

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH THIRD EDITION

This third edition of the best-selling *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research* provides an introduction to the scientific study of politics. It offers the basic tools necessary for readers to become both critical consumers and beginning producers of scientific research on politics. The authors present an integrated approach to research design and empirical analyses whereby researchers can develop and test causal theories. The authors use examples from political science research that students will find interesting and inspiring, and that will help them understand key concepts. The book makes technical material accessible to students who might otherwise be intimidated by mathematical examples. This revised third edition features new "Your Turn" boxes meant to engage students. The edition also has new sections added throughout the book to enhance the content's clarity and breadth of coverage.

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THE FUNDAMENTALS OF

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Third Edition

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Dedicated to

Lyman A. Kellstedt, Charmaine C. Kellstedt,

David G. Whitten, and Jo Wright-Whitten,

the best teachers we ever had

— PMK and GDW



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Preface to the Third Edition

We received a great deal of constructive feedback on the second edition of this book. In crafting a new edition, our challenge was to try to produce a book that incorporated as much of this feedback as possible, coupled with our ideas for changes, without expanding the book by an unreasonable amount. Our general goals for this edition were to continue to strive to make our explanation of the material even more clear, and to keep up with continuously developing trends in the literature.

We continue to update both the general and instructor-only sections of the webpage for our book (http://www.cambridge.org/fpsr). As before, the general section contains data sets available in formats compatible with SPSS, Stata, and R. The instructor-only section contains several additional resources, including PowerPoint and TEX/Beamer slides for each chapter, a test-bank, and answer keys for the exercises.

Perhaps the most visible change we have made comes in the form of new "Your Turn" boxes. In an effort to increase student engagement with the material, we have introduced, throughout the book, short boxes – some with links to outside material, some with questions about implications – in an attempt to get students to apply the lessons of that chapter to a new situation.

As outlined above, we have made broad changes that permeate all of the book, but we have also made major changes to particular chapters as follows:

• We have expanded Chapter 2, "The Art of Theory Building," by adding a new section on "Three Strategies toward Developing an Original Theory." Consistent with the discipline's increasing use of interactive models, this section includes new material on conditional theories about how a Z variable can modify the relationship between X and Y. Also in the chapter, we have a new section on how to build on previous scholarly work.

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xxii Preface to the Third Edition

- We have added a new section to Chapter 4 on how to effectively summarize and critique scholarly work that is in the literature.
- To increase the ease of presentation, we have taken Chapter 5 from the second edition, "Getting to Know Your Data: Evaluating Measurement and Variations," and split it into two (Chapters 5 and 6) in this new edition. The new Chapter 5 is titled "Measuring Concepts of Interest," and the new Chapter 6 is entitled "Getting to Know Your Data."
- We have added a new section to Chapter 7 on the challenges of random sampling in advanced contemporary societies.
- We have updated the data in a very large portion of our examples.
- We have expanded our explication of the logic behind chi-squared tests and tabular analysis in Chapter 8 to make the argument flow more smoothly and the example unfold more naturally.
- We have added a new section to Chapter 10, "Multiple Regression: the Basics," on how to effectively present figures and tables.



Acknowledgments to the Third Edition

We have benefited tremendously from the advice and support of a large variety of individuals in preparing the third edition of this book.

As ever, we are grateful for the constructive criticism we've received since the publication of the second edition. The thoughtful engagement by so many students and faculty from around the world has been instrumental in shaping the changes that we've made to this third edition. We do our best to keep a running tally of people who have contacted us with questions and comments, but we've almost certainly left some people off this list, and we apologize for the omissions. We owe a debt of gratitude to the following people for their feedback: Ryan Bakker, Florian Hollenbach, Doug Kriner, Eric Lawrence, Matt Lebo, Bob Lupton, Joanne Miller, Dave Peterson, Mark Pickup, Nicholas Rivers, and Ammar Shamaileh.

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We continue to be sustained by the love and support of our families. We do not have the words that can adequately express how thankful we are for Christine, Anna, Deb, Abigail, and Elizabeth.

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Acknowledgments to the Second Edition

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Acknowledgments to the First Edition

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This book arose out of more than twenty years of combined teaching experience at Brown University; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of Essex; the University of Minnesota; and Texas A&M University. We tried out most of the examples in this book on numerous classes of students before they were refined into their present state. We thus owe a debt to every student who raised his or her hand or showed us a furrowed brow as we worked our way through these attempts to explain the complicated processes of scientifically studying politics.

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xxviii Acknowledgments to the First Edition

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