

*SOCIOLoGY 201:*  
*Social Research Design*



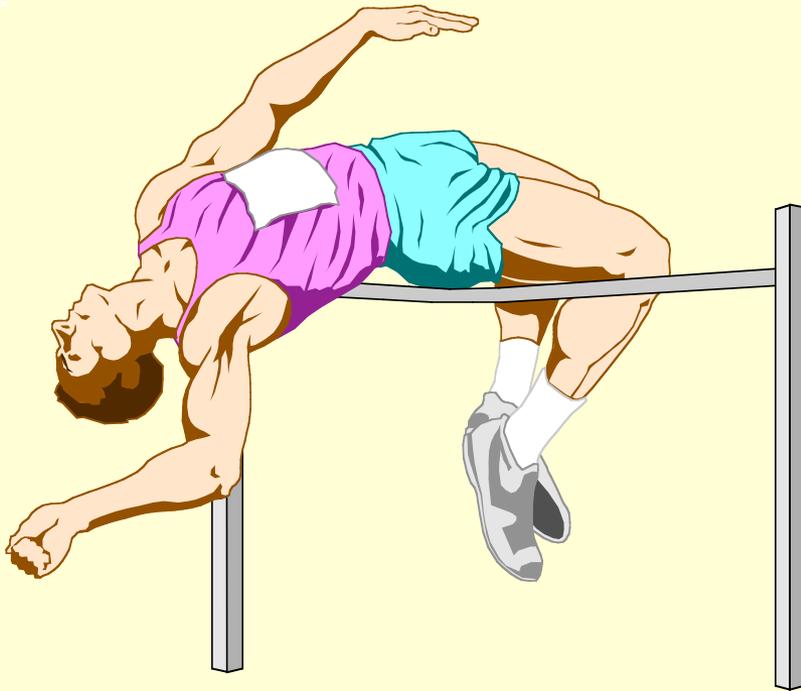
**6. The Nature of Causation**

# Preview



- Review Chapter 3 homework
- Last of the “philosophical” classes
- Discuss Criteria for Causation
- Examine Determinism at length

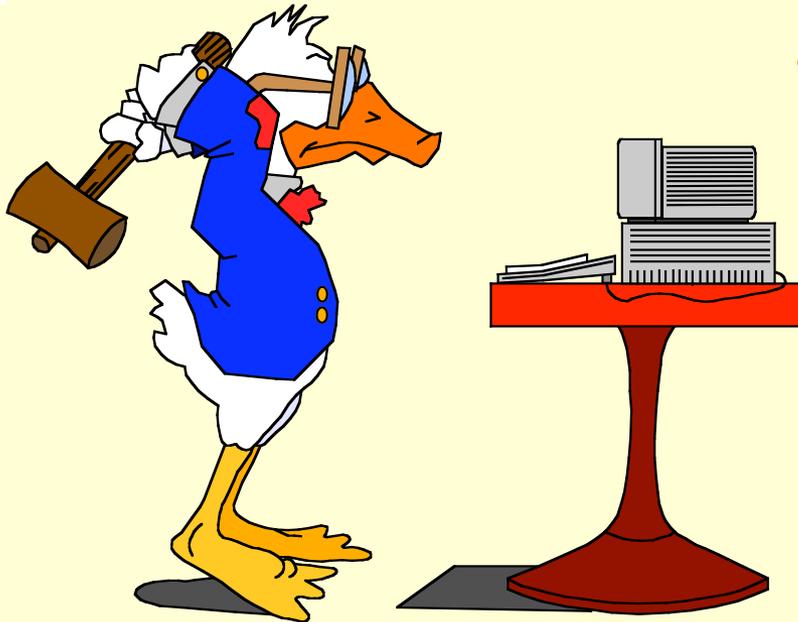
# *Review Workbook assignments - 3*



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- Range is from 0 to 25
- **Important:** read the instructions and consider following them
- **Important:** no joint ventures. Do your own work.

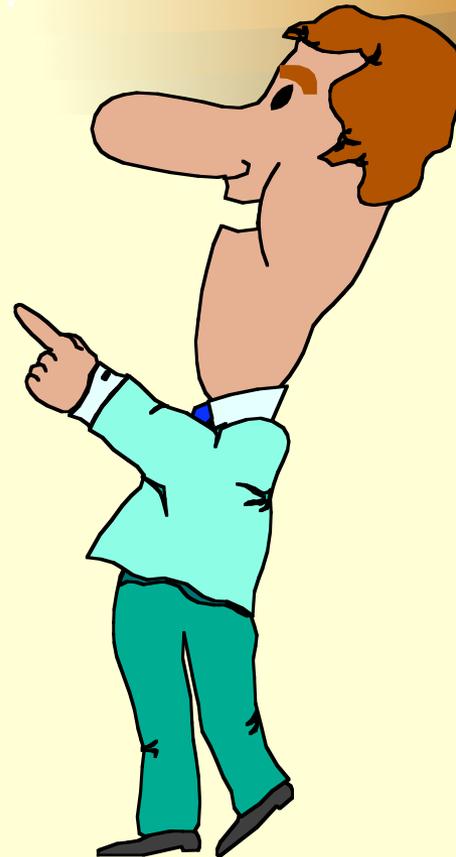
# *Criteria of causation*

- Time order
- Correlation
- Not spurious
  - Genuine relationship
  - Not caused by some other variable



# *Examples of Spuriousness*

- Storks and birthrates
- Fire trucks and damage done
- Mules and number of PhDs
- Eating ice cream and drowning
- Shoe size and mathematics ability



# *Let's examine relationship between rationality, determinism, and freedom*



- **Social science assumes determinism.**
  - Can be problematic if you don't recognize that.
- **Note: social scientists don't say you have no freedom.**
  - Just assume it as a working model.

*Question is: "Have you ever done anything of your own free will?"*



- Anything you weren't determined to do?"
- I'll take the position that you never have.

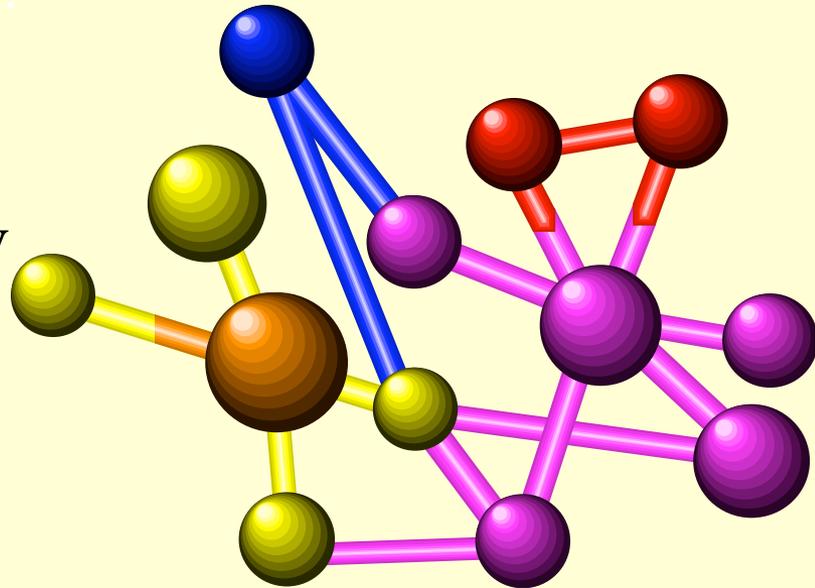
# *Anatomy of Determinism*



- Why did you do it?
- Can you see that anyone with all those reasons would have done the same?
- You are very reasonable and your reasonableness would seem to deny the possibility of freedom.
- Does rationality equal determinism?

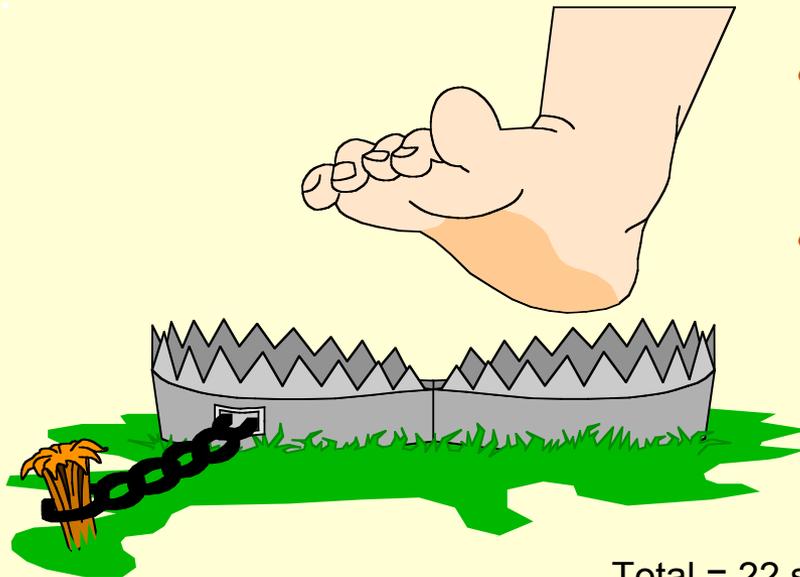
# *Worse news*

- Reasons have reasons.
- 
- The implication is that what you are now was all determined from the past.



# *Worse yet*

- It continues into the future.
- Your grade in this course is determined



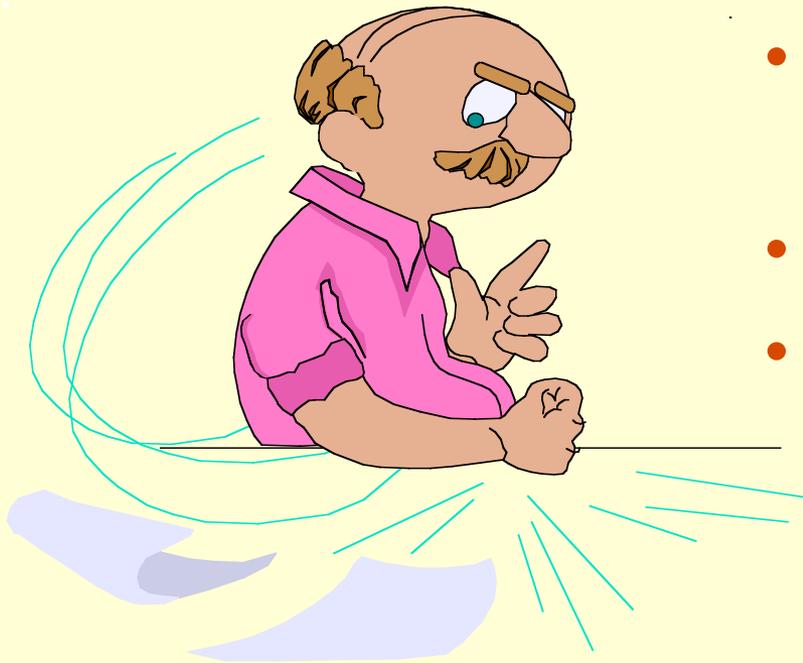
- Whether you graduate is determined
- If and who you will marry is determined
- The time and circumstances of your death are already determined.

*Remember: I'm not saying this is true.*

- But I don't know how to reason you out of it.
- Your reasons got you into it and they can't get you out.



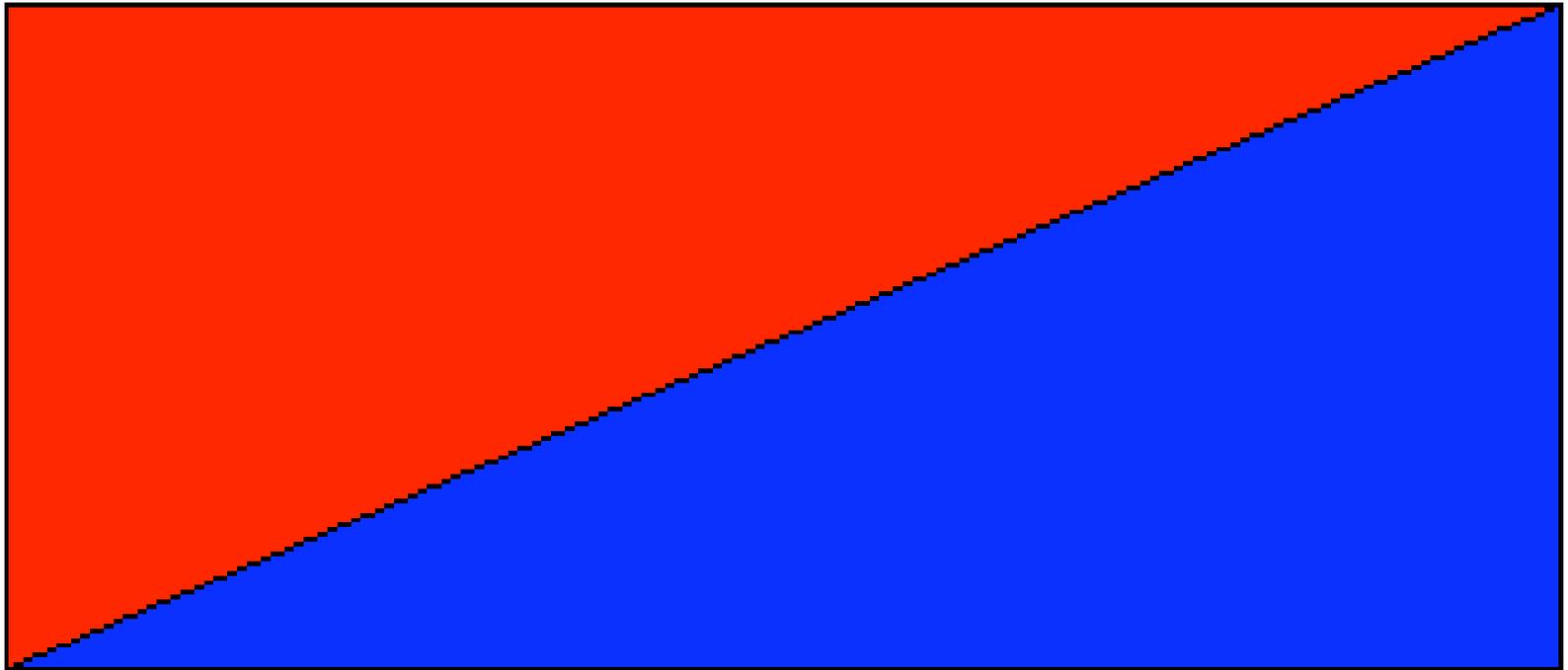
# *Why is this uncomfortable?*



- 1. Experience of freedom.
- 2. Can't take credit.
- 3. How would you **change** if you accepted the view that you were totally controlled by events and circumstances beyond your control?

# *Consider this continuum*

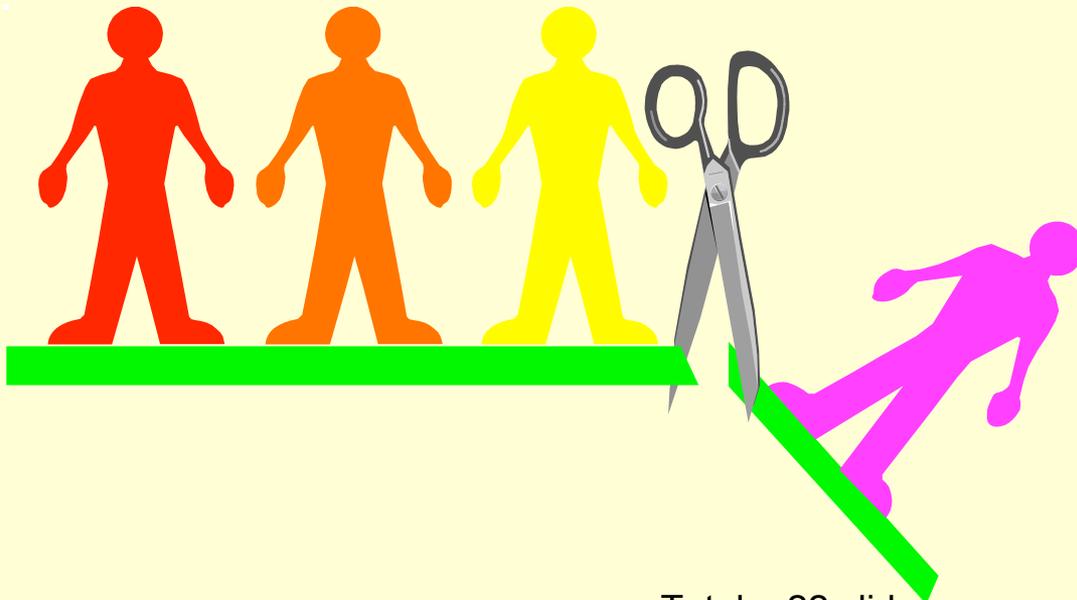
- **Determin**



**Free will**

# *Rationality is a very useful paradigm,*

- ...but it is only a paradigm.
- Who you really *are* would seem to be something



Total = 22 slides

# *Preview Workbook Exercises - 4*



Total = 22 slides

## *4.2 Four time frames for study*

- Cross-section
- Longitudinal
  - Trend
  - Panel
  - Cohort



# *Next Time*



- Research Design I
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- Read Chapter 4