

Theory & Evidence

Political Science

How a theory relates to the data used to test it.

What makes a theory testable.

Testable theories

Generate observable implications

Specify what would count against them

State the scope conditions

Compete with named alternatives

Warning signs

Explains every outcome after the fact

Adds an exception for each anomaly

No stated scope conditions

Predictions only made retrospectively

Educational reference. Post-hoc explanation of past events is not prediction, and it is far easier than it appears.