

Political Science 390  
Introduction to Research and Data in Political Science  
Winter 2023  
Paper assignment

Read the attached article by Andreas Bergh and Anders Kärnä, “Explaining the rise of populism in European democracies 1980–2018: The role of labor market institutions and inequality,” *Social Science Quarterly* 103 (2022):1719-31.

First, you will evaluate two aspects of the article’s research design:

A. Its internal validity

B. Its external validity

Assume that the reader of your paper has carefully read the article. In other words, do not summarize the article any more than is necessary to write your evaluation. Through your evaluation, you will assess the ways in which, and the extent to which, the article either does or does not achieve internal validity and external validity.

Second, you will use the article as a vehicle to reflect on social scientific thinking. In engaging the questions the article poses, how do social scientists (such as Andreas Bergh and Anders Kärnä) operate differently from someone without training in the social sciences? How does the article show the distinctive ways in which social scientists construct and test explanations?

You can organize your paper however you wish, so long as you address both parts of the assignment. For example, you could lead off with the first part, and then address the second part; you could reverse the order; or you could intersperse both parts throughout your essay.

Due Date: Monday, February 20 at 8:00 PM, with a 10-minute grace period to account for connectivity challenges. Include a title page with your name on it. Your paper will be 4-5 pages plus the title page, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 point font, with 1-inch margins. The paper will be worth 16% of your overall grade for the quarter.

You will submit the paper online through the course’s Canvas site, where it will be filtered through Turnitin, a plagiarism detection service. Late papers will be penalized by 10 points for each day late. A paper will be considered late if it arrives after 8:10 PM on Monday, February 20.

See p. 2 for the grading rubric.

Paper Rubric	Points
Evaluation: Internal Validity. Support your arguments throughout.	30
Evaluation: External Validity. Support your arguments throughout.	20
Evaluation: Social Science Thinking. How has social science thinking informed this research study? How does the study's approach differ from the ways in which a person without social science training might engage the same subjects?	35
Style and Coherence: Are your words chosen for their precise meaning? Is your paper elegantly written? Do you lead the reader systematically from point to point and from paragraph to paragraph? Is your paper free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors?	15