- <u>Plan for today</u>

  - What is a case study?

  - What are the types of case studies?

- Groups 2-4
- Work together to find answers to the following questions:
  - time limit: 5 mins

- What is a case study?
- Why is it a good way to investigate the world and generate scientific knowledge?

Case study

- = "an intensive study of a single unit with an aim to generalize across a larger set of units." (Gerring 2004)

  - E.g.: A detailed study of the implementation of an EU Directive on driving licenses in Czechia→ helps us better understand implementation of EU directives in Czechia (or in other EU member states)

Important concepts

- population

- unit

- sample

- case

Important concepts

- population
  - a set of all units (to which the results can be generalized.
  - Example: all EU directives

- unit
  - Example: 1 EU directive

- sample
  - a subset of the population (a set of units)
  - single case study: EU directive on driving licenses
  - multiple case study: EU directive on driving licenses and EU directive on consumer rights

- case
  - the unit in a specific time (and/or place)
  - single case study: EU directive on driving licenses in 2014-2018 in Czechia
  - multiple case study: EU directive on driving licenses and EU directive on consumer rights in years 2014-2018 in Czechia.

- Group work:
  - A study on city finances in Mikulov in 2015-2019. What shapes spending priorities?
- Task: What is… the population? The unit? The sample? The case?

- **HELP INFO:**
- population
  - a set of all units (to which the results can be generalized.
  - Example: all EU directives
- unit
  - Example: 1 EU directive
- sample
  - a subset of the population (a set of units)
  - Example: EU directive on driving licenses
- case
  - the unit in a specific time (and/or place)
  - Example: EU directive on driving licenses in 2014-2018 in Czechia

Example

- A study on city finances in Mikulov in 2015-2019. What shapes spending priorities?
  - Population?
  - Unit?
  - Sample?
  - Case?

Blatter a Haverland (2014)

- Three types of case studies
  1. Co-variational analysis (COV)
  2. Causal-process tracing (CPT)
  3. Congruence analysis (CON)
- They differ in their:
  - Research question
  - Selection of cases
  - How they work with data
  - Generalization to other cases

Blatter a Haverland (2014)

- Three types of case studies
  1. Co-variational analysis (COV)
  2. Causal-process tracing (CPT)
  3. Congruence analysis (CON)

- Work on the assigned type of case study. Your task in groups of 2-4 :
  A. What is the typical research question?
  B. How many cases are needed? What cases are suitable?
  C. Work with data: What does the analysis focus on?
  D. To what kinds of cases can we generalize?

Research question

- COV?
  - Does X make a difference in Y?

- CPT?
  - What makes the outcome Y?

- CON?
  - Which theory best explains the case at hand?

Case selection

- COV?
    - n $\geq$ 2
    - similar cases (except for the key independent variable)
        - To eliminate the impact of other indep. variables

    - Careful about the problem of *selection on the dependent variable*

Pitfalls of selecting on the DV

"Social scientists tend to believe that if you want to find out if *a* causes *b* by studying different cases, you need to be quite careful in choosing the cases. For example, if you want to argue that risk taking leads to business success, you want to look at cases of firms that are risk takers, and firms that are risk averse, and you also want to have cases of firms that are successful, and cases of firms that are failures. If you only study successful risk-taking firms, you're cooking the books. It could be that there are many more risk-taking firms that are failures out there than successes – but because you've only chosen to look at the successes, you have no way of knowing this. You can thus end up providing pretty bad advice."

Case selection

- COV?
  - $n \geq 2$
  - similar cases (except for the key independent variable)
    - To eliminate the impact of other indep. variables
- CPT?
  - 1 case is enough ($n \geq 1$)
  - data availability
- CON?
  - 1 case is enough ($n \geq 1$)
  - Theory determines the choice: crucial case
    - most likely or least likely case

Work with data

- COV
  - Theory → define variables and code them
- CPT
  - comprehensive study of the case
  - Motivations of major actors, temporal unfolding of the event, looking for key moments (critica junctions) and "smoking guns"
- CON?
  - Look for information that is considered relevant by the different theories

Generalizations to other cases

- COV?
  - to other similar cases

- CPT?
  - possibilistic generalization
    - we know what makes the outcome possible

- CON?
  - generalizability depends on how important the theory is and how well the cases are chosen

What does right and wrong COV case study designs look like?

- Wrong = using selection on the dependent variable to choose its cases

- Research topics:

  1. The process of marijuana legalization in U.S. states
  2. Growing popularity of right-wing extremist parties

  - (**Note:** selection on the dependent variable is wrong in a COV case study. You will practice creating the right and the wrong set of cases for these topics)