

PLS 210
Political Science
Research Methods

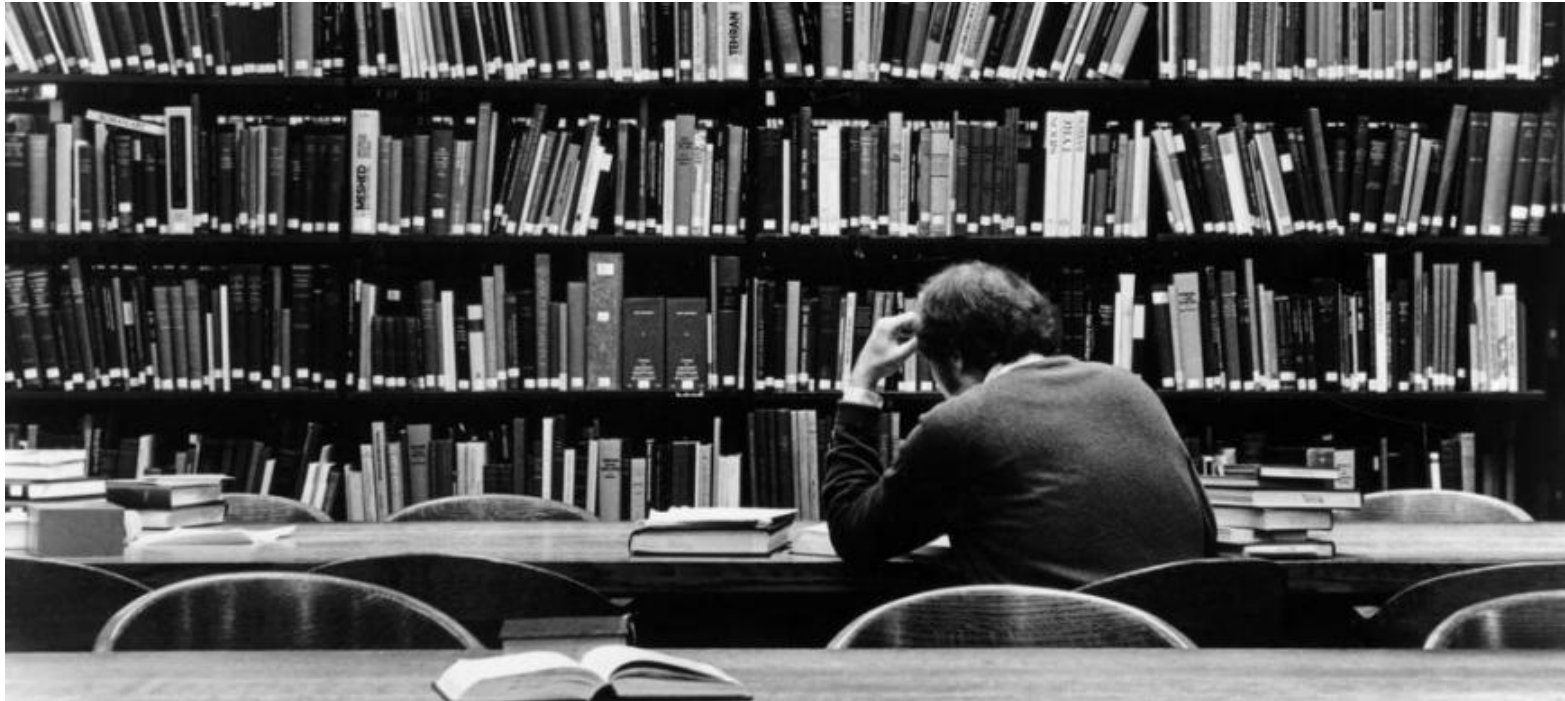
Week 13:
Archival research

Recap

- Collection of data directly from human subjects:
 - Participant observation
 - Interviews
 - Focus groups

Plan for this week

- Archival research



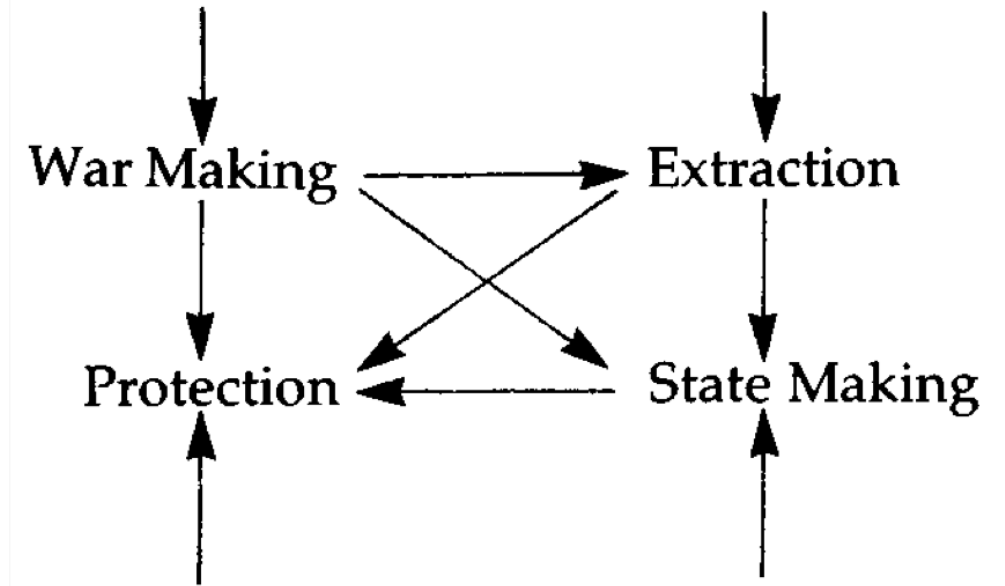
Archival records and research

- Archival research:
 - Historical
 - Contemporary
- Archival materials:
 - Text
 - Audio
 - Video
 - Photography



Uses of archival research

- Examination of historically and geographically distant phenomena
- Longue durée and broad historical patterns
- Ease of increasing sample sizes
- Low cost
- Speed
- Fewer research ethics concerns
- Nonreactivity

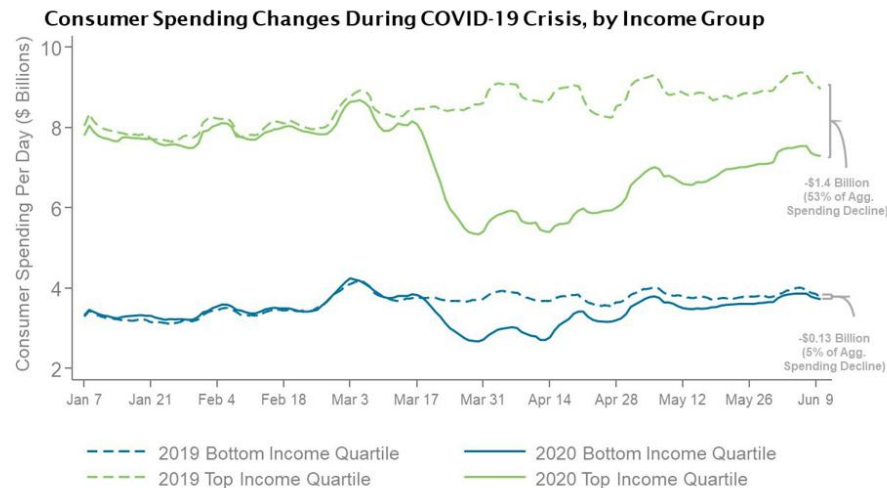


Disadvantages of archival research

- Some reactivity
- Incompleteness
- Bias
- Unavailability
- Inconsistent measurement

Types of archival records

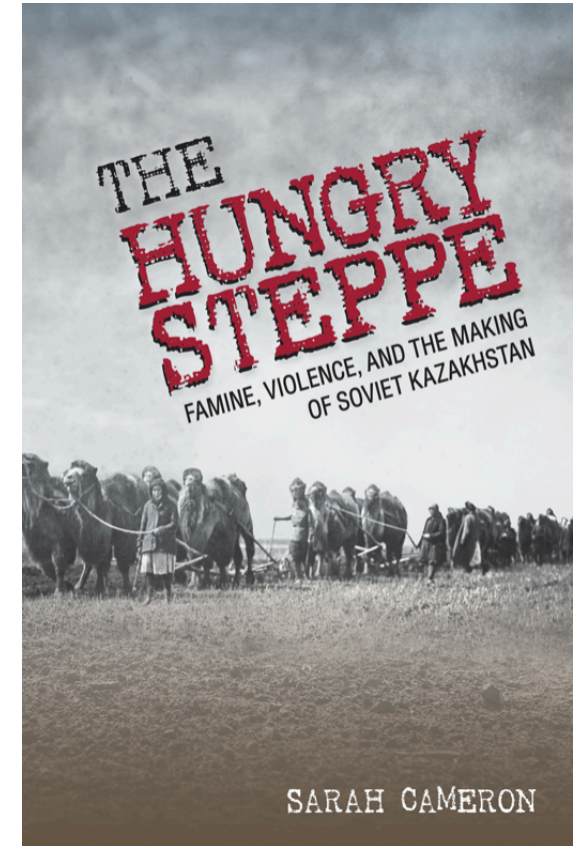
- Public:
 - Commercial media
 - Private organizations
 - Governments
- Private
- Running record vs. episodic records



Chetty, Raj, John N Friedman, Nathaniel Hendren, and Michael Stepner. 2020. "The Economic Impacts of COVID-19: Evidence from a New Public Database Built Using Private Sector Data."

Access

- Variation
- Potential biases



Archival research in physical archives



Digital repositories of archival records

- Digitized archives and libraries:
 - French National Library's Gallica: <https://gallica.bnf.fr/accueil/en/content/accueil-en/>
 - British Library: <https://www.bl.uk/>
 - Russian Presidential Library: <https://www.prlib.ru/>
 - US Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/>
 - National Library of Norway: <https://www.nb.no/en/digitizing-at-the-national-library/>
 - Mexico's General Archive of the Nation: <https://www.archivos.gob.mx/guiageneral/>
 - HathiTrust Digital Library: <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

Digital repositories of archival records

- Commercial records:
 - Factiva
 - Proquest Historical Newspapers
 - US Newsstand
 - *Google Search...*
- Running record:
 - UN Data: <http://data.un.org/Default.aspx/>
 - European Union Open Data Portal: <https://open-data.europa.eu/en/data/>
 - US Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>

Digital dataset repositories

- Qualitative Data Repository: <https://qdr.syr.edu/>
- ICPSR: <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/ICPSR/index.html>
- Harvard Dataverse: <https://dataverse.harvard.edu>
- Google Dataset Search: <https://datasetsearch.research.google.com>



Takeaways

- Data collection
- *Analysis...*
- Inference-making