

PLS 210  
Political Science  
Research Methods

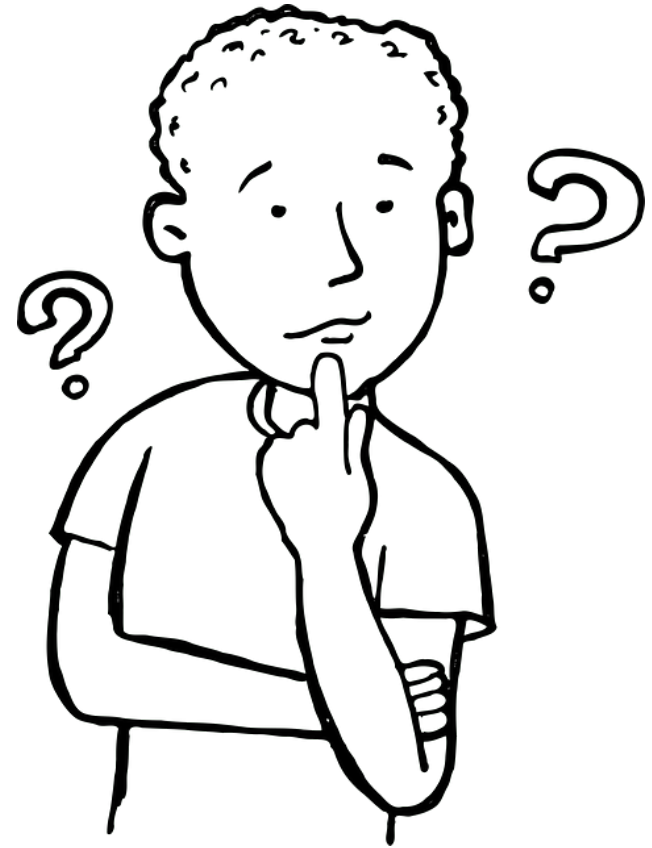
Week 9:  
Cross-case inference

# Recap

- Description, explanation, and inference
- Making inferences:
  - Within-case
  - ...

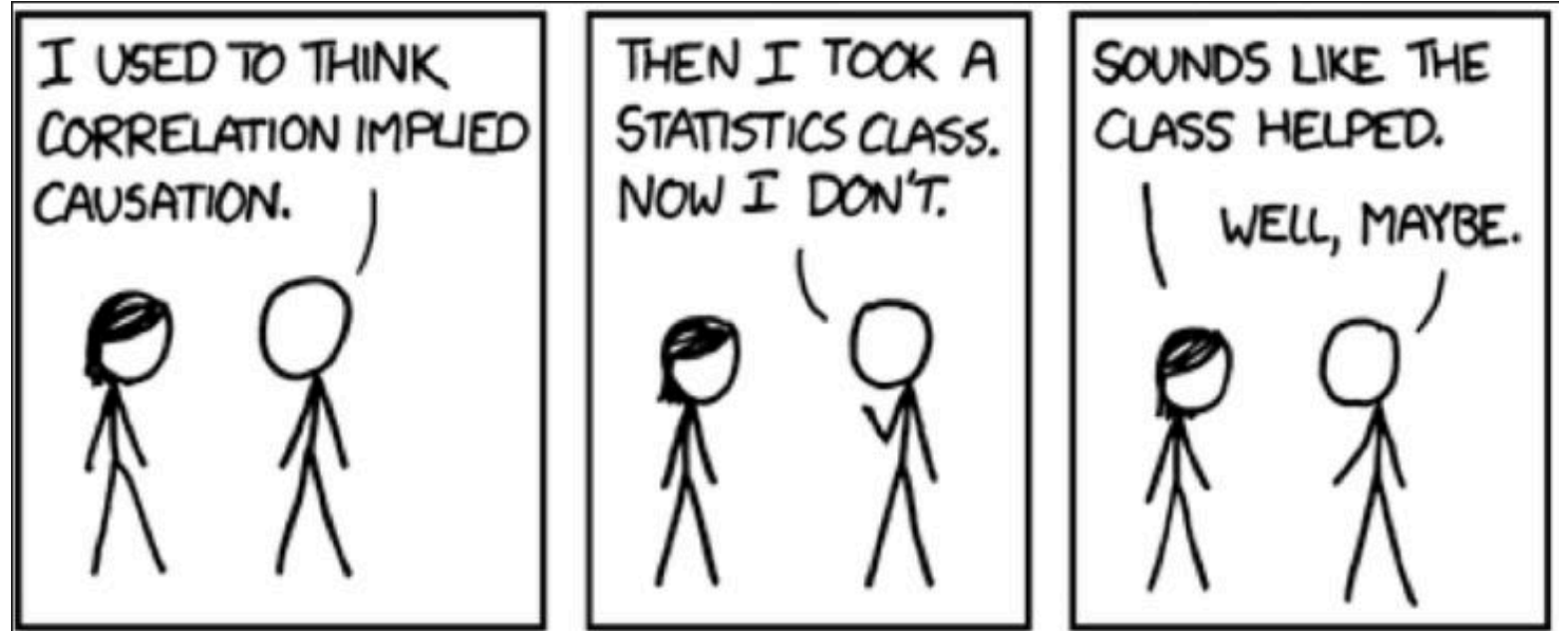
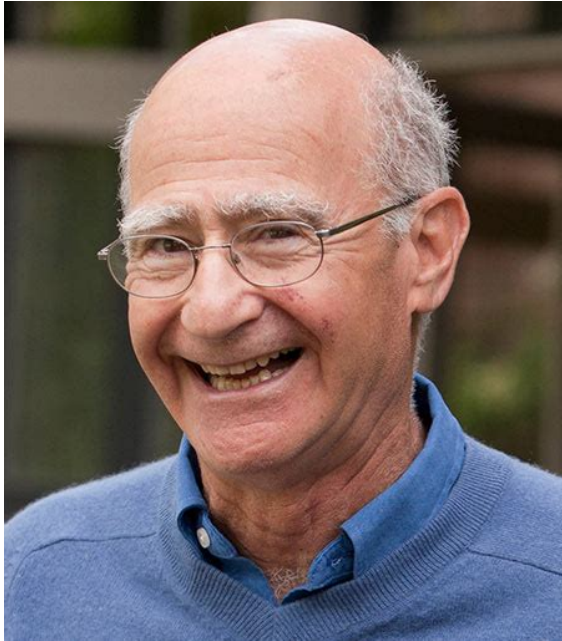
# Plan for this week

- Cross-case inference:
  - 'Logic of correlation'
  - Process-tracing
  - Comparative historical analysis



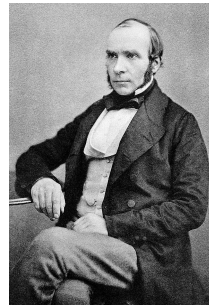
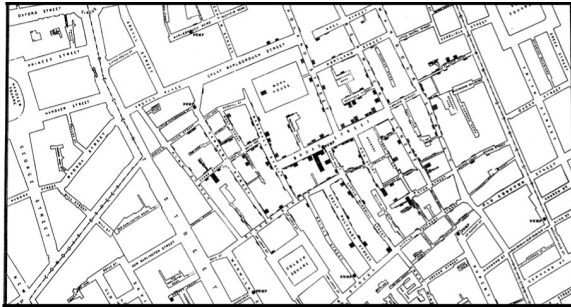
# 'Logic of correlation'

- Association + control

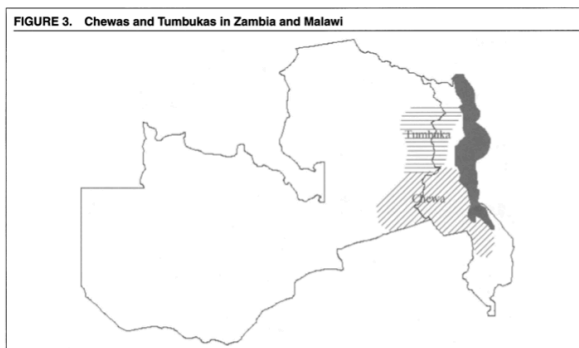


# ‘Logic of correlation’ and natural experiments

- John Snow’s water pump



- Chewa and Tumbuka interethnic relations in Malawi and Zambia according to Daniel Posner



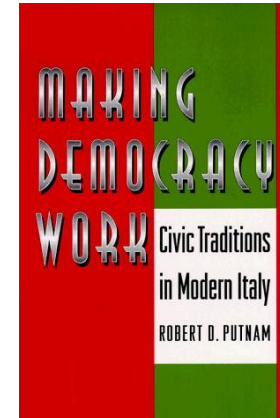
Posner, Daniel N. 2004. “The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi.” *The American Political Science Review* 98(4): 529–45.

# 'Logic of correlation' and observational studies

- Robert Putnam's *Making Democracy Work*:

- Most similar systems design
- Policy reform across Italy —> variable outcomes in the north and south

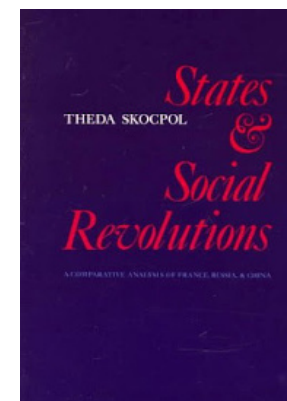
- Putnam, Robert D. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.



- Theda Skocpol's *States and Social Revolutions*

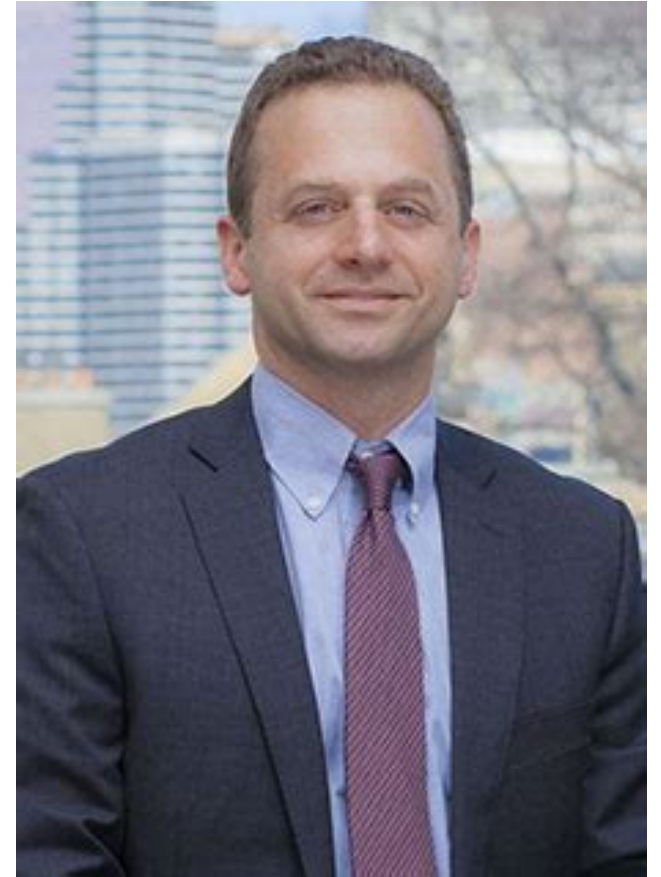
- Most different systems design
- External pressure + fiscal crisis —> social revolutions in China, France, and Russia

- Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



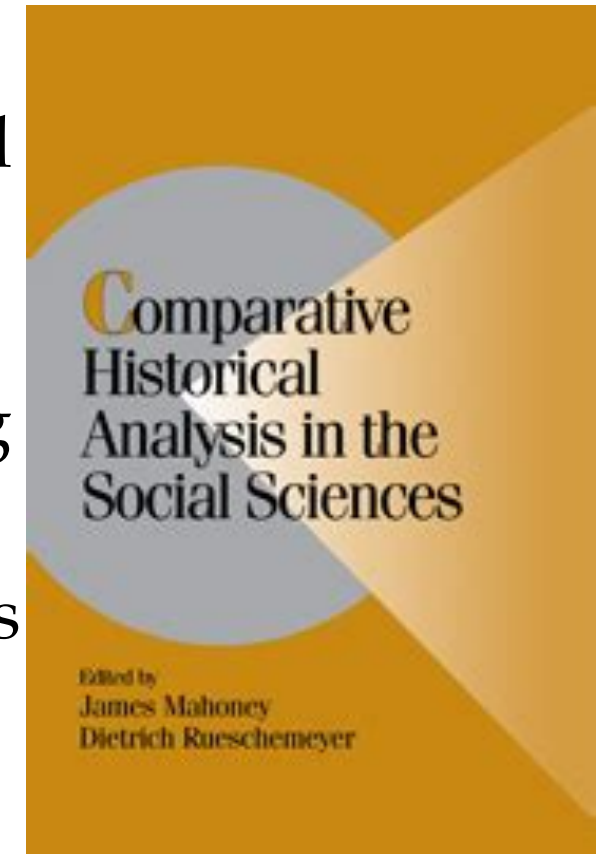
# 'Dual' (and quadruple) process-tracing

- Taxation reform according to Fairfield
- Agenda-setting power in soft authoritarian regimes according to Schatz



# Comparative historical analysis

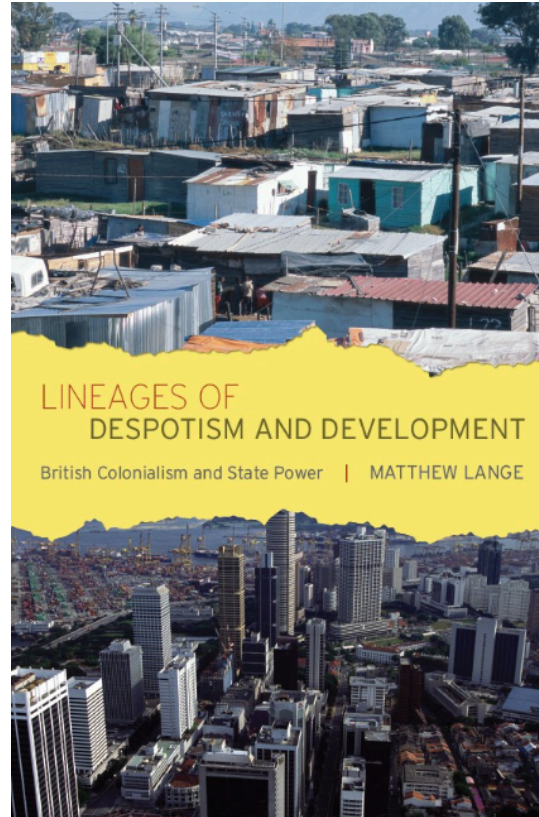
- Mahoney and Rueschmeyer:
  - “[E]xplanation and the identification of causal configurations that produce major outcomes of interest”
  - “[H]istorical sequences and [...] the unfolding of processes over time”
  - “[S]ystematic and contextualized comparisons of similar and contrasting cases”
    - Mahoney, J., & Rueschemeyer, D. 2003. “Comparative Historical Analysis: Achievements and Agendas.” In J. Mahoney, & D. Rueschemeyer (Eds.), *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 3-38.





# Comparative historical analysis

- Three-tiered research design:
  - Most similar systems design
  - Diverse cases
  - Statistical analysis



# The journey so far

- The foundation of Political Science research:
  - Literature
  - Research questions and topics
  - Concepts, variables, theories, and hypotheses
  - Cases and observations
  - Description, explanation, and inferences



# Next steps

- Research ethics
- Data collection and analysis