

Quantitative Methods

Political Science

Using statistical evidence in political science.

Uses and limits.

Uses

Describing patterns across many cases

Testing whether a relationship holds generally

Estimating the size of an effect

Controlling for measured confounders

Limits

Country-level data has few observations

Key concepts are hard to measure well

Confounding is rarely fully addressed

Statistical significance is not importance

Educational reference. With around 190 countries, cross-national studies have far fewer observations than the variables suggest.