Noun (unit of analysis) Comparative adjective

_____ have/cause _____?
Noun (ind. var.) Noun (dep. var.)

Correlational studies are OK, too

Do countries with more
Noun (unit of analysis) Comparative adjective
immigrants have/cause conflict?
Noun (ind. var.) Noun (dep. var.)

Correlational studies are OK, too

Do states with better
Noun (unit of analysis) Comparative adjective
education have/cause greater econ. growth?
Noun (ind. var.) Noun (dep. var.)

Marks of an unsuccessful project


- No one has ever done the study before
- The data are hard to get
- There is no clear causal claim to be examined
- You have a strong prior attitude about what you will find

Estimating how long it will take to gather your data

$$\frac{\textit{Actual time}}{2} = (\textit{The time you initially estimate}) \times 2^{2^2}$$

Some online points

Stellar is of limited use

**17.871 Political Science Laboratory**
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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[Course : » Course 17 : » Spring 2015 : » 17.871 : »Homepage](#)

17.871 Political Science Laboratory

Spring 2015

Instructor: Charles H Stewart

Lecture: MW3-4.30 (E53-485)

[OCW archive available](#)

Announcements

Class web site

The purpose of this Stellar site is to serve up some restricted reading materials. Please refer to the class web site at the following URL for assignments and other class materials: <http://web.mit.edu/17.871/www/>

Announced on 02 February 2015 12:33 p.m. by Charles Stewart

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Please don't rely on Stellar to verify if you are registered for 17.871

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The web site is more useful: web.mit.edu/17.871.www

← → ↺ 🏠 📄 web.mit.edu/17.871/www/



17.871 Home Page

Subject Information

Data Links

Links down this column of the page refer to requirements and assignments for 17.871 in the Spring of 2015. Archives of class material are available from [Fall 1999](#) and [Spring 2001](#), when the class was numbered 17.801, and [Spring 2002](#), [Spring 2003](#), [Spring 2006](#), [Spring 2007](#), [Spring 2008](#), [Spring 2009](#), [Spring 2010](#), [Spring 2011](#), [Spring 2012](#), [Spring 2013](#), and [Spring 2014](#). In Spring 2004 and Spring 2005, the class was on Stellar, which means (alas), it is not generally available to browsers. This class also has an [OCW page](#).

Links down this column of the page refer to various data sites that have proved useful over the years. I invite nominations for new sites and information about

Syllabus and class schedule

[Syllabus](#)

Hardnoted empiricist presentation dates

Individual meeting times to discuss individual projects will

Handouts

[Stata handout](#)
[Athena Stata on your own computer](#)
[Emacs command cheat sheet](#)
[Resources for learning Stata](#)
[Stata starting kit](#)

[How to Use the STATA infile and infix commands](#)
[How to Use the STATA merge and reshape commands](#)

Topics that *might* be covered in the quiz will be posted here at a later date.

[2007 quiz](#)
[2009 quiz](#)
[2013 quiz](#)

Assignments

Hard-Nosed Empiricist

Introduction assignment

Problem Set 1
-Problem set 1 solutions

Group projects

Problem Set 2
-Problem set 2 solutions

Problem Set 3
-Problem set 3 solutions

[Harvard-MIT Data Center](#)
[Social Science Data Resources @ the MIT Libraries](#)
[UC Data Archive @ Berkeley](#)
[Paul Hense's International Relations Data Site](#)
[The International Political Economy Data Resource](#)

[American Religion Data Archive](#)
[Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)
[Bureau of Justice Statistics](#)
[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
[Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#)
[Constituency-Level Elections Archive \(CLEA\)](#)
[Division of Science Resources Studies \(NSF\)](#)
[Energy Information Administration](#)
[Environmental Protection Agency](#)
[EU Gene: Expected Utility Generation and Data Management Program](#) (integrates several of the more popular datasets in IR)
[Federal Budget](#)
[FEDSTATS](#) (Index to federal agency statistics on line)
[Human Rights Data Project](#)
[Integrated Public Use Microdata Series](#) at the Minnesota Population Center (census data, at the individual level, from around the world and across history)
[National Agricultural Statistics Service](#)
[National Center for Education Statistics](#)
[National Center for Health Statistics](#)
[Office of Management and Budget](#)
[Open Data for International Development](#)
[Political Terror Scale](#)
[Roper Center iPoll Databank](#)
[Statistics of Income Division](#) (Internal Revenue Service)
[Uppsala Conflict Data Program](#)
[U.S. Census Bureau](#)
[U.S. Federal Election Commission](#)

[Society for Political Methodology](#)
[Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research \(ICPSR\)](#), the world's largest archive of computer-readable social science data.
[American National Election Studies \(ANES\)](#), for information about public opinion studies
[World Values Survey](#), which is an international research project that collects data about the values and beliefs of people around the world.

Research Links

[MIT Library](#)
[Google Scholar](#)
[Social Sciences Citation Index \(through the "Web of Knowledge"\)](#)

Final Requirement

The 17.869 pre-requisite will be strictly enforced

The Hard-Nosed Empiricist

Purpose

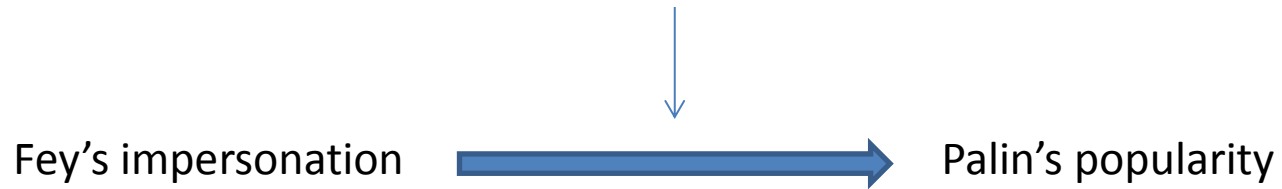
- Read the newspaper/news sites with an eye toward identifying causal claims about the world
- Find studies that inform our understanding of that causal claim
- Scrutinize those studies, with reference to research design and generalizability

Example

Claim: Tina Fey's depiction of Sarah Palin undermined Palin's appeal as a candidate



What is the causal claim?



What has research found?

sarah palin tina fey - Google Scholar - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

W List of counties in Massachus... x sarah palin tina fey - Google ... x +

scholar.google.com/scholar?q=sarah+palin+tina+fey&btnG=&hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C22

Web Images More...

Google sarah palin tina fey

Scholar About 387 results (0.03 sec)

Articles

Legal documents

Any time

Since 2013

Since 2012

Since 2009

Custom range...

Sort by relevance

Sort by date

☒ include patents

☒ include citations

☐ Create alert

[CITATION] Saturday Night Live Premiere TV Ratings: Way Down vs. 2008 With No **Sarah Palin/Tina Fey**
B Gorman - TV By The, 2009
Cited by 3 Related articles Cite

Have you come a long way, baby? Hillary Clinton, **Sarah Palin**, and sexism in 2008 campaign coverage [PDF] from kean.edu
DB Carlin, KL Winfrey - Communication Studies, 2009 - Taylor & Francis
Full text - MIT Libraries
... Hillary Clinton put 18 million cracks in the glass ceiling and **Sarah Palin** contributed to over 58 million ... In Clinton and **Palin**, American voters saw two very different women candidates. When they came together—on "Saturday Night Live" in the forms of **Tina Fey** as **Palin** and Amy ...
Cited by 33 Related articles All 3 versions Cite

[BOOK] Entertaining politics: Satiric television and political engagement
JP Jones - 2010 - books.google.com
... the same time, little-known Alaska governor and Republican vice-presidential hopeful **Sarah Palin** gave her first ... such as network and cable talk shows debated the merits of **Palin's** inter- views from their predictable partisan positions, it was comedian **Tina Fey's** spot-on ...
Cited by 48 Related articles All 2 versions Cite More

The Influence of Parodies on Political Schemas: Exploring the **Tina Fey-Sarah Palin Phenomenon** [TXT] from udel.edu
S Esralew - 2009 - dspace.udel.edu
During the 2008 presidential campaign season, **Tina Fey's** timely impersonations of **Sarah Palin** on Saturday Night Live attracted overwhelming attention, generating buzz of a possible "Fey Effect" to explain the inverse SNL rating surge and **Palin** rating plummet. ...
Cited by 2 Related articles All 2 versions Cite

[The **Fey** Effect Young Adults, Political Humor, and Perceptions of **Sarah Palin** in the 2008 Presidential Election Campaign](#)

[\[PDF\]](#) from [ecu.edu](#)
[Full text](#) - [MIT Libraries](#)

[JC Baumgartner](#), [JS Morris](#), [NL Walth](#) - [Public opinion quarterly](#), 2012 - [AAPOR](#)

... "The Influence of Parodies on Political Schemas: Exploring the **Tina Fey–Sarah Palin** Phenomenon.". 2009. University of Delaware. ... "**Tina Fey** Reprises **Sarah Palin** Role on NBC's Saturday Night Live for First Time Since 2008.". [Daily News](#) 2011. April 11. ...

[Cited by 2](#) [Related articles](#) [All 6 versions](#) [Cite](#)

THE FEY EFFECT YOUNG ADULTS, POLITICAL HUMOR, AND PERCEPTIONS OF SARAH PALIN IN THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

JODY C. BAUMGARTNER*
JONATHAN S. MORRIS
NATASHA L. WALTH

Abstract Using panel data of young adults, we find evidence that exposure to Tina Fey's impersonation of Sarah Palin's performance in the 2008 vice-presidential debate on *Saturday Night Live* is associated with changes in attitudes toward her selection as VP candidate and presidential vote intentions. These effects are most pronounced among self-identified Independents and Republicans.

Recent studies show that late-night comedy exposure is significantly associated with multiple aspects of political attitudes (Baumgartner and Morris 2006; Moy, Xenos, and Hess 2006; Young 2004). Using panel data of young adults surveyed in the late stages of the 2008 presidential campaign, we find that those who saw Tina Fey's impersonation of Sarah Palin on *Saturday Night Live*'s (*SNL*) skit of the vice-presidential debate displayed steeper declines in approval for Palin than those who saw debate coverage through other means. Interestingly, this "Fey Effect" spilled over into vote intention, and was most pronounced among self-identified Republicans.

This research is important because it serves as a corrective to the mostly post-hoc and correlational evidence regarding the effect of comedic portrayals of Palin on public opinion. Interestingly, most of the published empirical research on the effect of humor on attitudes ignores sketch comedy and focuses on late-night talk shows. This is surprising, given that *SNL* has been doing parodies of presidential candidates since its inaugural season in 1975. The analysis also provides a telling

JODY C. BAUMGARTNER and JONATHAN S. MORRIS are Associate Professors of Political Science at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, USA. NATASHA L. WALTH is an undergraduate in the department of political science at East Carolina University. This work was supported by funds provided to Baumgartner as part of the University Startup Funds Program at East Carolina University. *Address correspondence to Jody Baumgartner, Department of Political Science, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858, USA; e-mail: jodyb@jodyb.net.

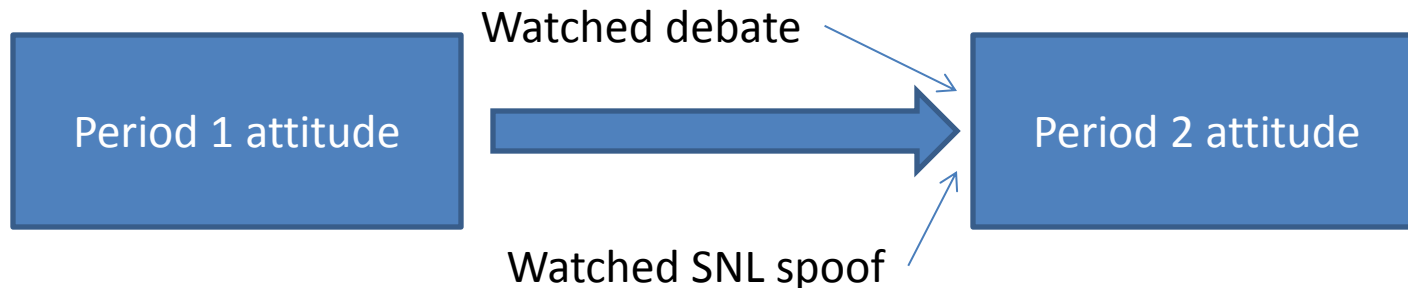
doi: 10.1093/poq/nfr060

Advance Access publication February 17, 2012

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Highlights of study

- Sample drawn from student directories in ten states (e-mail addresses)
- Sample formed a panel across all of 2008



- Watching the spoof lowered approval of Palin and likelihood of voting for McCain *especially* among independents and Republicans

Limitations of study

- Not a random sample
- College sample \neq sample of young adults
- Selection bias of watching SNL?
- No control for actually watching the debate