

## Index

- academic niche, 98, 99–100
- analogies, 115–118
- Arrow, Kenneth, 215, 220
- assumptions
  - and causal diagrams, 10
  - for building theory, 235–237
  - for formal models, 231–232
  - for mediation analysis, 212
  - for theoretical elaboration, 206
  - on functional form, 64
  - on missing data, 168
  - on the data generating process, 3, 56, 63–65
- Banks, Antoine, 57
- Becker, Gary, 97
- Berg-Schlosser, Dirk, 230
- Blattman, Chris, 91
- breakthroughs v. discoveries, 38–39
- Campbell, Donald, 152
- case studies, 124
  - kinds of case studies, 147
  - what is it a case of?, 117
- cases
  - deviant, 52, 115, 142, 149
  - extreme, 136–139, 176
  - ideal-types, 128, 136
  - index, 139–140
  - key cases for theory, 124, 229–231
  - most-similar, 145
  - outlier, 142, 149, 176
  - paradigm, 128
  - practical/logistical concerns, 148
  - selecting on Y, 148–149
- causal diagrams, 9–11, 221–223
- causal inference
  - and DAGs, 223
  - confounders, 9, 54, 59, 60, 122, 124, 144, 223, 230, 240
  - research designs, 56–62
  - threats to, 62
- causal theories, 207–210
- causes
  - and counterfactuals, 120
  - antecedent conditions, 9, 53, 212
  - finding new causes, 51
  - proximal v. distal, 54, 213
- Collier, David, 152, 200
- Collier, Ruth Berins, 163, 200
- concepts
  - and abstraction, 127–128
  - and case selection, 136, 229
  - as contributions, 42–46
  - as entrée to a project, 24
  - questioning concepts, 111
  - re-formed, 5
- Coppedge, Michael, 44, 49, 239
- costs
  - and abandoning ideas, 130
  - and theory, 115, 241
  - of research projects, 249
- critical juncture, 2, 65, 120
- curiosity, 76, 108–111
- current affairs, 23, 40, 93
- Dahl, Robert, 46, 92, 108
- data
  - as a source of inspiration, 24
  - as contributions, 47–51, 54–56
  - data collection, 49
  - exploration, 151
  - questioning existing sources, 112
- De Meur, Giselle, 230
- Debs, Alex, 119
- deduction, 5
  - as a preferred approach to research, 37
  - vis-à-vis induction, 5
- Diamond, Jared, 100, 188
- diversity in the field, 96
- Douglas, Mary, 116
- Dunning, Thad, 176

- Easterlin, Richard, 50  
 Eckstein, Harry, 48  
 Einstein, Albert, 1, 91, 103, 107, 130  
 empirical refinements, 62–68  
 Epstein, Leon, 145  
 ethical concerns, 58, 122, 155, 240, 251  
 experiment, 175, 240, 258  
 experiments, 3, 40, 54, 55, 56, 58, 62, 64, 119  
 exploratory data analysis, 23, 168  
 exploratory research  
   absent mention in most publications, 1–2  
   approaches to, 132  
   existing guides, 16  
   identifying projects worth pursuing, 248–252  
   sandbox approach, 6–7  
   transition to confirmatory research, 110, 245–247, 258  
   what to share, 252–257
- falsifiability, 3, 181, 201, 222, 237, 241  
 finding a topic  
   current affairs, 90–93  
   literature review, 89  
   professional qualities needed, 74–78  
   scholarly interaction, 84
- Firestein, James, 103  
 formal models, 231–235  
 Foucault, Michel, 109  
 Friedrich, Carl, 43  
 Fujii, Lee Ann, 157–158  
 fundamental discoveries, 39
- Gastil, Raymond, 48  
 Geddes, Barbara, 76, 79  
 Geertz, Clifford, 127  
 generalization, 37, 55, 62, 64, 115, 128, 130, 136, 141, 211, 240  
 Gleditsch, Kristian, 35  
 Goffman, Erving, 116  
 Gordon, David, 125  
 graphs and figures, 220–229  
 Gruber, Howard, 76  
 Gurr, Ted, 48
- Heilbroner, Robert, 92  
 Hicks, Heather, 57  
 Hofstadter, Richard, 109  
 Holmes, Frederic, 131  
 hypothesis  
   alternative/rival, 238–240
- in theory elaboration, 237–238  
 induction, 5, 14, 151  
 infinite regress, 209
- Johnson, Steven, 81, 113
- Keohane, Robert, 79, 121  
 Koestler, Arthur, 110–111, 116  
 Krugman, Paul, 92, 235–236  
 Kuznets, Simon, 50
- Lemkin, Richard, 44  
 level of analysis, 118, 214–216  
 Levi, Margaret, 34–35  
 literature  
   as a source of inspiration, 84–89  
   finding new directions, 87  
   following a trail of citations, 86  
   selectivity and time spent, 89  
   using the extant literature, 98–100, 106, 159, 162, 200, 239
- local average treatment effect, 59, 62  
 Loehle, Craig, 76, 87, 96, 105, 107, 116  
 Lucas, Robert, 79  
 Luker, Kristin, 246–247
- Mankiw, Gregory, 79  
 Marshall, Monte, 48  
 Marx, Karl, 88, 90, 184, 187  
 mechanism  
   and case selection, 135  
   as an approach to exploration, 123  
   mediation analysis, 212  
   role in causal theory, 210–214
- Merton, Robert, 108  
 Mills, C. Wright, 88, 93, 106, 206  
 missing data, 168–169  
 model fit, 52  
 moderator, 65–67, 68, 141, 207, 230, 237  
 Monroe, Kristin Renwick, 158  
 Moore, Barrington, 147
- natural experiment, 3, 56, 160  
   classic, 58–59  
   instrumental-variables design, 62  
   regression-discontinuity design, 59–60
- Nichter, Simeon, 68  
 normative concerns, 4, 90–92
- O'Donnell, Guillermo, 176
- parsimony, 202, 204–206, 238  
 Pearce, Lisa, 142  
 personal identities and ideologies, 92  
 phenomena, 40–41  
 Pinker, Steven, 42  
 Polsby, Nelson, 83  
 Poole, Stephen, 100

- Popper, Karl, 13, 129, 256  
 population, 8, 66, 121, 124, 139, 140–141, 146, 148, 157, 258  
 pre-registration, 151, 259  
 professional networking, 80–84  
 Przeworski, Adam, 77, 114, 127  
 publishing  
   failures, 128–130  
   in journals and beyond, 252–255  
   quality v. quantity, 77  
   unpublished work, 29–34
- qualitative tools  
   archival research, 159–163  
   ethnography, 40, 95, 119, 126, 152–159, 225  
   focus groups, 158  
   interviews, 125, 158  
   QCA, 146
- quantitative tools  
   cluster analysis, 169–170  
   graphical exploration, 168  
   machine learning, 64, 171–175
- questions, 35, 85, 89, 107–108, 131, 152, 246
- Ragin, Charles, 116, 229  
 replication, 67–68  
 research design  
   as a contribution, 56–62  
   role in exploration, 247  
   seeking opportunities to exploit, 3
- research ideas  
   choosing one, 248–252  
   thinking about, 107
- research trajectories, 34–36  
 Root-Bernstein, Robert, 109  
 Rothman, David, 116  
 Russell, Bertrand, 130
- samples, 49  
   and replication, 67  
   and theory testing, 258  
   bias concerns, 149  
   large v. small, 124
- Sartori, Giovanni, 42, 47  
 Schelling, Thomas, 215  
 Schmalensee, Richard, 110  
 Schmitter, Philippe, 44, 87  
 scope-conditions, 55, 67, 68, 141, 207, 214, 240, 259  
 sensitivity analysis, 63  
 Singer, J. David, 48  
 Skocpol, Theda, 66, 88, 139, 147, 149, 162  
 Snow, John, 144, 226  
 Snyder, Richard, 88  
 specialization in a field, 96–97
- Stevenson, Betsey, 50  
 Stokes, Susan, 68, 126  
 survey responses  
   on finding a topic, 20–29  
   on unpublished work, 29–34
- Swedberg, Richard, 218, 258
- Taagepera, Rein, 64  
 teaching, 78–80, 99, 288  
 theoretical frameworks  
   combining, 197  
 theoretical ambition, 39, 76–78, 201, 208  
 theoretical elaboration  
   communicating ideas, 218–220  
   formal models, 231–235  
   graphical approaches, 221–223  
   key cases, 229–231  
   tips, 235–241
- theoretical frameworks  
   interactive, 1  
   motivational, 1  
   structural, 1
- theory  
   as a point of departure for research, 4  
   characteristics of good theory, 204–207  
   explanatory frameworks, 1  
   exploring v. testing, 110  
   graphical approaches, 221–226  
   micro v. macro level, 214–216  
   operationalization, 240
- thinking about ideas, 104–107  
 strategies, 107–130  
 thought experiments, 119–122  
 time constraints, 105  
 trade-offs  
   generalizing v. specializing, 96–97  
   on qualities of theories, 204  
   on topic selection, 74  
   on types of mechanisms, 213
- type I/II errors, 238, 247, 258  
 typologies  
   as contributions, 45–47  
   of explanatory frameworks, 182  
   of replications, 67
- Varian, Hal, 94, 234  
 Veenendaal, Wouter, 137
- Walford, Gregory, 154  
 Weber, Max, 75, 127, 132  
 Wedeen, Lisa, 156  
 Wildavsky, Aaron, 36, 78, 89, 181, 219  
 Wolfers, Justin, 50  
 Wood, Abby, 155