

Example Presentation

Applied Economics Research Course

Bas Machielsen

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

Descriptive Statistics

- ▶ 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*** (2.074)	-5.114 (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*** (8.807)	47.628*** (9.080)
cyl	-3.137*** (0.398)	-3.073*** (0.558)
qsec	-0.442 (0.398)	-0.487 (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

Appendix

- ▶ The .qmd file (including code to make tables fit the page) is available here.