Case Studies

Multidisciplinary **case studies** from the SAGE Research Methods platform give you the chance to broaden your knowledge of the subject area.

**Case Study 1:** [Garrett, Bernard M. and Cutting, Roger L. (2017) ‘A double-blind behavioral experiment: The influence of paranormal beliefs and media messaging in undergraduate nursing and education students’](https://methods.sagepub.com/case/paranormal-beliefs-media-messaging-undergraduate-nursing-education-students).

**Description:** This case study is a great example of adapting and replicating a research design on a fun and interesting topic – paranormal beliefs among students. The study also contains an excellent discussion of how researchers reconcile the ‘ideal’ sample with the on-the-ground feasibility of recruiting participants and the subsequent impact on statistical results and the ability to generalize findings.

**Case Study 2:** [Haque, Muhammad M. (2019) ‘Planning and developing a theoretical paper utilizing aggregate data: An example of comparative societal impact on educational outcome’](https://methods.sagepub.com/case/theoretical-paper-aggregate-data-societal-impact-on-educational-outcome).

**Description:** This case study offers a good example of the difficulty in operationalizing abstract theoretical concepts based on the availability and selection of data and variables. The study also highlights how a small number of observations limit analysis options and provide a perspective on the often long process of publishing research.

**Case Study 3:** [Lewis, Scott J. (2021) ‘Managing measurement in method: An analysis of the relationship between definition and interpretation in social science research’](https://methods.sagepub.com/case/measurement-method-relationship-definition-interpretation-social-science).

**Description:** This case study provides an excellent demonstration and discussion of how implicit and explicit biases of researchers can influence decisions related to data, variables and methodology. The study also describes how the same biases affect how researchers understand and communicate their findings. It is a good reminder of checking our own biases and assumptions while conducting research.

**Case Study 4:** [Visser, Beth A., Batinic, Mirna, Worth, Narnia and Book, Angela (2021) ‘Investigating psychopathic behaviour using the Sims 3 video game’](https://methods.sagepub.com/case/investigating-psychopathic-behavior-using-the-sims-3-video-game).

**Description:** This case study offers an innovative research design for measuring psychopathic behaviour. As the authors discuss, observing and measuring (and defining) psychopathic behaviour is often challenging particularly outside a highly controlled experimental environment. While the Sims is an artificial environment (i.e., a video game), it is arguably less artificial and controlled than a standard laboratory experiment. This is a good example of using research design to measure abstract and amorphous concepts.

**Case Study 5:** [Ekkens, Connie Lynne and Gordon, Pamela Ann (2022) ‘Struggling to promote a safe culture: A quasi-experimental research study to reduce medication errors using mindfulness’.](https://methods.sagepub.com/case/quasi-experimental-research-study-reduce-medication-errors-mindfulness)

**Description:** This case study is a good example of the challenges involved with introducing an intervention in the field and data collection and evaluating the intervention using quantitative methods. The discussion particularly highlights the difficulties with primary data collection and research design logistics. Hence, the case study provides important perspective for students seeking to collect primary data.

**Case Study 6:** [Prager, Fynnwin (2014) ‘Behavioral responses to the London July 2005 bombings: Making deductions from counterfactual estimation and regression analysis’.](https://methods.sagepub.com/case/srmpromo/qVuFtZ/london-july-2005-bombings-deductions-counterfactual-estimation-regression%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Description:** This case study is a good demonstration of how quantitative research can be used for contemporary problems and assessments. Furthermore, the study highlights how quantitative analysis can be used for counterfactual assessments; moving beyond simple counterfactual theorizing. It also notes the limitations of quantitative analysis due to the availability of data.

**Case Study 7:** [Ferguson, Christopher J. (2014) ‘The uses and misuses of bivariate correlations: The case of video game violence research’.](https://methods.sagepub.com/case/srmpromo/fO9EMc/bivariate-correlations-the-case-of-video-game-violence-research%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Description:** This case study provides a good discussion on limitations of correlation analysis for an interesting topic that has gained increasing visibility over the years. The study also highlights the difficulties with measuring complicated concepts, in this caseviolence and video game violence, and how our understanding of results it often impacted by measurement of variables.

**Case Study 8:** [Waugh, Jalika Rivera (2016) ‘Crime scene investigators and traumatic event-related stress: A quantitative study’.](https://methods.sagepub.com/case/srmpromo/aM1G8Z/crime-scene-investigators-traumatic-event-related-stress-quantitative-study%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Description:** This study represents a good demonstration of exploratory research on an understudied topic or research area. When particular research has not been previously carried out often, it is left to the researcher to simply begin with the basics and see if any relationships exist. As this study discusses, our understanding of a topic or question evolves and grows as others begin to add to the exploratory analysis.

**Case Study 9:** [Ahern, Kathy (2014) ‘Gatekeepers: People who can (and do) stop your research in its tracks’.](https://methods.sagepub.com/case/srmpromo/W6SZkA/gatekeepers-people-who-can-and-do-stop-your-research-in-its-tracks%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Description:** This case study provides an interesting and comprehensive discussion of the challenges with conducting ethical research. Sometimes the roadblocks are warranted and other times they are not. This is a good read for students who are looking to engage in their own data collection, particularly those interested in conducting experiments or surveys.

**Case Study 10:** [Mortelmans, Dimitri and Pasteels, Inge (2014) ‘Using register data in the social sciences’.](https://methods.sagepub.com/case/srmpromo/5ERqSj/using-register-data-in-the-social-sciences%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Description:** This is an excellent discussion of the promises and pitfalls associated with using administrative data. We are told that data is everywhere, but being able to access and analyse existing data is more difficult than it has been made out to appear. This is a good read for students interested in using government and agency data for their own research.