

# How to Replicate: *Notes from Publication, publication. King 2006*

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## I. Why replication

Academic has a shaky foundation and tumbling through some replication difficulties teaches you more about the state-of-the-literature than reading all the published literature one can do.

## II. Elements of the Paper

**Address a substantive problem in your field of interest and contain (one) clear message(s)**

- *whose minds to change?*

**Begin with a paper**

- acquiring the data
- replicating the specific numerical results in the tables and/or figures
- the paper needs to be peer reviewed, prominent and preferably recent (5 years range from now)

**Show the chosen paper to your professor before proceeding**

- they give you advice on what is unlikely to work!

**clarify the extent of your repliation with precision**

- need to make sure you can replicate the original publisher's results first, or your paper will not be publishable

**All abouty making a point**

- write less about your effort replicating, substantially more about the contribution derived from your results

**Improve the presentation of the original results**

- do you find useful, additional, or even contradictory information not discussed in the article *without changing any assumptions in the original paper?*
- reference King, Tomz, and Wittenberg (2000)

**Run *controlled* methodological experiments**

- make *one* improvement that advances our understanding; improvements can include changing the way the author dealt with

- missing data
- selection bias
- omitted variable bias
- the model specification
- differential item functioning
- the functional form
- adding control variables
- measurement error
- extending time series or out-of-sample tests
- statistical model
- ...

## **Finding improved results**

- try to improve or change the results in some important way with *minimal change* (with maximal justification) necessary
- write it up carefully

## **Fitting the model**

- evidence that your model fits the data in and out of sample (preferably better)

## **Understanding your raw data prior to statistical modelling**

- include graphics or descriptive statistics

## **Citation**

King, Gary. 2006. “Publication, Publication.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39: 119125. <http://gking.harvard.edu/papers>.