

Historical Persistence

Applied Economics Research Course

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Example Presentation

Motivation

- On your first slide, you present your "Motivation" - your research question and your setting
- You answer the questions "why should we care?" and "why is this question important?"
 - What will change if my research question is answered definitively?
- Ideally, you present several arguments, some of them resonating with common sense
 - But more importantly, you should also *briefly* pay attention to the literature here
 - Note the emphasis on briefly: don't talk extensively about the literature
 - Just show that the academic community thinks these questions are important

Literature and Background

- On your second slide, you go into slightly more detail about your issues
- You illustrate that there is a debate in the literature, and there is not much clarity in terms of results
 - You highlight several perspectives in the literature
 - You can also pay attention to various approaches and methods
- This is also the place where you make your *expectations* (hypotheses) clear: what do you expect the answer to your RQ to be based on theory?
- You also talk about your *setting*: what country/area/situation are you studying? And why?
 - Is this a generalizable setting or is this super idiosyncratic?

Third Optional Slide

- On this optional slide, you give a preview of your results
- You summarize your main results
 - You contrast these findings with the established literature
 - What are the novelties?
- You highlight potential policy implications

Data & Methodology

Data

- On your data slide, you explain the data sources you have used
- You try to be as specific as possible: where do the data sources come from?
- Are they reliable and consistent?
- What decisions have you made when collecting and putting the data together?

Methodology

- On the *Methodology* or *Method* slides, you explain your empirical method
- This is an answer to the question: "How do I test my hypothesis?"
 - Your hypothesis is in turn an answer to your research question based on theory
- There should presumably be an equation on this page:

$$Y_{ij} = \alpha + \beta_1 X_{ij} + \beta_2 Z_{ij} + \epsilon_{ij}$$

- Where you *explain the indices* (individual i for country j) and you explain what Y and X can be in your analyses
- And you explain what the β_1 coefficient should be
 - But only for your independent variable of interest: we don't care about control variables
- Finally, you don't estimate just one model, but a whole variety. You say something about what classes of models you estimate: you add more controls, you add fixed effects, etc.

Results

Results

- Here, you start presenting your results. First, give us some descriptive statistics. For example, a table like this:

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
mpg	32	20.09	6.03	10.40	33.90
cyl	32	6.19	1.79	4.00	8.00

- Talk about the interpretation of this
- Potentially, you can also show a plot if you're dealing with spatial data of some kind

Regression Results

- Then, show the results of some of your main regressions
- Contrast the results with the literature and with your hypotheses

	(1)	(2)
(Intercept)	37.885***	-5.114
	(2.074)	(10.030)
cyl	-2.876***	
	(0.322)	
qsec		1.412*
		(0.559)
R2	0.726	0.175
Num.Obs.	32	32
+ p < 0.1, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001		

Regression Results 2

- You can show your robustness checks:
 - What have you done to make sure your results don't depend on some arbitrary decision you have made?
 - A second table can follow here:

	(1)	(2)
(Intercept)	47.382***	47.628***
	(8.807)	(9.080)
cyl	-3.137***	-3.073***
	(0.398)	(0.558)
qsec	-0.442	-0.487
	(0.398)	(0.489)
vs		0.398
		(2.391)
R2	0.737	0.738
Num.Obs.	32	32

+ p < 0.1, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

Conclusion

Conclusion

- The final slide should contain a conclusion
- This is an answer to your research question
- You also explain to which literatures you contributed and what (policy) insights this finding has generated
- You pay attention to the weaknesses of your approach
 - Your research is not perfect
 - You have missed many things for which you did not have time/resources to get data
 - How could that potentially impact your results?
- You close off with suggestions for further research

The End