

# Recitation, Week 2

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New York University

POL-850

Spring 2018

# Outline

Recitation, Week 2

shortname

Review

Measurement

Ecological Fallacy

- (1) Review of Lecture
- (2) Measurement
- (3) Ecological Fallacy
- (4) Stata

# Last Week

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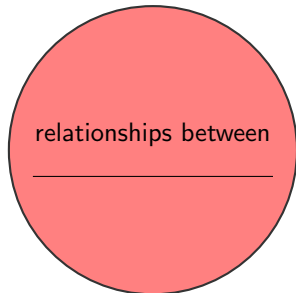
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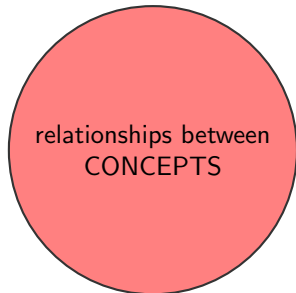
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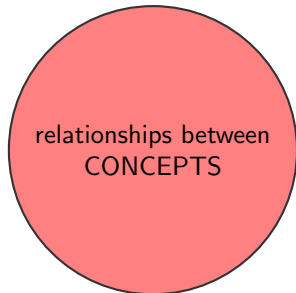
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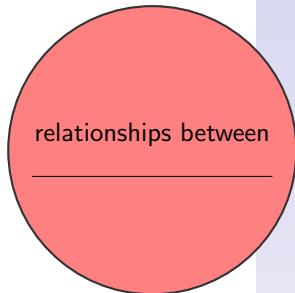
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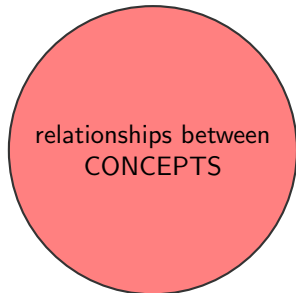




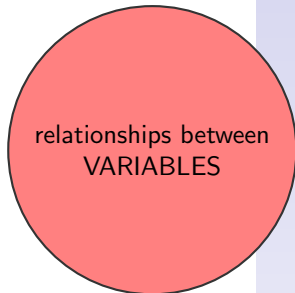
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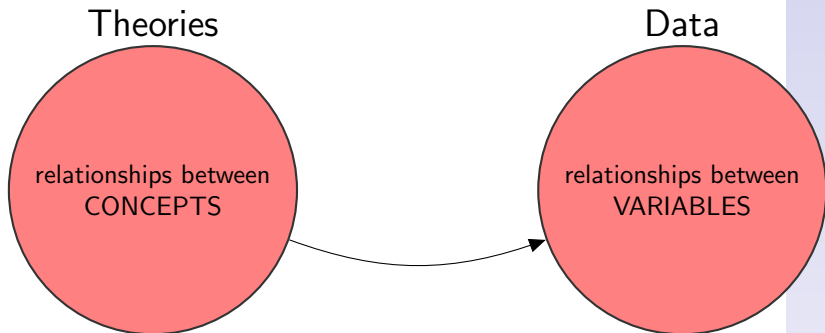


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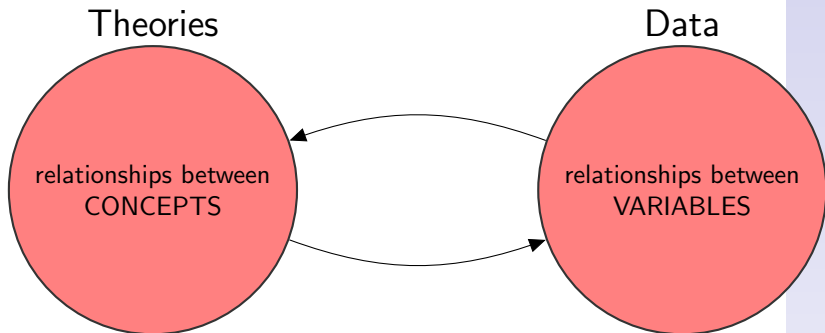
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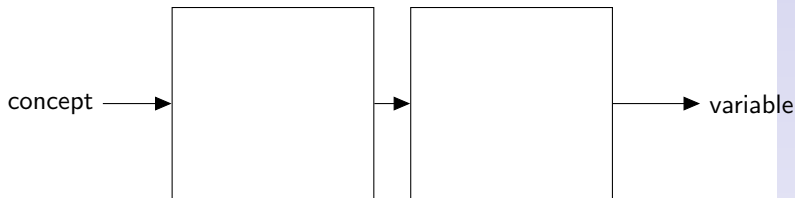


# MEASUREMENT

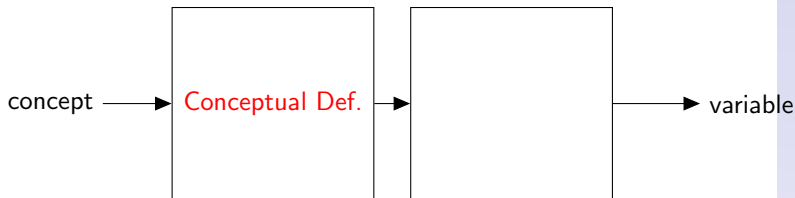
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Measurement is the act of turning a concept into a variable. For instance, it's how we go from the concept of "being liberal" to numbers in a spreadsheet. Here is the basic process:

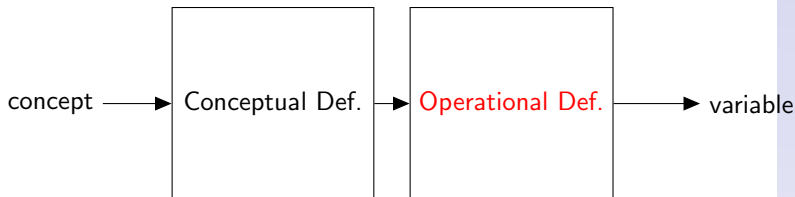
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**Conceptual definition:** The concept of \_\_\_\_\_ is defined as the extent to which \_\_\_\_\_ exhibit the characteristic of \_\_\_\_\_.

**For example:** The concept of **personality** is defined as the extent to which **people** exhibit **patterns of cognition, behavior, and preferences that vary little over time.**

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- ▶ 1 if a person is Female;
- ▶ 0 if a person is Male.

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  - ▶ Unit of Analysis: a country, a state, a city
  - ▶ Dimension of the analysis: level vs. growth rate, average vs. the poor
2. Operational definition: What is the most common one?

# An Example: Economic Development

- ▶ Answer: GDP per capita

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# Another Example: Election Fraud

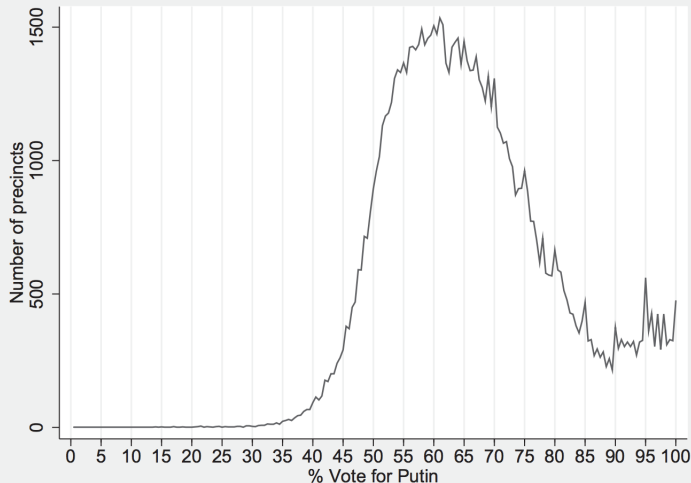
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## Another Example: Election Fraud

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# Partner Exercise:

What would be good definitions for the following concepts? How would you measure them and with what unit of analysis?

- ▶ inequality
- ▶ democracy
- ▶ civil war

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# Ecological Fallacy

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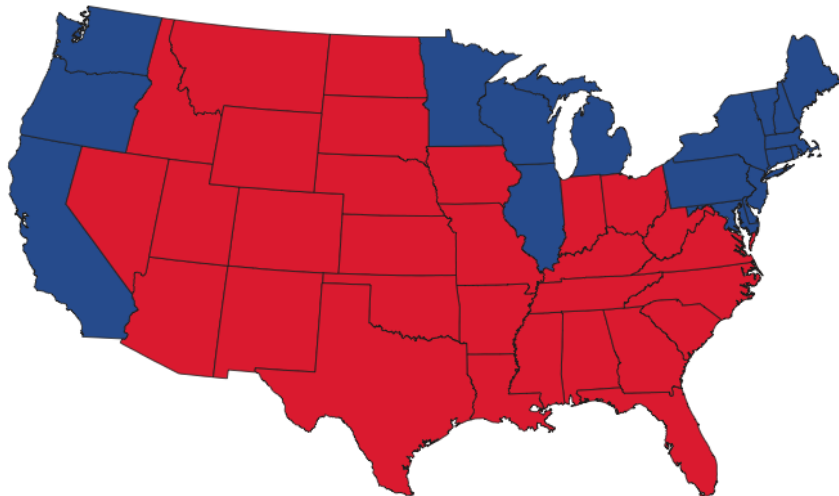
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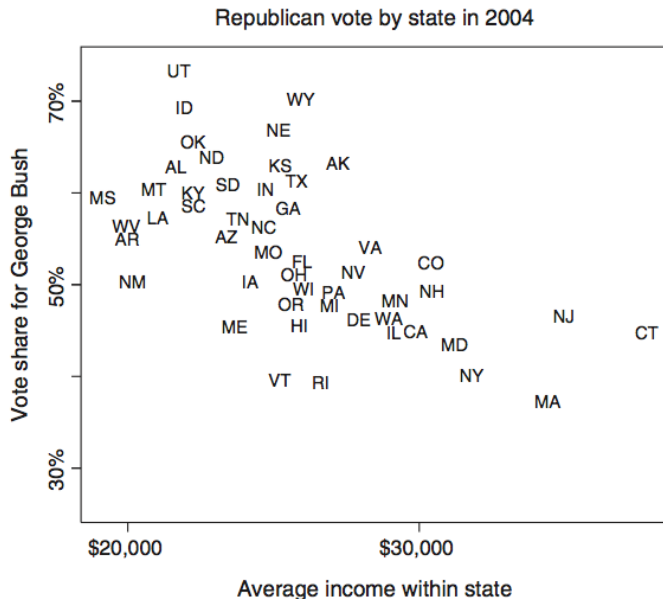
Basically, this is the assumption that associations at the **aggregate level** must also hold true at the **individual level**...

# Richer States Vote Democratic...

2004 election



# Richer States Vote Democratic...



# But Richer People Vote Republican. . .

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# But Richer People Vote Republican...

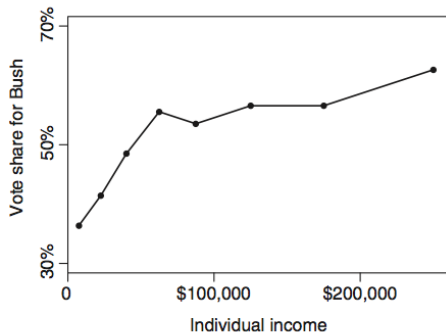
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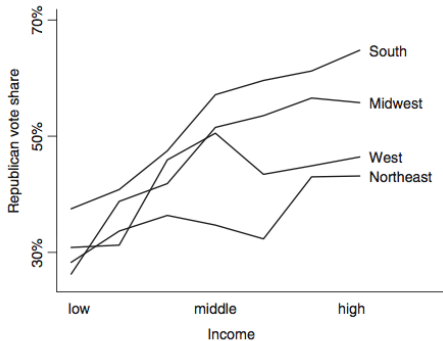
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Bush vote in 2004 by income



2006 House exit polls





# Another Example: Berkeley Gender Bias Case

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Dept.	Male. App	Male Admit.	Female App.	Female Admit.
A	825	62%	108	82%
B	560	63%	25	68%
C	325	37%	593	34%
D	417	33%	375	35%
E	191	28%	393	24%
F	272	6%	341	7%

# STATA

Go to  
<http://guides.nyu.edu/stata>

Introduction to Stata → download “Dataset.dta” & “Syntax.do”  
and save both files in a folder with your name in “Documents”