Sociology 2013 Social Research Design

22. Unobtrusive Research I

Preview



- Workbook assignments due: 11.3(50 pts)
- Conclude channeling discussion
- Unobtrusive Measures
- Existing Statistics

Concinae Channeling Discussion

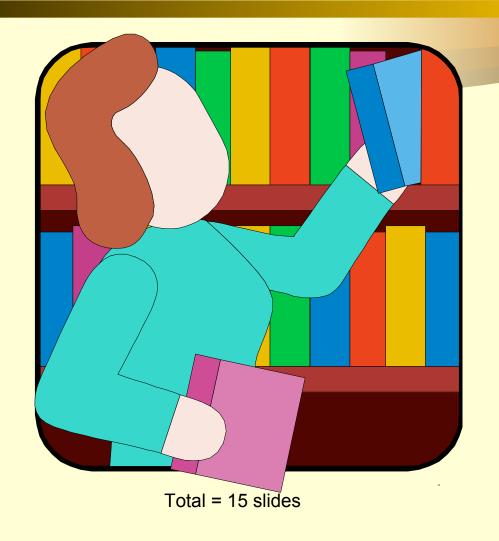
- How does channeling paradigm differ from your view of the world?
- How would you feel, studying something like channeling?
- Would it be alright with you for the channeling paradigm to be correct? To be incorrect?

Opportunity to study paradigms and paradigm-shifts

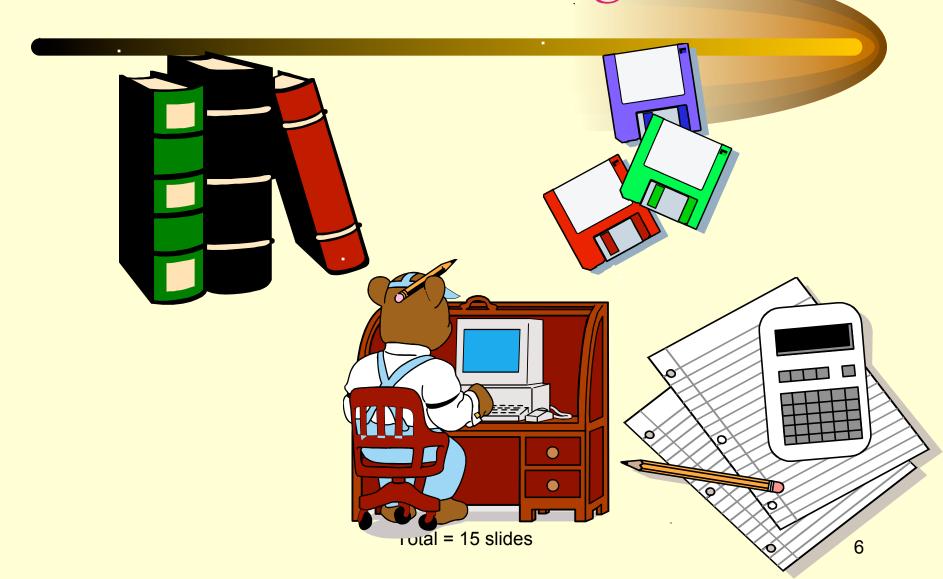


- Can't reason from one paradigm to another
- Can't prove one, using another
- esp Research dilemma
- Can only step inside the new one and see if it makes sense and

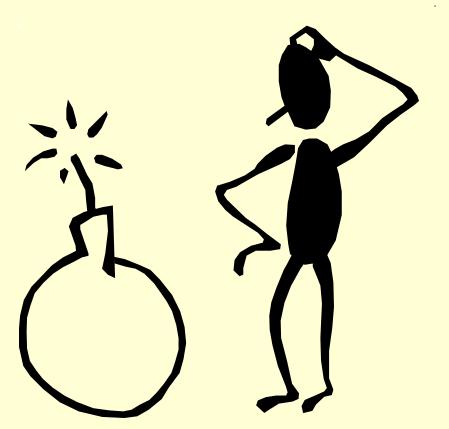
Define/discuss Unobtrusive Measures



Existing Statistics

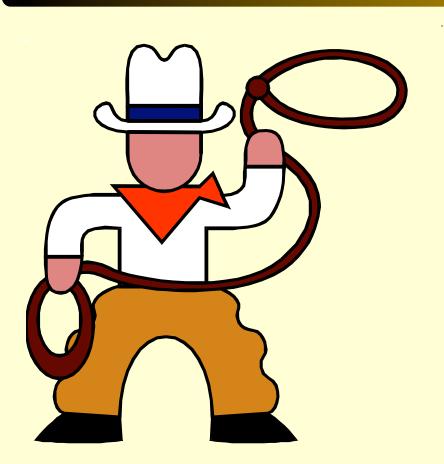


Review Durkheim's Suicide



- How do you study suicide?
 - Survey?
 - Participant observation?
- Units of analysis and ecological fallacy
- Durkheim analyzed ever-smaller units

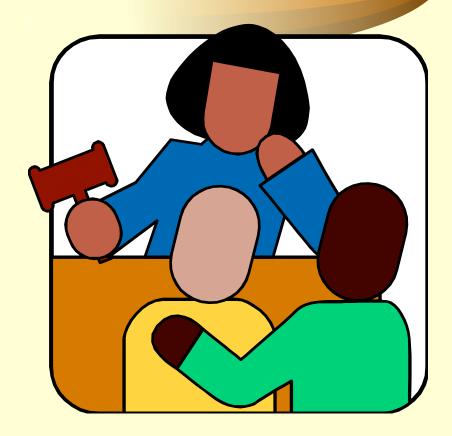
Problems of validity



- They may not have what you really want
- May have to settle for something approximate
 - e.g., marijuana arrests instead of usage

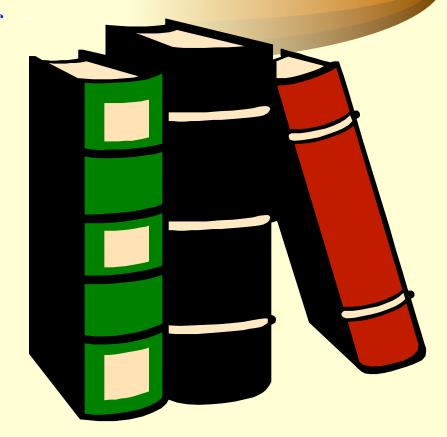
Problems of reliability

- FBI crime statistics
- Different locales have different methods
- Political campaigns may affect this



Sources of existing statistics

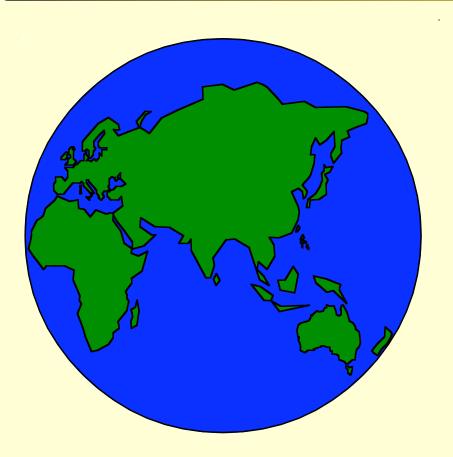
- Statistical Abstract of the US
- Federal agencies
- United Nations
- Public Opinion
- Gallup volumes
- Britannica



World Wide Web



Exercise with Population Sheets



- Recall earlier discussion of birth rates
- What might be related to birth rates?
 - Death Rate, IMR, Life
 Expectancy, Percent Urban,
 Maternal Deaths, Use of
 Contraceptives, Per Capita GNP
 - Put some country statistics on the board to check it with a few countries

Next Time

