

Experiments

Political Science

Randomisation in political research, and where it applies.

Types and constraints.

Types

Survey experiments varying wording

Field experiments on turnout and contact

Lab experiments on decision-making

Natural experiments from arbitrary rules

Constraints

Cannot randomise regimes or wars

External validity beyond the sample

Ethical limits on manipulation

Effects may not scale up

Educational reference. Field experiments transformed the study of turnout precisely because contact can be randomised ethically.