

## **Dr. Walt Davis**

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**Title:**

## **Causal Analysis in Social Research**

### **Abstract:**

In recent years, causal analysis -- drawing causal inference from observational data and making use of counterfactuals -- has received strong, renewed interest in the social sciences with many applications in policy, social and health research in the last 20 years. There have been two main areas of methodological development taken up by social scientists -- Judea Pearl's graphical approach and Donald Rubin's "potential outcomes" framework. The purpose of this talk is to provide an overview of these approaches to expose statisticians to this trend in policy analysis, including highlighting some ways this differs from more traditional regression approaches. This talk is a fuller, more statistically oriented version of my presentation at the Frontiers in Social Science Methodology workshop held earlier this year.