

Gov 62 Section 6

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March 26, 2019

Gov 62 Update

- ▶ Short Paper 4 due Friday, April 12 (prompt on Canvas)
- ▶ 4 weeks left for response papers - need to submit 4 papers total
- ▶ Response papers are now due the Monday before section (see email)
- ▶ Today's plan: review approaches to mixed methods research, discuss exemplary readings

Readings this week: Three approaches to MMR

- ▶ Lieberman (2005): Nested analysis
 - ▶ Start with preliminary large-n analysis, then move on to model-testing or model-building small-n analysis.
- ▶ Seawright (2016): Integrative MMR
 - ▶ One method produces the final inference, the other is used to design, test, refine, or bolster the prior analysis.
- ▶ Slater & Ziblatt (2013): Controlled comparisons
 - ▶ External validity can arise from qualitative compared cases, and quantitative analysis can establish internal validity by ruling out alternative explanations.

Lecture Review: Purposes of MMR

- ▶ Triangulation: using different methods to address the same phenomenon
- ▶ Complementarity: using different methods to address different parts of phenomenon
- ▶ Development: using the results of one method to inform the other method
- ▶ Initiation: looking for contradictory results and using a different method to collect data to explain the discrepancy
- ▶ Expansion: increasing the depth and/or breadth of a study by employing different methods

Lieberman (2005): Nested Analysis

Definitions:

- ▶ LNA (large-N analysis): “primary causal inferences are derived from statistical analyses which. . . lead to quantitative estimates of the robustness of a theoretical model”
- ▶ SNA (small-N analysis): primary causal inferences are “derived from qualitative comparisons of cases and/or process tracing. . . within cases over time, in which the relationship between theory and facts is captured largely in narrative form”

Lieberman (2005): Nested Analysis

Process:

- ▶ Start with preliminary LNA, assess robustness.
- ▶ If robust, move on to model-testing SNA (Mt-SNA).
 - ▶ “Write a detailed narrative from the vantage-point of the preferred model.”
 - ▶ “Focus on assessing the plausibility of the preferred model.”
 - ▶ Try to test strength of alternative hypotheses that could not be considered in the LNA due to lack of data.
 - ▶ “Verify that the cause preceded the effect.”
- ▶ If not robust, move on to model-building SNA.
 - ▶ Use a variety of case materials to “develop well-specified theoretical accounts of cross-country variation on the outcome of interest.”
 - ▶ “Develop explanations for the puzzle of varied outcomes.”
 - ▶ Work on developing proper measures for future LNA.

Lieberman (2005): Nested Analysis

Case selection:

Mt-SNA:

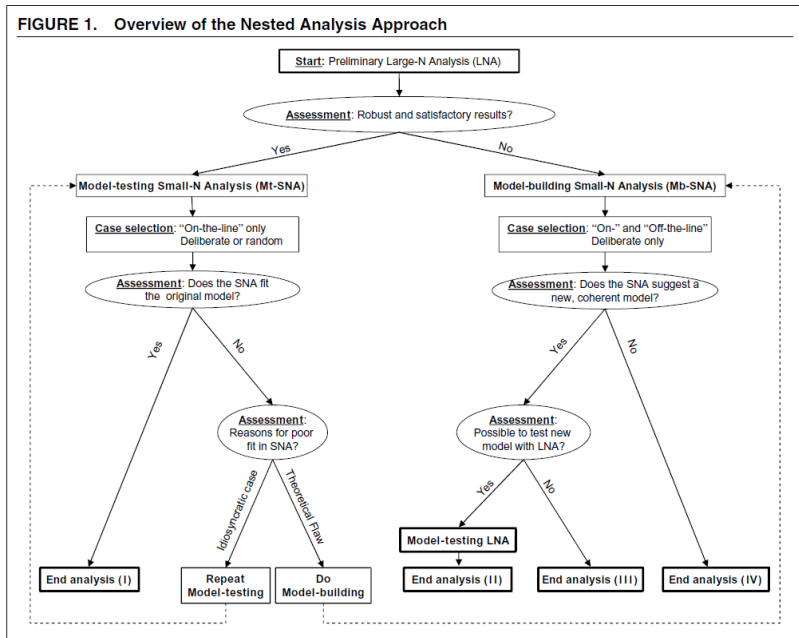
- ▶ On-the-line: “Select cases for further investigation that are well predicted by the best fitting statistical model.”
- ▶ “Select cases based on the widest degree of variation on the independent or explanatory variables that are central to the model.”

Mb-SNA:

- ▶ Off-the-line: Select “at least one case that has not been well predicted by the best-fitting statistical model.”
- ▶ Select cases “based on initial scores on the dependent variable.”

Lieberman (2005): Nested Analysis

FIGURE 1. Overview of the Nested Analysis Approach



Lieberman (2005): Nested Analysis

Purpose of mixed-methods research:

“Most prominently, LNA provides insights about rival explanations and helps to motivate case selection strategies for SNA, whereas SNA helps to improve the quality of measurement instruments and model specifications used in the LNA.”

Seawright (2016): Integrative MMR

Problem with triangulation (same question, multiple methods):

- ▶ What do you do when different methods yield different answers?
- ▶ How do you compare qualitative and quantitative findings?

Alternative strategy:

- ▶ Combine two methods to support a single unified causal inference
- ▶ One method produces the final inference.
- ▶ The other is used to design, test, refine, or bolster the analysis producing that inference

Seawright (2016): Integrative MMR

Four contributions of qualitative research to regression analyses:

- ▶ Case studies that turn up evidence that helps bound or identify the causal counterfactual for one or a few cases
- ▶ Improving or validating measurement of treatment and outcome
 - ▶ Treatment variable could be misclassified for a case
- ▶ Building or testing hypotheses about causal pathways
- ▶ Providing evidence regarding potential omitted variables

Seawright (2016): Integrative MMR

Building/testing causal pathways:

- ▶ Key question: “How likely is it that we would see the set of causal-process observations that we actually collected if each theory is correct?”
- ▶ Be wary of evidence of individual’s accounts of their own decision-making process.
 - ▶ People don’t often know the real causal process behind their own decisions.
 - ▶ Explanations are often post hoc rationalizations.
- ▶ Look for within-case evidence of causal effect.
- ▶ Look for similar/consistent causal processes across cases.
- ▶ Check for post-treatment bias - including variables in a regression that are affected by main treatment of interest.

Seawright (2016): Integrative MMR

Contributions of qualitative research to experiments:

- ▶ Outcome measurement (e.g. experimental ethnography)
- ▶ Identifying measurement issues (e.g. noncompliance, spillover)
- ▶ Look for similar process tracing patterns in and out of experiment to test external validity

Slater & Ziblatt (2013): Controlled Comparisons

- ▶ Traditional MMR: quantitative research yields
- ▶ Qualitative research can yield external validity if carefully done
- ▶ Sometimes quantitative research is better at assessing internal validity through ruling out alternative explanations

Slater & Ziblatt (2013): Controlled Comparisons

Criteria for portable controlled comparisons:

- ▶ Guiding research puzzle and findings should be expressed in terms of general variables or mechanisms.
 - ▶ Reduce usage of proper names.
- ▶ Capture representative variation - explain puzzling variation in outcomes rather than certain cases.
 - ▶ Argue variation in sample broadly mirrors variation in a broader and explicitly defined population of cases.
- ▶ Select cases that maximize control, using theory.