


# HW2 - Literature Review and Theory

## References (Optional reading material) :


Chapter: Creswell, Ch. 2 & 3


### Theory-oriented papers:

Mokyr presents his notion of "useful knowledge" in which practical action is related to its epistemic base. Useful knowledge need not be as general or firmly established as scientific theory, but it generalizes beyond specific practices, helping to explain why they work and suggesting ways they might be improved or adjusted. Scientific theory is perhaps the "highest" form of useful knowledge.


Mokyr, J. (2002). *The Gifts of Athena: Historical Origins of the Knowledge Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (Ch 1) 


Next are two papers that present very well established and straightforward behavior science theories. The idea here is to see how the theories are described, how they tie together large bodies, and how they motivate new research questions.

Kahneman, D. (2011). *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. [Ch. 12, The science of availability](#). 

Argote, L., & Ren, Y. (2012). [Transactive memory systems: A microfoundation of dynamic capabilities](#) . *Journal of Management Studies*, 49(8), 1375-1382.

### Examples of empirical papers with clear connection to theory:

Donath, J. (2008). [Signals in social supernets](#) . *Journal of Computer Mediated Communication*, 13(1), 231-251.

Xiao, S., Witschey, J., & Murphy-Hill, E. (2014). [Social influences on secure development tool adoption: why security tools spread](#) , *Proceedings of the 17th ACM conference on Computer supported cooperative work & social computing* (pp. 1095-1106): ACM.

## Assignment:

1) Critique the Xiao et al paper (~1 page), specifically with respect to its use of theory. For example, you might consider

- Did the theory play a major role in framing the research questions?
- Was the methodology influenced by the theory?
- How did the theory impact the data that was collected and the way it was analyzed?
- How important was the theory to this research? Does it help explain the results? Does it help generate new questions?