

Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Chapter 1. What Is Process-Tracing?	I
1.1. Introduction: The Three Components of Process-Tracing as a Social Science Method	I
1.2. What Are We Tracing?	2
1.3. What Are Traces?	4
1.4. Case Selection and Generalization	6
1.5. Four Variants of Process-Tracing	9
1.6. A Primer on the Foundations of Case-Based Methods	12
Chapter 2. What Are We Tracing?	29
2.1. Introduction	29
2.2. The Nature of Causal Mechanisms	30
2.3. Five Common Questions Relating to Mechanistic Approaches	41
Chapter 3. Theorizing Concepts and Causal Mechanisms	53
3.1. Introduction	53
3.2. Defining Concepts to Be Compatible with Mechanistic Explanations	54
3.3. Theorizing Mechanisms—Minimalist and Systems Understandings	64
3.4. Level of Abstraction of Mechanistic Explanations	73
3.5. The Importance of Context and the Dangers of Mechanistic Heterogeneity	77
3.6. The Temporal Dimension and Levels of Analysis	81
3.7. The Building Blocks of Mechanism-Based Theoretical Explanations	84
3.8. How to Theorize about Mechanisms in Practice	86

Chapter 4. Case Selection and Nesting of Process-Tracing Case Studies	89
<i>with Markus Siewert</i>	
4.1. Introduction	89
4.2. Selecting Appropriate Cases for Process-Tracing	91
4.3. Problems with the State of the Art Regarding Generalizing Findings about Mechanisms	103
4.4. Five Sources of Mechanistic Heterogeneity	112
4.5. Snowballing Outward as a Strategy to Test the Boundaries of Generalization When Generalizing from Process-Tracing Case Studies	129
4.6. Conclusions	144
Appendix 1—An Illustration of Mechanistic Heterogeneity in Practice	145
Appendix 2—Bounding Populations in Practice	150
Chapter 5. Making Inferences Using Mechanistic Evidence	155
5.1. Introduction	155
5.2. Problems with Existing Approaches for Making Inferences in Process-Tracing	158
5.3. What Is Mechanistic Evidence?	171
5.4. Bayesian Reasoning and Operationalizing Propositions about the Empirical Fingerprints of Mechanisms	172
5.5. What Is Our Prior Confidence in the Theoretical Hypothesis?	182
5.6. Operationalizing Empirical Fingerprints of Mechanisms	186
Chapter 6. Linking Propositions with Empirical Material—Finding and Evaluating Evidence	195
6.1. Introduction	195
6.2. Collecting Observations	197
6.3. Evaluating What Found/Not Found Observations Tell Us about the Existence of a Proposition	199
6.4. Can We Trust the Found/Not Found Observables?	204
6.5. Challenges Associated with Different Types of Sources	213
Chapter 7. Evaluating the Overall Probative Value of Mechanistic Evidence	223
7.1. Introduction	223
7.2. Argument Road Maps	224
7.3. Rules for Aggregating Evidence	229
7.4. An Example of the Aggregation of Evidence in Practice—Tannenwald (1999)	236

Chapter 8. Theory-Testing Process-Tracing	245
8.1. Introduction	245
8.2. Minimalist Theory-Testing Process-Tracing	246
8.3. In-Depth Theory-Testing Process-Tracing	252
8.4. Guidelines for Theory-Testing Process-Tracing	257
Appendix 1—An Example of In-Depth Theory-Testing Process-Tracing	260
Chapter 9. Theory-Building Process-Tracing	269
9.1. Introduction	269
9.2. Theory-Building Process-Tracing	270
9.3. Theory Revision with Theory-Building Process-Tracing	274
9.4. Guidelines for Theory-Building Process-Tracing	275
Appendix 1—Janis’s Theory-Building Process-Tracing	278
Chapter 10. Explaining-Outcome Process-Tracing	281
10.1. Introduction	281
10.2. Conducting an Explaining-Outcome Process-Tracing Design	286
Appendix 1—An Example of Explaining-Outcome Process-Tracing	288
Appendix: “Silver Blaze”	289
References	295
Index	313