

Doctoral School — Research Master in Political Science

Why Study Quantitative Methods

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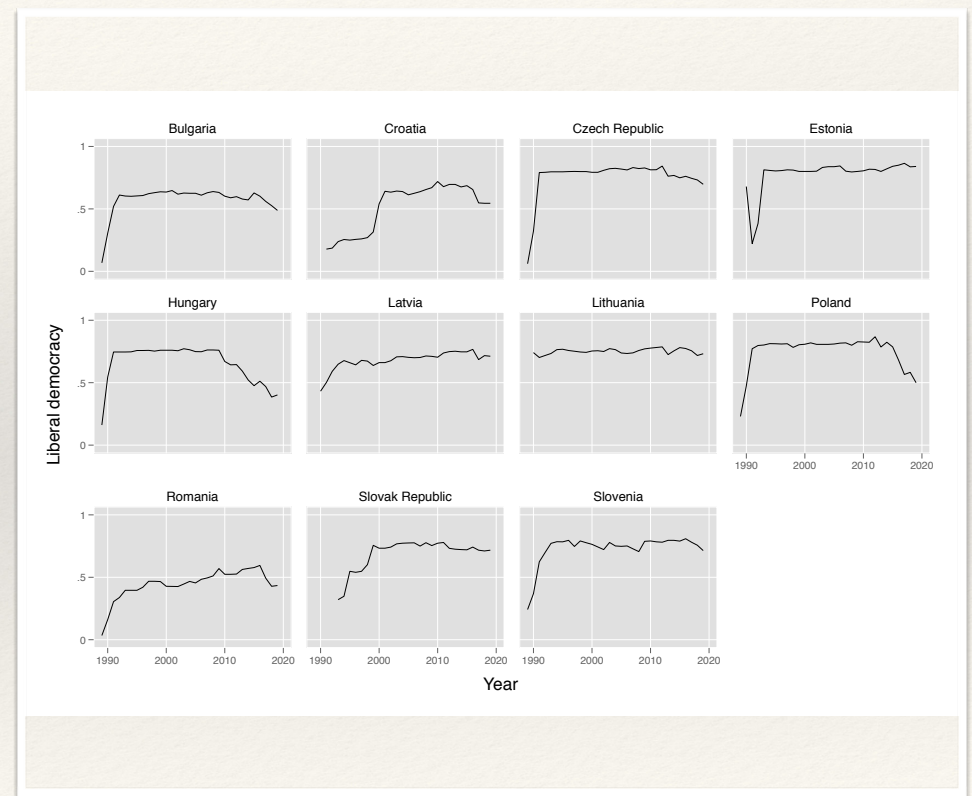
Quant and Qual

- ❖ Quant
 - ❖ Difference in number across units
 - ❖ General comparison between large N of cases
 - ❖ General trends / patterns, context
- ❖ Qual
 - ❖ shows difference in kind across units
 - ❖ seek to identify and understand attributes and characteristics
 - ❖ provides detailed information about processes, mechanisms, understandings, motivations etc.
 - ❖ includes: historical analyses, in-depth interviews and participant observation, 'thick description'



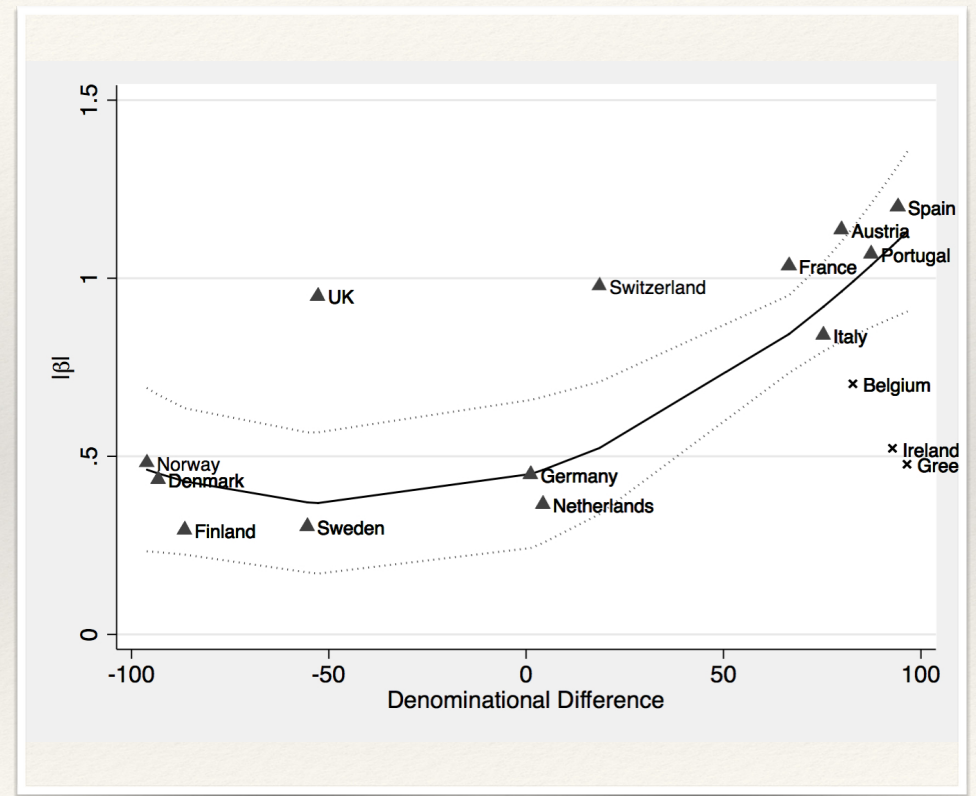
1) Systematization of case attributes

- ❖ Measurement simplifies
- ❖ Unifies the ability to describe social phenomena

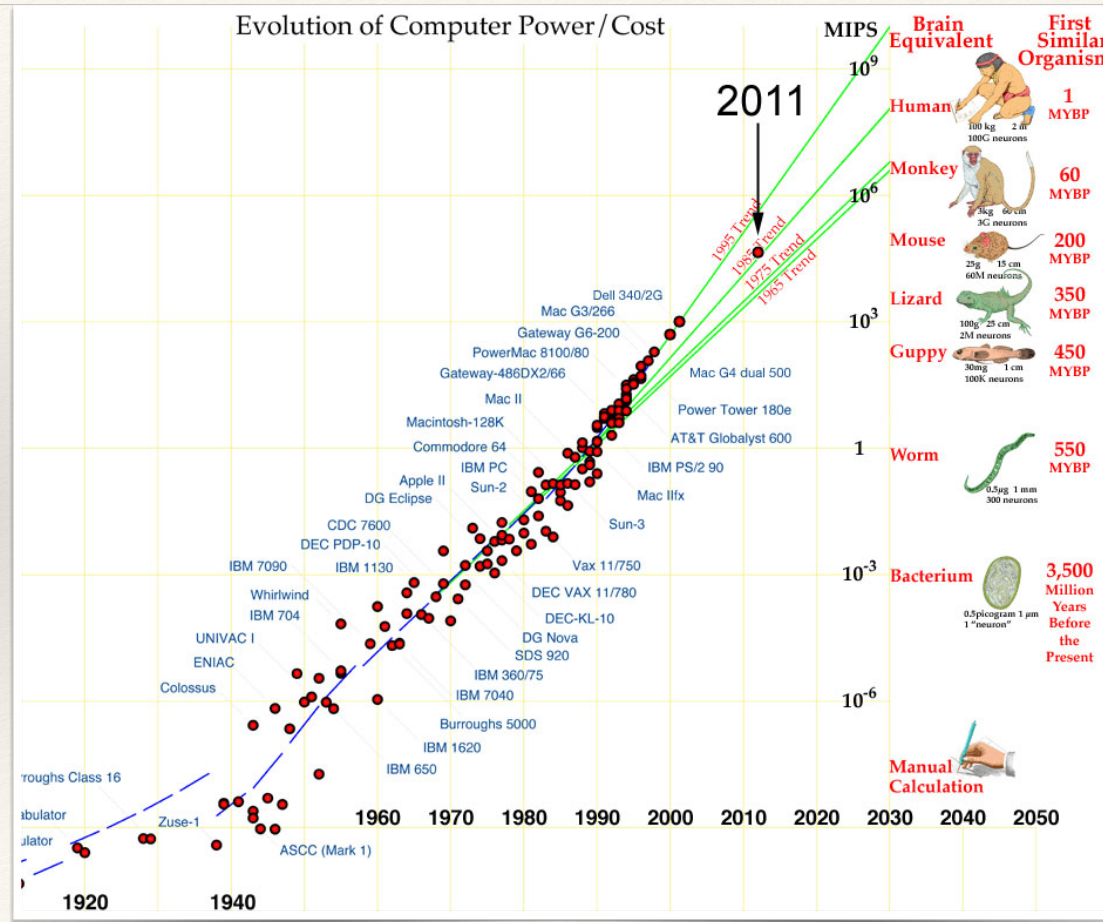


2) Ability to systematically compare

- ❖ Locate cases with respect to each other
- ❖ Important for qualitative scholars

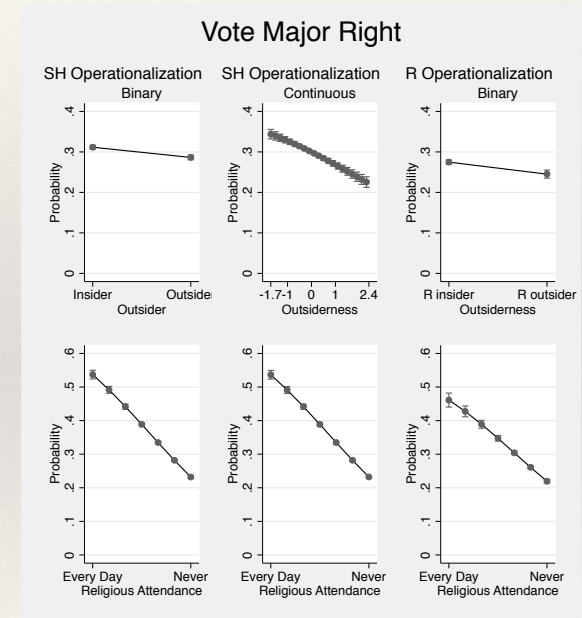
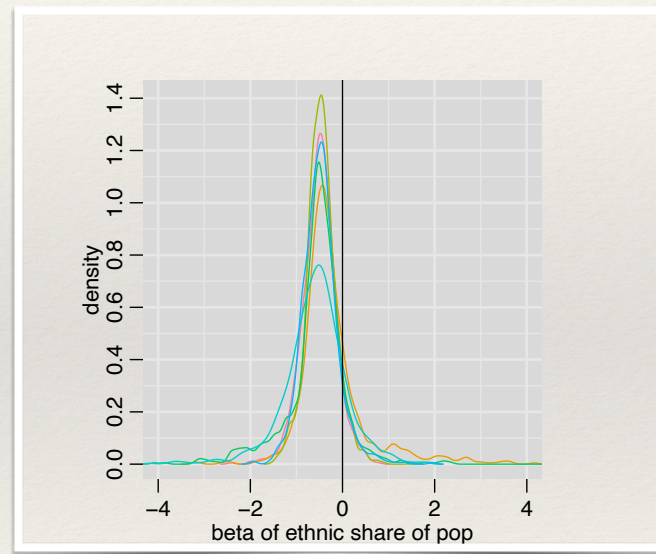


3) Ability to study larger number of cases



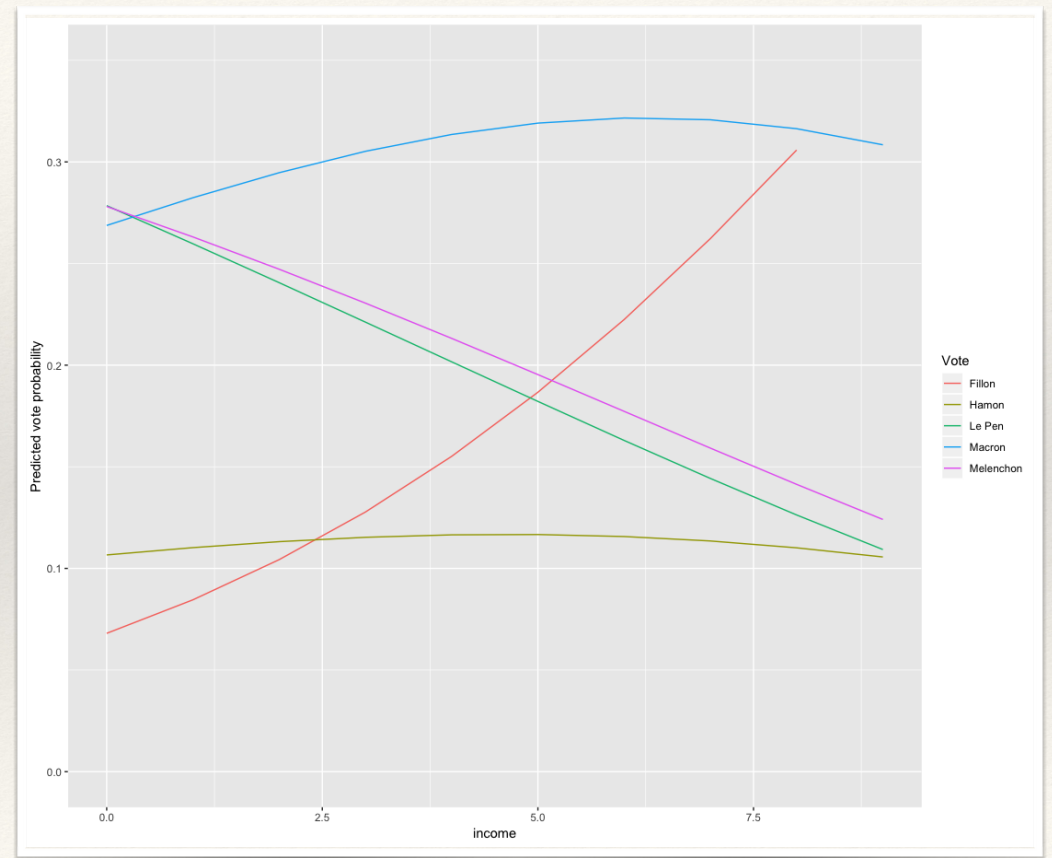
5) Ability to evaluate uncertainty of our assessment

- ❖ We are able to make probabilistic statements about social phenomena



5) Ability to produce graphic representations

- ❖ Effective communication
- ❖ Useful skill beyond academia



6) Utility of Quantitative Methods

- ❖ Scholars studying large N phenomena
 - ❖ (individuals, voters, parties, movements...)
 - ❖ Need to use quant methods to produce representative results
 - ❖ Should still look on the ground (talk to voters, party / movement leaders...)
- ❖ Scholars studying one / few cases
 - ❖ (relying largely on qualitative information)
 - ❖ Should still use some quant methods to situate their case & learn systematically about it
- ❖ Scholars planning to do qualitative research
 - ❖ Need to know the logic of quant and its techniques
 - ❖ To read and understand other research
 - ❖ To be able to constructively and critically engage others