

## Political Science Scope and Methods

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### Experiments in Political Science

## Experiments

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- Experimentation:
  - Lab experiments
    - Study of political cognition (Berinsky and Kinder)
    - Effects of ethnic diversity (Habyarimana et al.)
  - Field experiments
    - Effect of social pressure on turnout (Gerber, Green, and Larimer)
    - Effectiveness of “franking” – baby books and ballots (Cover and Brumberg)
  - Natural Experiments
    - Effect of election observers on vote fraud (Hyde)
  - Survey Experiments
    - War in Iraq (Berinsky)

## Kosovo Experiment

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- Theory: Frames as stories
- Hypothesis: Organization of text should affect recall and choice
- Treatment: ?
- Measures: ?

## Ethnic Diversity

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- Theory: ?
- Hypothesis: ?
- Treatment: ?
- Measures: ?

## Turnout Experiment

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- Theory: Voters respond to social pressure
- Hypothesis: Registered voters respond to threat of public shaming
- Treatment: ?
- Measures: ?

## Baby Books

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- Theory: Name recognition increases incumbency advantage
- Hypothesis: Receiving baby book increases name recall and candidate “warmth”
- Data Collection Strategy: Multiple waves; investigate effect decay
- Treatment: ?
- Measures: ?

## International Observers

- Theory: International involvement facilitates democratization
- Hypothesis: Election observers reduce election fraud at the polling stations they visit.
- Treatment: ?
- Measures: ?
- Data collection strategies: ?

## Example: Iraq War

- Please give your best guess to this next question, even if you are not sure of the correct answer. As you know, the United States is currently involved in a war in Iraq. Do you happen to know how many soldiers of the U.S. military have been killed in Iraq since the fighting began in March 2003?

Log (Base 10) of Estimates of U.S. Troop Deaths in Iraq, 2004

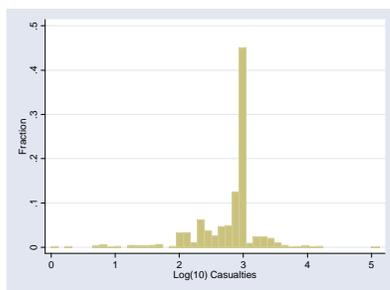


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