

Recorded by Jaycanna Day (**some comments by LDB**)

\*We took some time at the beginning of class to discuss our research proposals. At this stage groups should be working on a tentative bibliography, specific research questions, method and data.

As a class we discussed **researching cause and effect**.

**Issues in Causality:** to be confident in claim...

- Temporal causal order (*cause comes BEFORE effect*)
- Account for external factors
- Consistent association (**determination**)
- No unmeasured factors (do not misattribute)
- Change in X must cause change in Y (**determination**)
- Statistical correlation
- Proximity, physical...more confident if the 2 phenomena are close (in "space"

as well as "time")

\*determinist arguments-more confident of causal claims if close to absolute

\*longitudinal research...time

The order in which events occur, not only change, but cause and effect

**Big Implications:**

Not just describing changes, explaining changes

That which you are attempting to explain (Effect/DV)

Is associated with the change in DV (Cause/IV)

*Keep in Mind:* What are the things (IV) that contribute to change **or variation** in event/phenomena (DV).

### **Articulating a Hypothesis:**

When talking about relationships of 2 *variables* (to keep it simple), want to describe what you expect to find...have a sense of the **type** of association.

Example #1: level of education and level of income

What kind of relationship? – inverse/proportional, direct/indirect...

Which way would the causal arrows go & why?

What would the hypothesis look like?

**\*\*\*read handout-use class example to formulate hypothesis in groups\*\*\***

- # of possibilities for this example-include time factor as well as education levels

- relationship of these 2 variable different now than in 1950 (Social Change)

Example #1: -increase in education is directly associated with increase in income

-is not equally proportional

-at specific levels of education

-at different points in time; specifically 1950-2005

Last 15 minutes of class in groups to discuss causal relationship for group research projects...doing this for IRB protocol:

Title of study (short and simplistic)

Skeletal bibliography

Background and Significance in field

Methods and Measures

**For Next Time:**

Refined hypothesis

Collect bibliography

IRB protocol coversheet filled out (minus contact information)