

Samantha Mason

Introduction

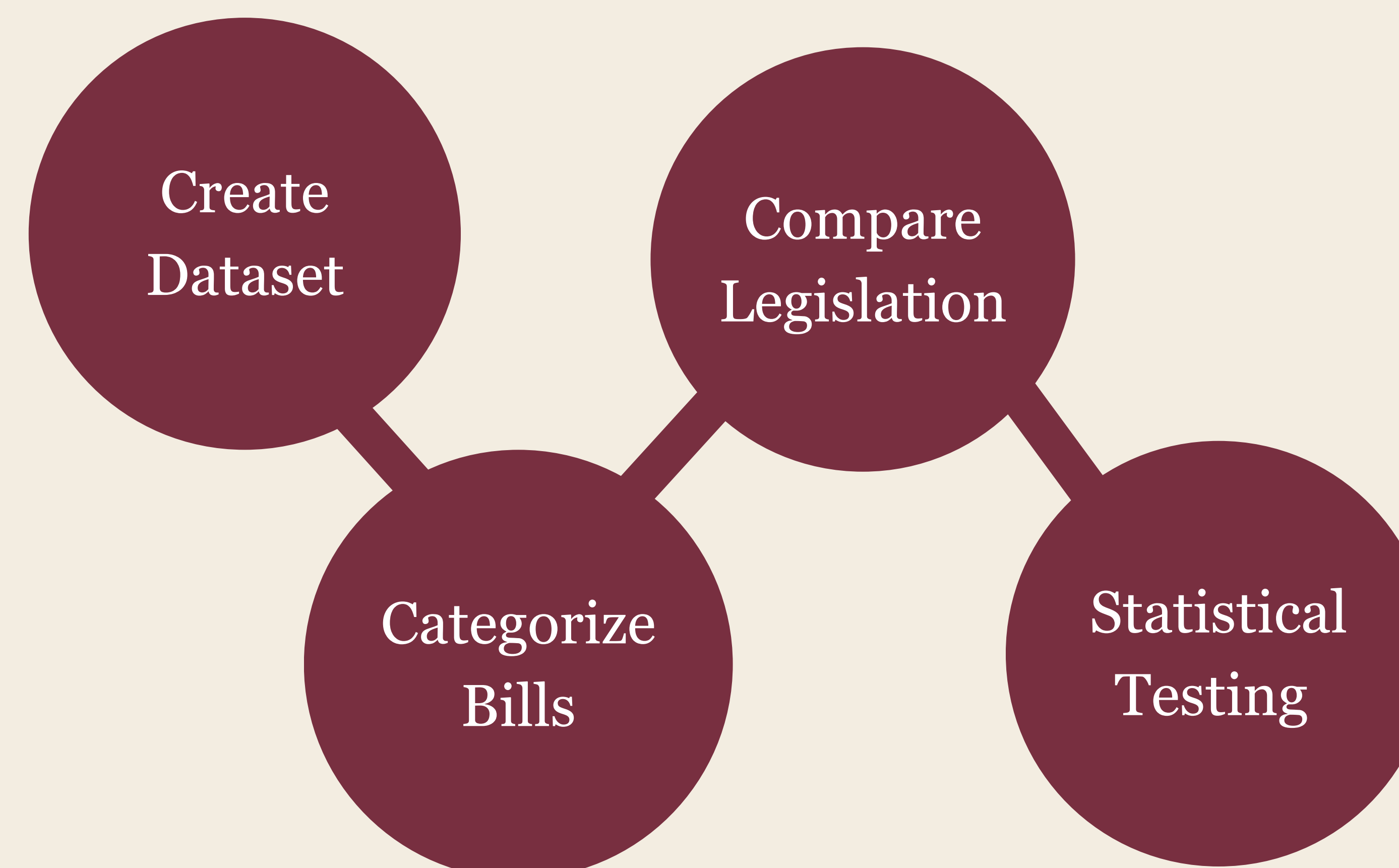
- *Shelby County v. Holder* significantly changed state election legislation.
- My research focuses on the case's impact on voter registration policy.

Background

- *Shelby County v. Holder* struck down the Section 4(b) coverage formula of the Voting Rights Act.
- This effectively undercut Section 5 preclearance, meaning covered states no longer needed federal approval before changing voting rules.
- With preclearance removed, states had greater freedom to change election procedures.
- Voter registration policy matters because it is the first step in the voting process, yet it has been studied less than other election changes in relation to *Shelby County*.

Methodology

- Built a dataset of 6,000+ voter registration bills across all 50 states and DC, and categorized them into major policy areas.
- Coded each bill for political and policy variables, including sponsors, state control, Section 5 status, pre-/post-2013 timing, direction, scope, and outcomes.
- Will compare filing, passage, and policy focus before versus after *Shelby County* across Section 5 and non-Section 5 states, as well as under unified versus divided government.
- Will test these differences using ANOVA, difference-in-differences, chi-square, and logistic regression to explain shifts in bill volume, restrictiveness, and passage rates.



Hypothesis

After *Shelby County v. Holder*, I expect former Section 5 states to introduce and pass more voter registration bills than before, and at a higher rate than non-Section 5 states. I also hypothesize that there will be a shift toward more restrictive legislation rather than more expansive legislation.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to my advisor Dr. Andrew Ballard as well as the Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement.