

Political Science 501, Baumgartner
Short paper topics/discussion points
Week 6: Quasi-experimental studies

Readings: Campbell and Ross, Campbell, Lijphart, Jennings and Markus, Lewis-Beck and Alford, Wood and Waterman.

The first two readings are really methods articles, not substantive publications. Read those and be prepared to discuss them. In addition, each of you should write a paper on one of the other articles.

Paper topics:

Last week's readings explored the costs and benefits of various experimental and quasi-experimental designs. Pick one of the papers listed here and: 1) explain their design in detail (focus on the design, not the measures or the analysis); 2) discuss what their design was designed to do and how well it works on its own terms; and 3) discuss what other flaws might remain. Finally, suggest how one could improve, with a specific example.

1. Lijphart
2. Jennings and Markus
3. Lewis-Beck and Alford
4. Wood and Waterman