

# Gov 62 Section 3

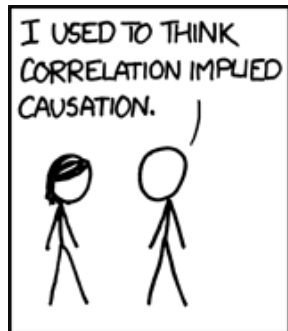
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## Gov 62 Update

- ▶ Where have we been? Topic/puzzle, theory, hypothesis, concept/measurement.
- ▶ Where are we now? Case selection + selection bias! Extremely important. Where you look for answers determines what those answers are.
- ▶ Where are we going? Later, we will discuss how to use specific methodologies (such as archival research) and their strengths/weaknesses. A bit more practical.

But first!



## More Definitions!

- ▶ Conditional probability: The probability of an event, given that another event has occurred.

Question: What is the relationship between owning a home and attending local government zoning and planning meetings?<sup>1</sup>

$P(\text{Attendance} \mid \text{Owning a home}) > P(\text{Attendance} \mid \text{Not owning a home})$

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<sup>1</sup>Einstein, Palmer, and Glick (2019)

## More Definitions!

Case selection - the process by which researchers select the examples used to provide evidence for or against a theory.

Selecting on the dependent variable?

- ▶ Choosing cases based on the outcome of interest :(

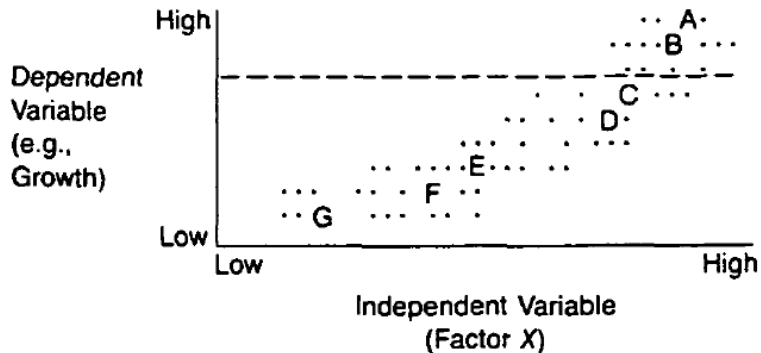
Selecting on the independent variable?

- ▶ Choosing cases based on the explanatory factors :)

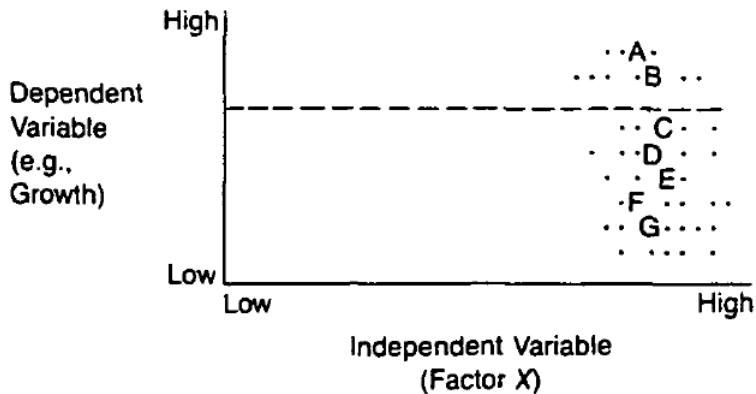
Selecting on something else?

- ▶ Choosing cases based on a variable unrelated to either the independent or dependent variables :) :)

## Selecting on the Dependent Variable: Problem 1



## Selecting on the Dependent Variable: Problem 2



# Variation!

Key point: we need variation!

- ▶ Can't show X causes Y if X and Y don't vary

What do we do if we don't have variation in X and/or Y?

For a good summary of case selection techniques, review the table in Seawright and Gerring (2008), pg 298-299.