

Babbie's Overview of Social Research

idiographic – to explain a particular event. nomothetic -- to explain social variations through the identification of patterns.

Some variables, their values and indicators		
Variable	Values	Indicators
Gender	Male, female	What is your gender
Age	18-24; 25-3475 +	D1 What is your age?
Language	English; Spanish	Language of Interview
Education	Some high school or less, Hi school grad, Some college…	D6 last grade of school that you completed?
Income	< \$20k; \$20-40k; \$40-60k	D10
Legal MJ use	Vote yes; Vote no	Q21 use of marijuana should be legal,

#### Selected Concepts in the October 2016 PPIC Survey

 $X \leftrightarrow Y$ 

X = independent variable

Y = dependent variable

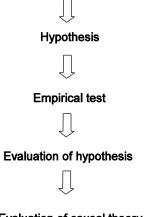
Four essential characteristics of a hypothesis.

- 1. It states a relationship between two variables.
- It states the direction of the relationship
  It (implicitly) makes a comparison between values of the independent variable.
- 4. It is empirically testable.



## The road to scientific knowledge

Causal theory



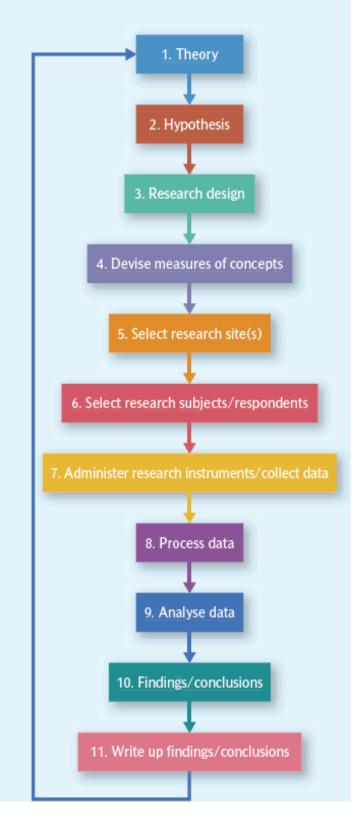
Evaluation of causal theory

Scientific knowledge

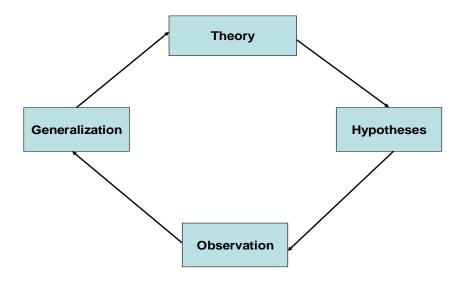
# Figure 2.1 The process of deduction 1. Theory 2. Hypothesis 3. Data collection 4. Findings 5. Hypotheses confirmed or rejected 6. Revision of theory

## Figure 7.1

### The process of quantitative research







Working with Real Data

Data Labs Data PPIC October 2016

Homework Data Sets:

PPIC June 2023 UTex December 2023

#### Avoid corrupting your data

On a Mac: Click(right click) on the icon for the data and go to "get info" then click on the "locked" box.

On a Windows Machine: From the Data Editor menu choose: File->Mark File Read Only