

Gov 62 Section 4

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Gov 62 Update

- ▶ Grades and comments for Short Paper 2 should be uploaded to Canvas this Friday
- ▶ Short Paper 3 due Friday, March 15 (prompt coming soon)
- ▶ 6 weeks left for response papers (including tomorrow) - need to submit 4 papers total

Case studies

- ▶ What can we learn from a case study? What are some benefits and limitations of this approach?
- ▶ Can we test (prove or disprove) theory by using a case study?

In their own words

KKV: “The single observation is not a useful technique for testing hypotheses or theories.”

Rueschemeyer: “The study of single historical cases can do much more than merely generate initial hypotheses. It not only can develop new theoretical ideas, but it can also put them to the test and use the results in the explanation of outcomes.”

Single vs. Cross-Case Studies

Table 4.1 Case study and cross-case research designs: affinities and tradeoffs

		Affinity	
	Case study		Cross-case study
Research goals			
1. Hypothesis	Generating		Testing
2. Validity	Internal		External
3. Causal insight	Mechanisms		Effects
4. Scope of proposition	Deep		Broad
Empirical factors			
5. Population of cases	Heterogeneous		Homogeneous
6. Causal strength	Strong		Weak
7. Useful variation	Rare		Common

Your turn!

With a partner, talk through the following:

- ▶ What is a theory, hypothesis, and or independent/dependent variable I'm interested in?
- ▶ What might it look like to study this using a single-case study? What about a cross-case study?
- ▶ What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of these approaches for your research?
- ▶ How might you increase the number of observations?

##Interesting Reading

Satyanath, Shanker, Nico Voigtla