

**TABLE 3.1. Sample Research Questions, Units of Analysis, and Variables**

<i>Research question/hypothesis</i>	<i>Unit of analysis</i>	<i>Variables</i>
[WHAT ONE WANTS TO KNOW]	[WHAT ENTITIES ARE DESCRIBED AND COMPARED]	[WITH RESPECT TO WHAT CHARACTERISTICS]
Are older people more afraid of crime than younger people?	Individuals	Age, fear of crime
The greater the growth of air passenger traffic at a city's airport, the greater the economic growth.	Cities	Growth of air traffic, economic growth
The higher the proportion of female employees, the lower the wages in 19 <sup>th</sup> -century factories.	Factories	Proportion of employees who are female, average wage
Does economic development lower the birth rate?	Nations	Level of economic development, birth rate
The longer the engagement period, the longer the marriage.	Couples (dyads)	Length of engagement, marriage duration
Fan support in the NBA, as measured by attendance, is not related to the proportion of black players on the team.	NBA teams	Racial composition of the team, average attendance
A student's grade-point average is directly related to his or	Individuals	Grade-point average, attendance record