Case selection

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Lecture outline

- Case selection process
- Comparative case study
- Exercises

Case selection
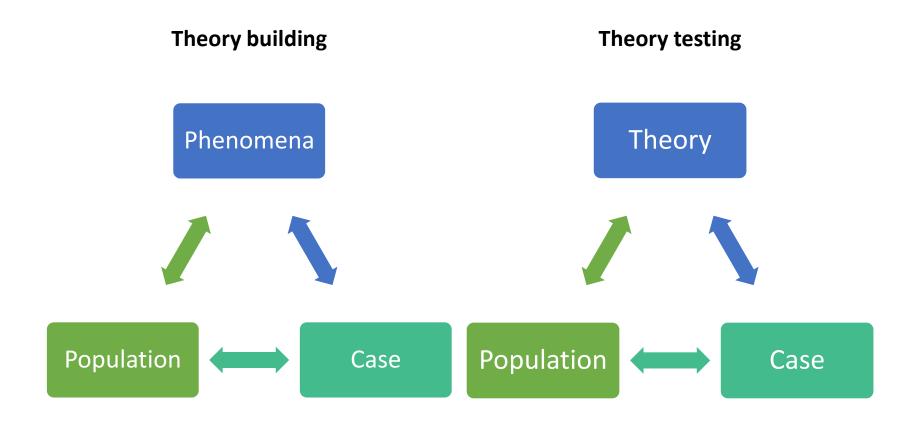
Starts with definition of population

- *Am I interested in particular case? Why? What is it that I want to study? What is this case a case of?*

- Theory building or theory testing?

- Restricting the population is crucial for inference we are about to make.
  - Case boundaries: *apples or fruit?*
  - Temporal boundaries: *what makes different periods of time different?*

Exercise I

What was the first oil shock case of?

Case selection

Theory building (Gerring 2007)

Diverse	Cases (two or more) illuminate the full range of variation on X_1, Y, or X_1/Y.
Extreme	Cases (one or more) exemplify extreme or unusual values on X_1 or Y.
Deviant	Cases (one or more) deviate from some cross-case relationship.
Most-similar	Cases (two or more) are similar on specified variables other than X_1 and/or Y.
Most-different	Cases (two or more) are different on specified variables other than X_1 and Y.

Exercise 2

Suggest at least one case for each of outlined theory building case selection techniques.

Theory testing (Gerring 2007)

Influential	Cases (one or more) with influential configurations of the independent variables.
Crucial	Cases (one or more) are most- or least likely to exhibit a given outcome (but do not).
Pathway	Cases (one or more) where X_1, and not X_2, is likely to have caused a positive outcome.
Typical	Cases (one or more) are typical examples of some cross-case relationship.
Diverse	Cases (two or more) illuminate the full range of variation on X_1, Y, or X_1/Y.
Most-similar	Cases (two or more) are similar on specified variables other than X_1 and/or Y.
Most-different	Cases (two or more) are different on specified variables other than X_1 and Y.

Exercise 3

Suggest at least one case for each of outlined theory testing case selection techniques.