*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)