Data Visualization for Political Scientists

Session 3 - Facets and Small Multiples

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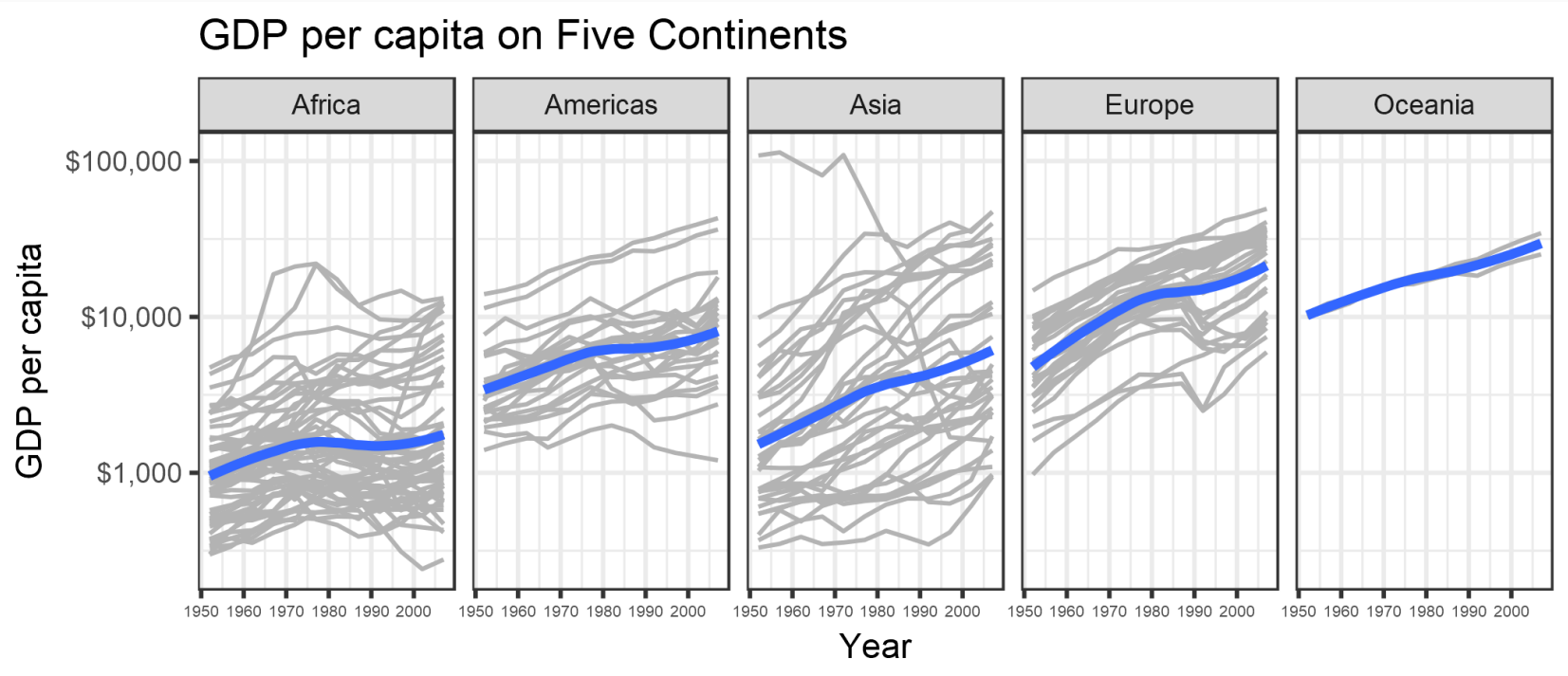
facets

plots (or small multiple plots) are a way to divide your data up by a categorical variable. Facets are "not a geom, but rather a way of organizing a series of geoms" (Kieran Healy).

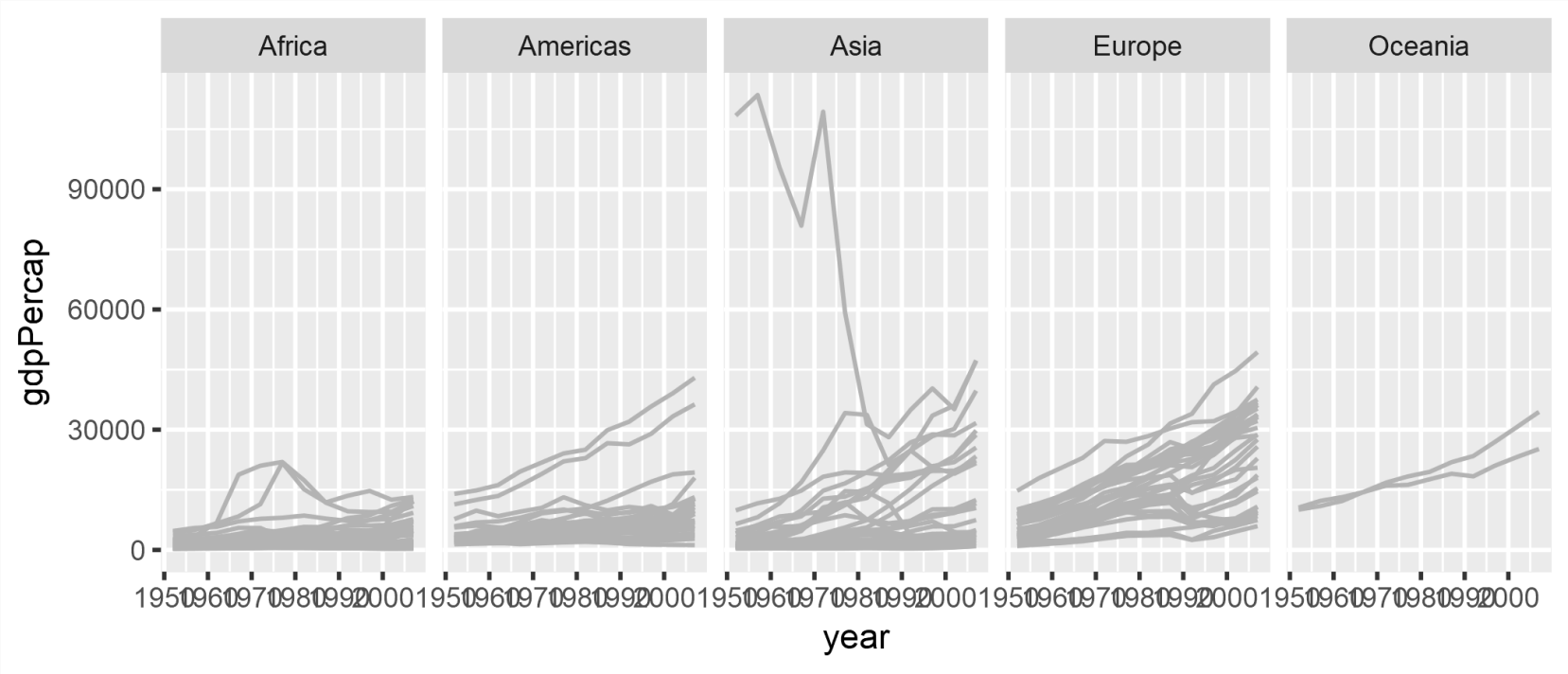


facets: think about the comparison!

GDP/pc development by *continent*.

In ggplot, we use the `                ` building block to specify the faceting variable(s).

facets: think about the comparison!



facets: all elements

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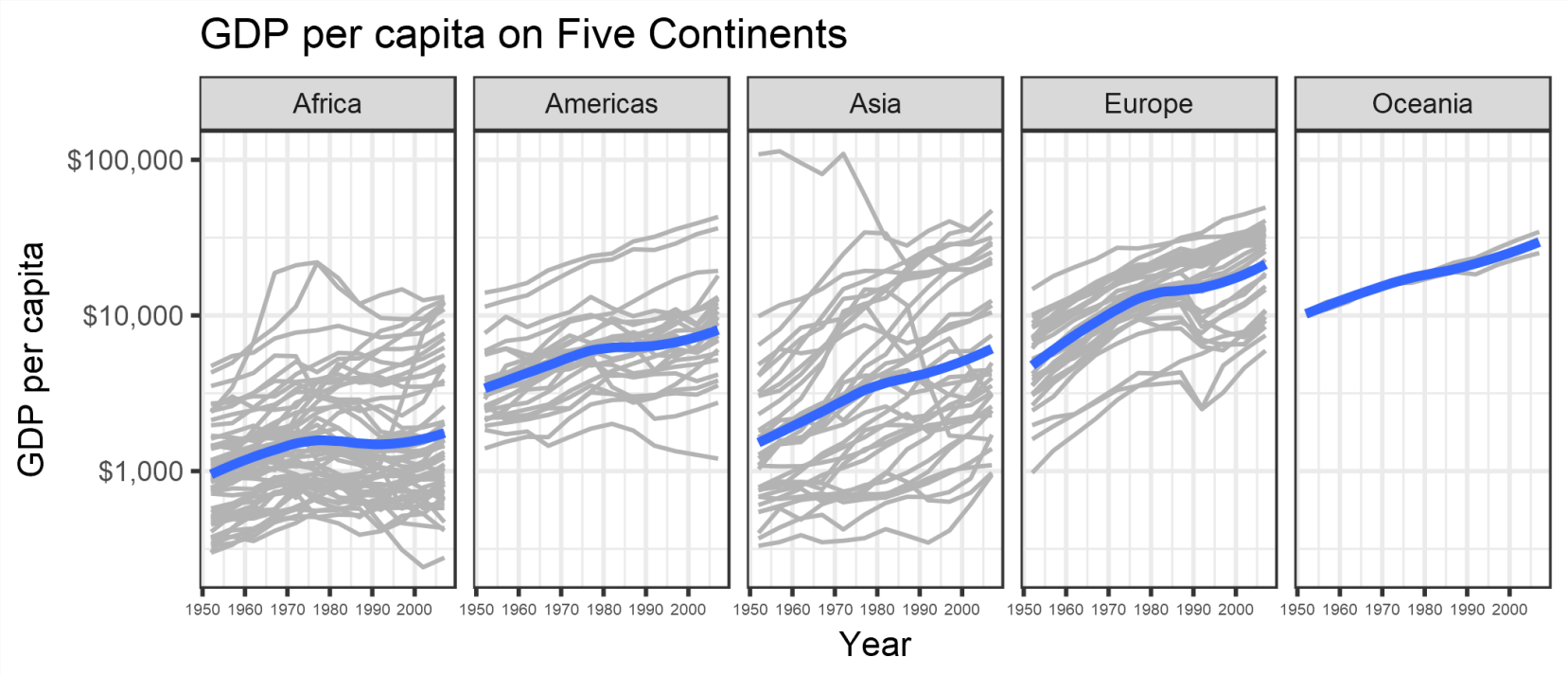
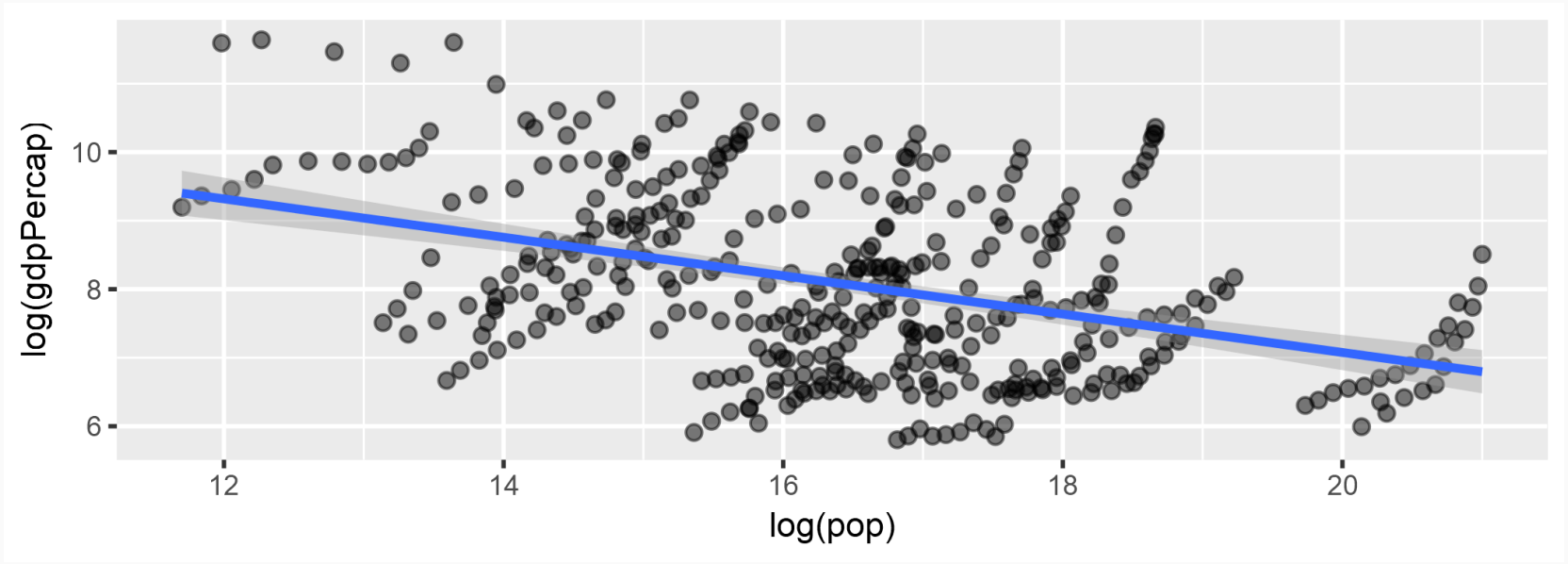


facets: more applications

Recall our example: relationship between GDP per capita and population in Asia.

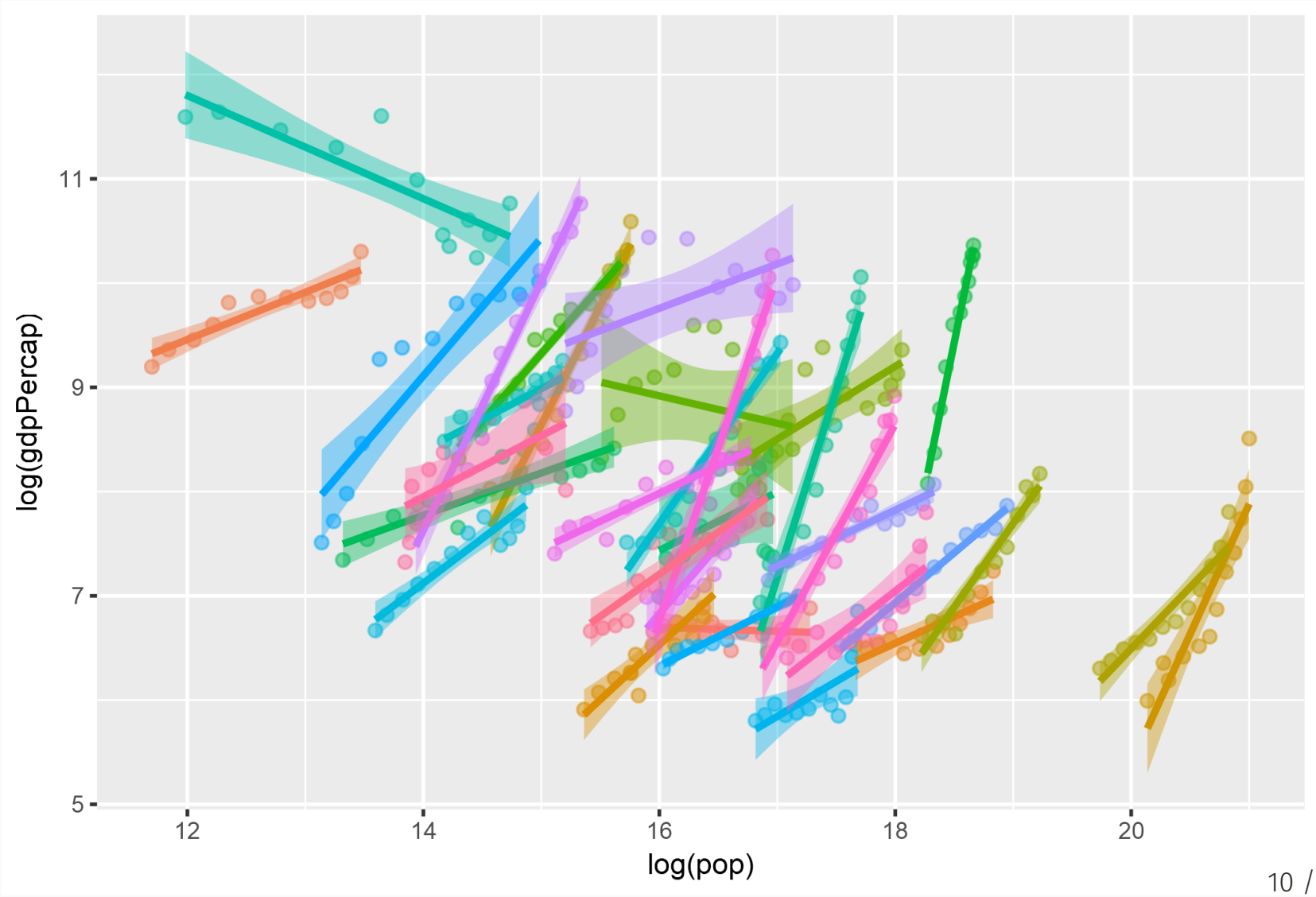


Really a negative relationship?

facets: more applications

Plot regression line by country (without facets)

facets: more applications

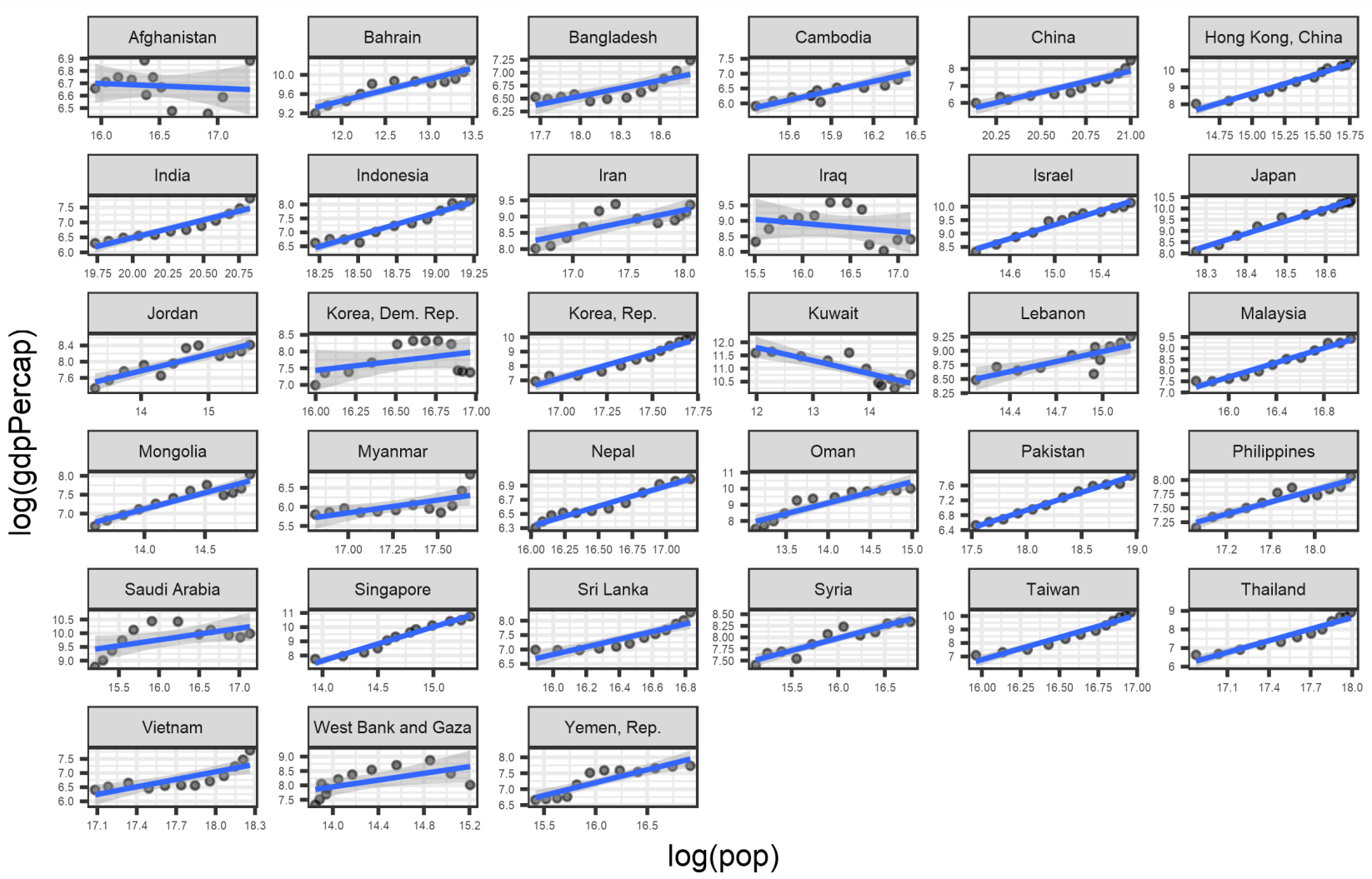


facets: more applications

Prior plot useful for MoMA, but not for the data analyst. How to do better?

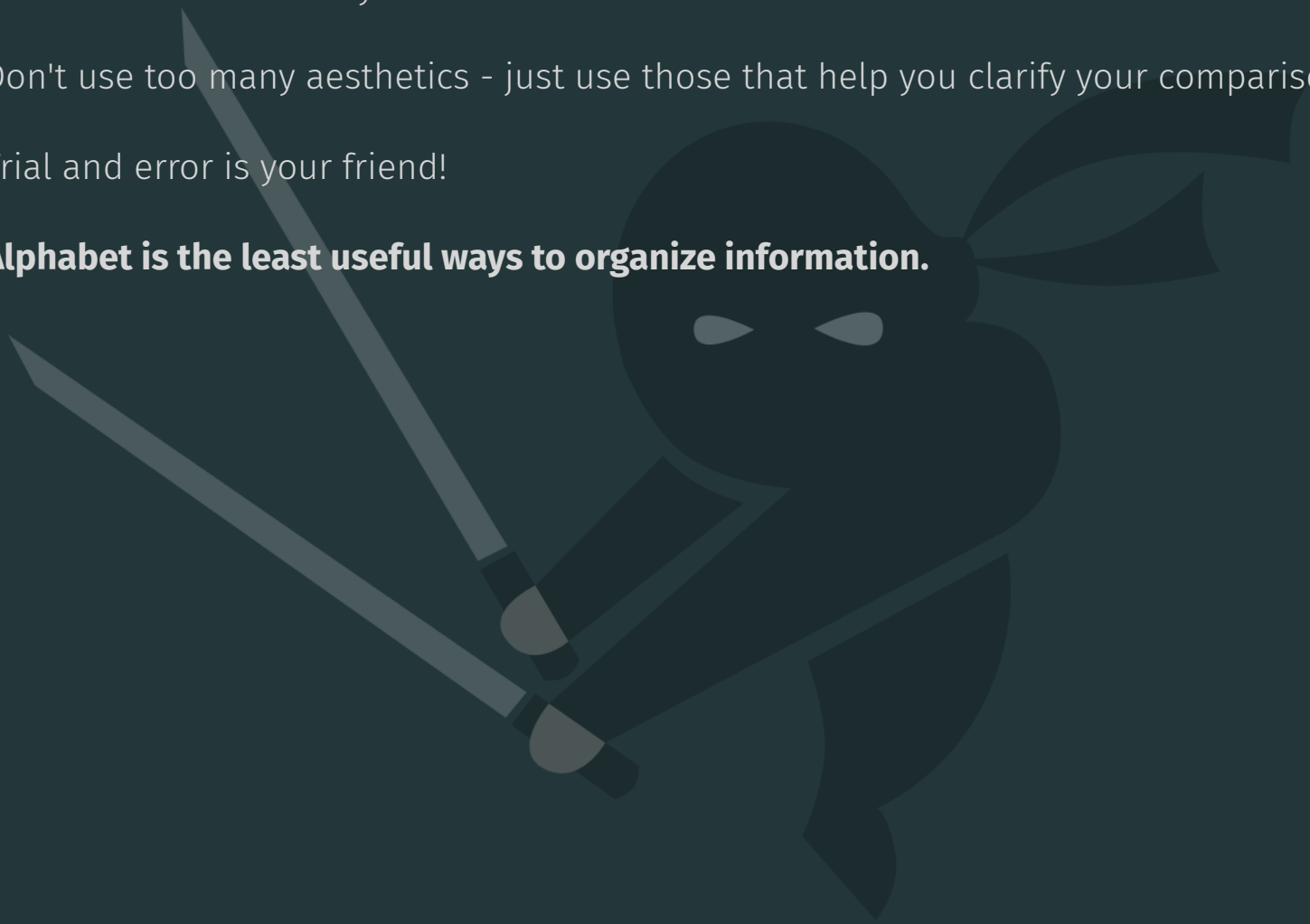
facets!

facets: more applications



Useful tips from the dataviz ninja

1. Think hard about *what* you want to visualize!
2. Don't use too many aesthetics - just use those that help you clarify your comparison!
3. Trial and error is your friend!
4. **Alphabet is the least useful ways to organize information.**



facets: order by summary statistic

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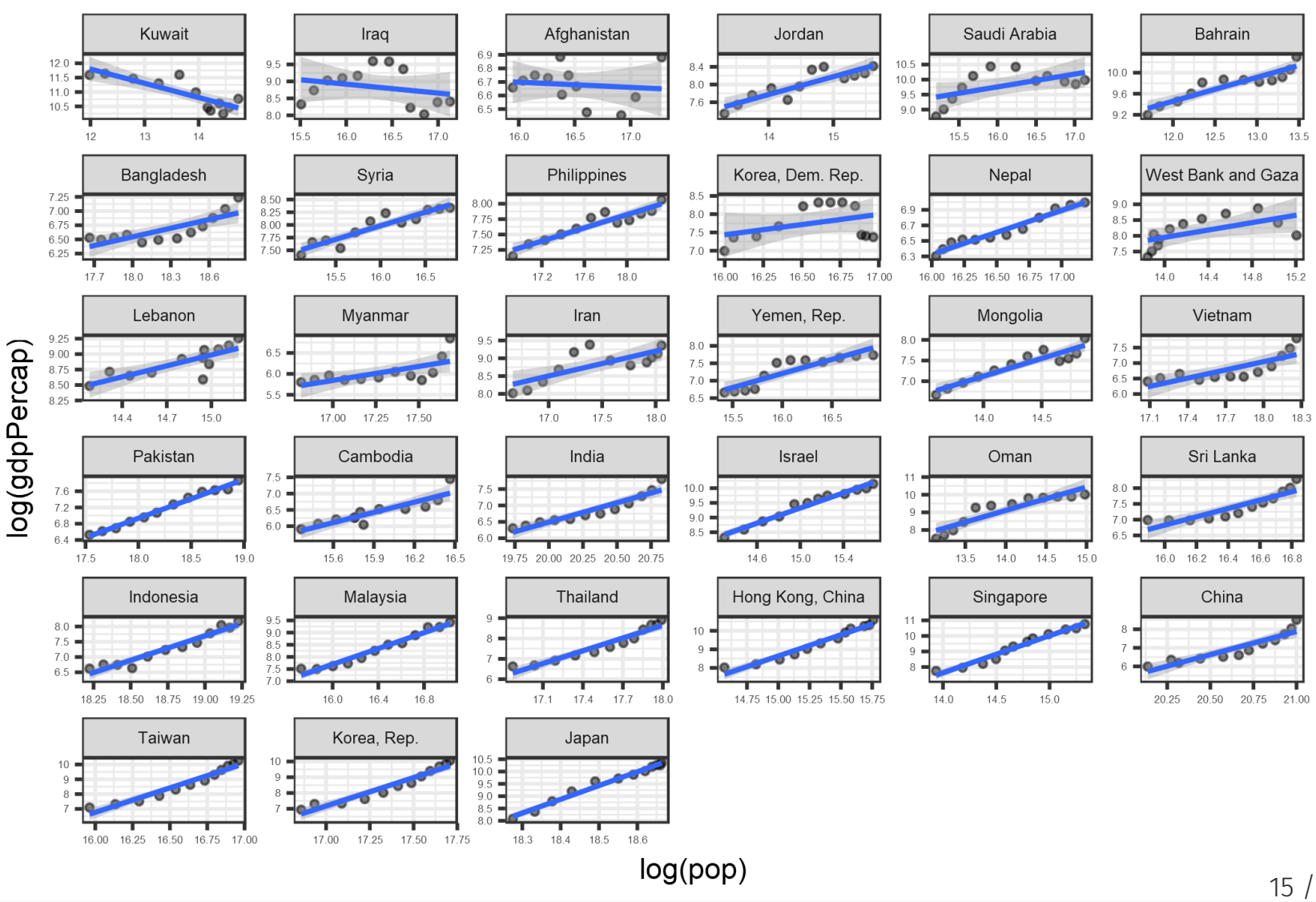
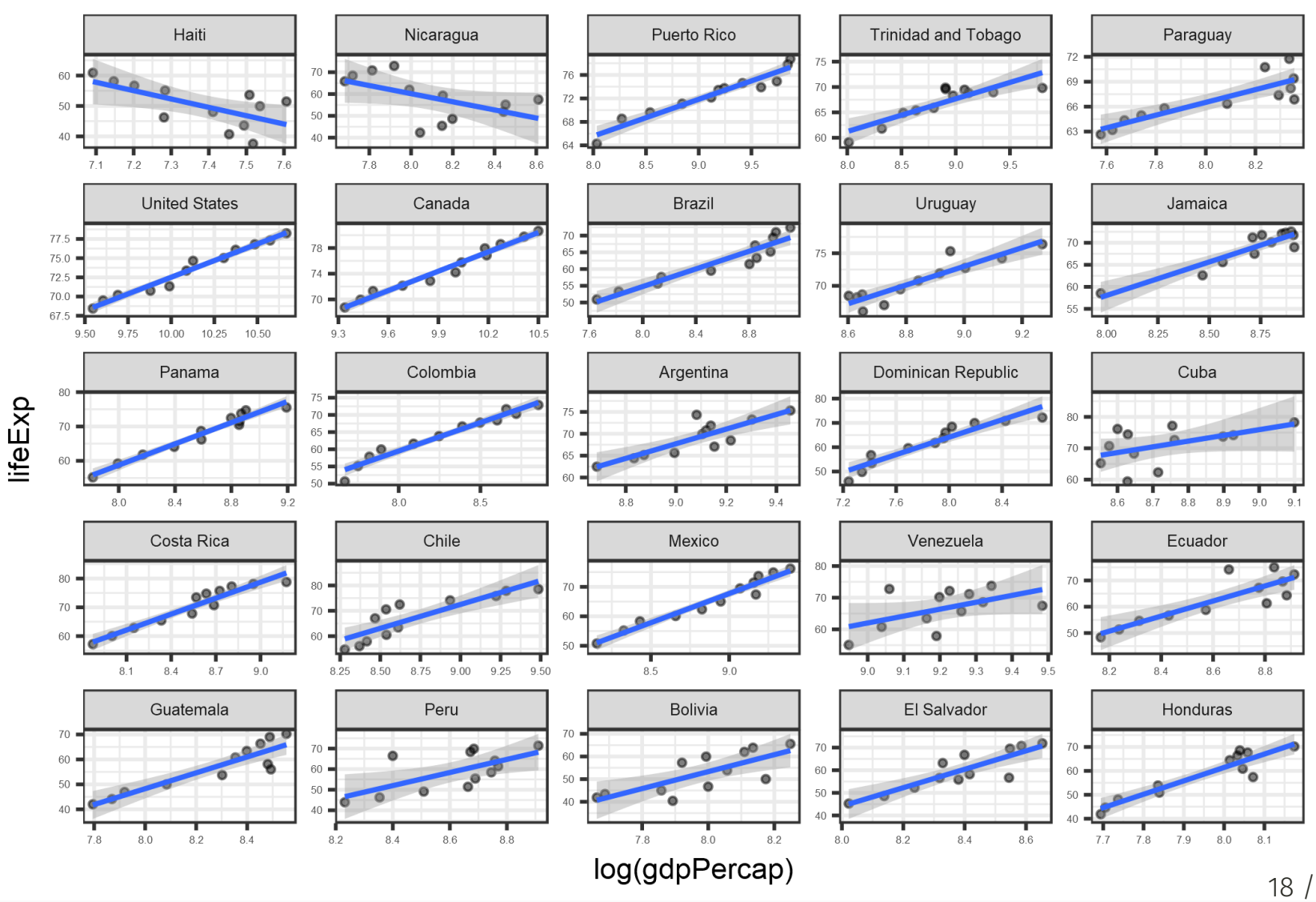


facets: Exercise

Plot the relationship between _____ and _____ in the Americas, faceted by _____.

Bonus: sort _____ by the direction + strength of the relationship between _____ and _____

What is surprising?

facets: Exercise Solution

facets: Exercise Solution