

# Chapter 9. The issue of multiple causation

Likan Zhan

Beijing Language and Culture University

2020-02-14

<https://likan.info>

[zhanlikan@blcu.edu.cn](mailto:zhanlikan@blcu.edu.cn)

# Contents

- The Concept of Interaction
- The Temptation of the Single-Cause Explanation

No magic bullet

## No magic bullet

- When thinking about the causes of behavior, think in terms of multiple causes.

## No magic bullet

- When thinking about the causes of behavior, think in terms of multiple causes.
- Do not fall into the trap of thinking that a particular behavior must have a single cause. Most behaviors of any complexity are multiply determined. A variety of factors act to cause their occurrence.

## No magic bullet

- When thinking about the causes of behavior, think in terms of multiple causes.
- Do not fall into the trap of thinking that a particular behavior must have a single cause. Most behaviors of any complexity are multiply determined. A variety of factors act to cause their occurrence.
- Sometimes these factors interact when in combination. That is, the effect of the variables acting together is different than what one would have expected from simply studying them in isolation.

No magic bullet

## No magic bullet

- The continuum of causal influence for variables.

## No magic bullet

- The continuum of causal influence for variables.
- The Temptation of the Single-Cause Explanation

Questions?