

Data Proposal - Due October 26, 2016

For the data proposal, draft a 4-5 memo outlining your chosen research question along with a potential empirical strategy for answering that question. You should focus specifically on outlining the question, the hypotheses that you are interested in testing, and what sources of data and empirical design you will use to test these hypotheses. Your memo should consider addressing some of the following questions:

- What question are you trying to adjudicate with your study and what is puzzling/interesting about it? Are there competing theories about a particular topic that we are trying to assess? Are we interested in finding out a causal relationship between two variables?
- What hypotheses are you planning to test from the data? If you are looking at competing theories, describe how each theory leads to different hypotheses/predictions for the data.
- What dataset(s) will you use to test? Why are these datasets appropriate for your hypotheses? How is the data structured and what variables will you observe in your datasets? Provide an estimate of the amount of work that will be required to assemble the data.
- What methods will you use to analyze your dataset - how do these methods connect to testing your hypotheses?
- If you want to test a causal hypothesis, explain briefly why you think a causal interpretation of your analysis is justified? What potential "omitted variables" will you control for to justify a causal interpretation?