

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 604
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

SPRING 2017

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Office: CAS 145

Seminars: Mondays 13:00-15:45, STDB228D

Office Hours: Mondays-Wednesdays 10:00-11:00

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Course Description:

This graduate seminar is a comprehensive introduction to qualitative research methods used in the social sciences. Selection of topics, methods, techniques and research design tasks to be covered include, advantages and disadvantages of qualitative research in causal inference; conceptualization, concept stretching, measurement, and avoiding selection bias; case studies for theory development and testing, including comparative small-N case studies, most similar and most different case study designs, most likely and least likely case study designs, single case studies and within-case studies, deviant case studies and crucial case studies; the method of process tracing in great detail with numerous applications; the logic of knowledge accumulation in comparative research; causal and descriptive inference; time dimension of political processes and the four types of inter-temporal causality captured by the metaphors of “tornado, earthquake, meteorite, and global warming;” the role of periodization and preferences; relationship between ontology and methodology; typologies and typological theorizing; necessary and sufficient concept structure; natural experiments; counterfactual analysis; congruence method; content analysis; discourse analysis; interview techniques; ethnography and immersion; thick description; and useful tips and logistics of conducting fieldwork and archival research.

Course Readings:

The course has five books available for purchase at the Pandora bookstore on campus, a small course packet, and all the other readings are available online. The required books for the course and their current (2017) prices at Pandora Bookstore are as follows:

James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschmeyer (eds.), *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003. (Abbreviated as “CHASS” in the Reading List) \$26

Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005. (“CSTD” in the Reading List) \$25.6

Henry E. Brady and David Collier, *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, 2nd edition, New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010. (“RSI” in the Reading List) \$39

Şener Aktürk, *Regimes of Ethnicity and Nationhood in Germany, Russia, and Turkey*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. (“ROE” in the Reading List) \$22

Andrew Bennett and Jeffrey Checkel, *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015. (“PROCESS” in the Reading List) \$31

Course Requirements:

The course requirements consist of weekly discussion questions to be e-mailed to all members of the class (20%), four Qualitative Research Design Exercises to be written (32%), your Research Paper Proposal and its presentation to your peers (8%), and the actual final research paper that you will submit at the end of the semester (40%). All requirements except for the weekly e-mails have to be submitted in hardcopy to the instructor’s mailbox in CAS 177.

3 weekly discussion questions for 10 weeks	Due Sundays before 6:00 p.m.	20%
4 Qualitative Research Design Exercises (each exercise is worth 8% of the grade)	Due at 11:00 a.m. in February 27, March 13, April 3 and May 8 (max. 1,000 words)	32%
Research Paper Proposal (4%) + Research Paper Proposal Presentation (4%)	Proposal due April 12 and presentations in April 17	8%
Final Paper (maximum 7,500 words)	Due Monday, May 22 nd , 11:00 a.m.	40%

Grading Scale:

A (94% and above)

A- 90, 91, 92, 93%

B+ 87, 88, 89%

B 84, 85, 86%

B- 80, 81, 82, 83%
C+ 77, 78, 79%
C 74, 75, 76%
C- 70, 71, 72, 73%
D+ 67, 68, 69%
D (between 60 and 66%)
F (59% and below)

Seminar Schedule and Reading List

Week 1. February 6. Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods.

***** The required readings of Week 2 are the recommended readings for Week 1 *****

Introduction to the course and student introductions. Theory and practice of qualitative research. Being able to ask a question. Being able to evaluate the answers. Variation and the Puzzle. Various designs and their applications in recent award-winning research. E.g.:

APSA Section 37, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section Awards:
<<http://www.apsanet.org/MEMBERSHIP/Organized-Sections-by-Title/Organized-Section-Awards/Section-37>>

APSA Section 20, Comparative Politics Section Awards:
<<http://www.apsanet.org/MEMBERSHIP/Organized-Sections-by-Title/Organized-Section-Awards/Section-20>>

Week 2. February 13. Advantages and Diversity of Qualitative Research Methods: Examples of Theoretical Progress and Knowledge Accumulation

CSTD, Chapter 1, “Case Studies and Theory Development,” pp.1-36; and, Chapter 2, “Case Study Methods and Research on the Interdemocratic Peace,” pp.37-60.

CHASS, Chapter 1, “Comparative Historical Analysis: Achievements and Agendas,” pp.3-41; and, Chapter 2, James Goldstone, “Comparative Historical Analysis and Knowledge Accumulation in the Study of Revolutions,” pp.41-90.

RSI, “Introduction” & Chapter 1, “Refocusing the Discussion of Methodology,” pp.1-32.

PROCESS, Chptr 1, “Process tracing: from philosophical roots to best practices,” pp.3-37

Week 3. February 20. Designing Small-N Case Study Research: Most Similar (MSS) and Most Different Systems (MDS) Design and their combinations

CSTD, Part II, “How To Do Case Studies?,” Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, pp.61-124.

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979, Ch. 1, "Explaining 73.Social Revolutions: Alternatives to Existing Theories," pp.3-46. Course Packet.

Mounira Charrad, "State and Gender in the Maghrib," *Middle East Report*, March/April 1990 (8 pages) Online: <http://www.merip.org/mer/mer163/state-gender-maghrib>

ROE, Chapter 1, "Regimes of Ethnicity: Comparative Analysis of Germany, the Soviet Union, Post-Soviet Russia, and Turkey," pp.3-44.

James Mahoney and Gary Goertz, "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research," *Political Analysis*, Volume 14 (2006), pp.227-249. Available online: <http://pan.oxfordjournals.org/content/14/3/227.short>

Exercise #1: Design a Most Similar and Most Different Case Study (due Monday, February 27, 11:00 a.m.)

Week 4. February 27. Designing Single Case Study Research: Most Likely and Least Likely, Deviant and Crucial Cases, and Within-Case Research Designs

CHASS, Chapter 10, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, "Can One or a Few Cases Yield Theoretical Gains?" pp.305-336.

PROCESS, Chapter 2, Alan M. Jacobs, "Process tracing the effects of ideas," pp.41-73.

John Gerring, "Is There a (Viable) Crucial Case Method?" *Comparative Political Studies*, Volume 40, Number 3 (March 2007), pp.231-253. Available online: <http://cps.sagepub.com/content/40/3/231.abstract>

ROE, Chapter 2, "The Challenges to the Monoethnic Regime in Germany, 1955-1982," pp.47-73, and Chapter 3, "The Construction of an Assimilationist Discourse and Political Hegemony: Transition from a Monoethnic to an Antiethnic Regime in Germany, 1982-2000," pp.74-113.

Renske Doorenspleet & Petr Kopecký (2008) "Against the Odds: Deviant Cases of Democratization," *Democratization*, 15:4, 697-713. Available online: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13510340802191045#.VMeBfmSUec8>

David D. Laitin, *Identity in Formation: Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998, Chapter 1: "A Theory of Political Identities," pp.1-35. Course Packet.

Murat Somer, "Theory-consuming or Theory-producing?: Studying Turkey as a Theory-developing Critical Case," *Turkish Studies*, Vol.15, No.1, pp.571-588. Available online: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14683849.2014.986317>

Week 5. March 6. Process Tracing and Politics in Time: Tornados, Earthquakes, Meteorites and Global Warming

CHASS, Chapter 5, Paul Pierson, “Big, Slow-Moving, and... Invisible: Macrosocial Processes in the Study of Comparative Politics,” pp.177-207;

CSTD, Chapter 7, “Case Studies and the Philosophy of Science,” pp.127-150; and, Chapter 10, “Process-Tracing and Historical Explanation,” pp.205-232.

RSI, Chapter 10, Andrew Bennett, “Process Tracing and Causal Inference,” pp.207-220. RSI, Addendum, David Collier, “Teaching Process Tracing,” pp.243-244.

PROCESS, Chapter 3, Jeffrey T. Checkel, “Mechanisms, process, and the study of international institutions,” pp.74-97.

PROCESS, Chapter 4, Frank Schimmelfennig, “Efficient process tracing: analyzing the causal mechanisms of European Integration,” pp.98-125.

ROE, Chapter 4, “Challenges to the Ethnicity Regime in Turkey: Alevi and Kurdish Demands for Recognition, 1923-1980,” pp.117-163; and, ROE, Chapter 5, “From Social Democracy to Islamic Multiculturalism: Failed and Successful Attempts to Reform the Ethnicity Regime in Turkey, 1980-2009,” pp.163-194.

Sener Akturk, “Religion and Nationalism: Contradictions of Islamic Origins and Secular Nation-Building in Turkey, Algeria, and Pakistan.” *Social Science Quarterly* 96, no. 3 (2015): 778-806. Available online: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ssqu.12191/abstract>

Exercise #2: Design a most likely or least likely and crucial or deviant case study; specify the temporal dimension of the causality you are explaining. (due Monday, March 13, 11:00 a.m.)

Week 6. March 13. Process Tracing, Periodization, Preferences, Counterfactuals and the Congruence Method

Chapter 6, Kathleen Thelen, “How Institutions Evolve: Insights from Comparative Historical Analysis,” pp.208-240;

Chapter 8, Ira Katznelson, “Periodization and Preferences: Reflections on Purposive Action in Comparative Historical Social Science,” pp.270-304.

CSTD, Chapter 8, “Comparative Methods: Controlled Comparison and Within-Case Analysis,” pp.151-179;

CSTD, Chapter 9, "The Congruence Method," pp.181-204.

PROCESS, Chapter 5, David Waldner, "What makes process tracing good? Causal mechanisms, causal inference, and the completeness standard in comparative politics," pp.126-152.

PROCESS, Chapter 6, Matthew Evangelista, "Explaining the Cold War's end: Process tracing all the way down?," pp.153-185.

Week 7. March 20. Typologies and Typological Theorizing

David Collier and Steven Levitsky, "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research," *World Politics*, Volume 49, Number 3 (1997), pp.430-451.

Available Online:

<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/25054009?uid=3739192&uid=2129&uid=2&uid=70&uid=4&sid=21101737405157>

Bogaards, Matthijs. "How to classify hybrid regimes? Defective democracy and electoral authoritarianism." *Democratization* 16, no. 2 (2009): 399-423. Available Online:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13510340902777800#.VMeArGSUec8>

CSTD, Chapter 11, "Integrating Comparative and Within-Case Analysis: Typological Theory," pp.233-262.

David Edelstein, "Occupational Hazards: Why Military Occupations Succeed or Fail," *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (Summer 2004), pp.49-91. Available Online:

https://muse.jhu.edu/login?auth=0&type=summary&url=/journals/international_security/v029/29.1edelstein.html

Week 8. March 27. Natural Experiments

Diana Dumitru and Carter Johnson, "Constructing Interethnic Conflict and Cooperation: Why Some People Harmed Jews and Others Helped Them During the Holocaust in Romania," *World Politics*, Vol. 63, No. 1 (January 2011), pp.1-42. Available Online:

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=7957274>

Daniel Posner, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi," *American Political Science Review*, Volume 98, Number 4 (2004). Available Online:

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=265342>

Hyde, Susan. 2007. "The Observer Effect in International Politics: Evidence from a Natural Experiment." *World Politics* 60: 37-63. Available Online:

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=7625492>

Clingingsmith, David, Asim Ijaz Khwaja, and Michael Kremer. 2009. "Estimating the Impact of the Hajj: Religion and Tolerance in Islam's Global Gathering." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124(3): 1133–1170. Available Online: <http://qje.oxfordjournals.org/content/124/3/1133.short>

Jason Lyall, "Does Indiscriminate Violence Incite Insurgent Attacks? Evidence from Chechnya." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53(3) 2009: 331–362. Available Online: <http://jcr.sagepub.com/content/53/3/331.abstract>

PROCESS, Chapter 7, Jason Lyall, "Process tracing, causal inference, and civil war," pp.186-207.

PROCESS, Chapter 8, Thad Dunning, "Improving process tracing: The case of multi-method research," pp.211-236.

Exercise #3: Design a Natural Experiment. Formulate a typological theory. In both designs, provide a "causal graph" and pay attention to the "completeness standard." (Due Wednesday, April 3, 11:00 a.m.)

Week 9. April 3. *Rethinking Social Inquiry* and Questions of Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement

RSI, ENTIRE BOOK except for Chapters 1, 10, Addendum (assigned in previous weeks).

**Additional Session (Week 10) to be scheduled for April 5.
Content and Discourse Analysis**

Jennifer Milliken, "The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods." *European Journal of International Relations* Vol. 5, No. 2, 1999: 225-254. Available online: <http://ejt.sagepub.com/content/5/2/225.extract>

ROE, Chapter 6, "The Nation That Wasn't There? *Sovetskii Narod* Discourse, Nation Building, and Passport Ethnicity, 1953-1983," pp.197-228.

ROE, Chapter 7, "Ethnic Diversity and State Building in Post-Soviet Russia: Removal of Ethnicity from the Internal Passport and Its Aftermath, 1992-2008," pp.229-273. Also reread, ROE, Chapter 3, pp.76-86.

Ted Hopf, "Discourse and Content Analysis: Some Fundamental Incompatibilities." *Qualitative Methods Newsletter* Spring 2004: 32-34. Available Online: http://www.academia.edu/2097485/Discourse_Analysis_and_Content_Analysis_Fundamental_Incompatibilities

PROCESS, Chapter 9, Vincent Pouliot, "Practice tracing," pp.237-259.

PROCESS, Chapter 10, "Beyond metaphors: Standards, theory, and the 'where next' for process tracing," pp.260-275.

April 7. Research Paper Proposals Due for collective circulation
(Written proposals will be evaluated separately than the oral presentation but you will receive the evaluation for both of them only after the oral presentations.)

SPRING BREAK (April 10-14)

Think about & clarify your conceptualization → operationalization → measurement, including "causal graphs" for your preliminary and alternative explanations!

Week 11. April 17. Research Proposal Presentations

Maximum 10 minutes presentation + 10 minutes feedback (20 minutes x 8 = 160 min.)
10-20 minutes general/extra feedback, 15 minutes break (extended session, 13:00-15:55)

Week 12. April 24. Ethnography and Thick Description

Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," in *The Interpretation of Cultures*, New York: Basic Books, 1973, pp.3-32. Course Packet.

Nancy Ries, *Russian Talk: Culture and Conversation during Perestroika*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997, pp.1-51. Course Packet.

Lisa Wedeen, *Ambiguities of Domination*, Chapter 1, "Believing in Spectacles," Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999, pp.1-31. Course Packet.

May 1. Official Holiday. Focus and work on writing your research paper this week!

Exercise #4. Design a research project based on content analysis, discourse analysis, or ethnography. Include a causal graph. Due May 8, 11:00 a.m.

Week 13. May 8. Fieldwork: Debates on the Best Practices and Ethical Challenges

Soledad Loaeza, Randy Stevenson, and Devra C. Moehler. 2005. "Symposium: Should Everyone Do Fieldwork?" *APSA-CP* 16(2) 2005: 8-18. Available Online:
<http://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/APSANET/6233bddb-d2bc-4229-b4c6-20f8ce355ae4/UploadedImages/2005%20Summer.pdf>

David Collier, "Data, Field Work and Extracting New Ideas at Close Range." *APSA – CP Newsletter* 10(1) 1999: 1-6. Available Online:
http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1757215

Sheila Carapico, Janine A. Clark, Amaney Jamal, David Romano, Jilian Schwedler, and Mark Tessler. 2006. "The Methodologies of Field Research in the Middle East." *PS: Political Science and Politics* XXXIX (3). Online. All the volume:
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?jid=PSC&volumeId=39&seriesId=0&issueId=03>

Elisabeth Wood, "The Ethical Challenges of Field Research in Conflict Zones." *Qualitative Sociology* 29(3) 2006: 307-41. Available Online:
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11133-006-9027-8?LI=true>

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE AT 11:00 A.M., ON MONDAY, MAY 22nd