

612 Qualitative Research Design

Course Location and Time: VKC 204, Mondays 5-7:50

Professor Jonathan Markowitz

Office Hours: Friday's 1-2 and 3-4

Description of the Course and Goals:

The goal of this course is to teach scholars how to design convincing research using qualitative evidence and assumes that you have taken POIR 610 Research Design. Although qualitative research can be used to develop and illustrate theory and concepts, most of our time together will focus on how to design research that utilizes qualitative evidence to evaluate the observable implications of theory. Students will learn how to evaluate and design research using five different types of validity, each with its own dedicated segment of the course (Fariss 2015). The first section begins by developing the tools to evaluate the deductive validity of a theory. The second section focuses on construct validity and the relationship between theories of measurement and qualitative evidence in building valid theoretical constructs. The third section hones in on internal validity and how to use evidence and design to best tackle the challenges associated with causal inference. The fourth section centers on external validity and tools to deal with the limitations of generalizing from cases. The fifth and final section closes with a discussion of conclusion validity: What are the author's conclusions and based on the validity of their research how strong are they? Conclusion validity is based on the combined strength of the other four types of validity (deductive, construct, internal and external). Given that few individual pieces of research are able to guard against all threats to validity, the final two weeks of the course focus on using multiple designs in research. The goal of this section is simple and practical: to offer scholars a template for selecting multiple research designs that collectively enhance the conclusion validity of the project (i.e. a dissertation).

Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. The phone number for DSP is 213-740-0776. If you need assistance with the process, please contact me at the phone number or e-mail address above.

Academic Dishonesty

I take academic dishonesty EXTREMELY seriously. Any student violating USC's Academic Dishonesty or Student Conduct policies will earn an 'F' in the course and will be reported to the appropriate administrators for investigation. You are responsible for reviewing the Trojan Integrity Guide: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tio.pdf> and the guide for avoiding plagiarism: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tig.pdf>

Assignments

Homework, Presentations and Participation-50%

I will assign various homework assignment and presentations. Assignments will consist mainly of summarizing, illustrating and critiquing existing research designs. Students will also be responsible for presenting their own research designs and discussing the design of their peers. Each week we will discuss several designs: Each design will have a presenter that that is in charge of summarizing and critiquing the theory and design from the assigned readings. Homework will be assigned in class and will be due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late homework is not accepted.

Final Paper and Presentation -50%

The final paper is due on the last day of the class. Students may either submit a research design prospectus or paper that demonstrates command of the methods and designs taught in the class. Papers should be no longer than 20 pages, including tables, graphs, references, and appendices. I will discuss more details about the paper as the semester progresses. These papers are not designed to be full-blown papers that are ready for submission, but are rather an opportunity for you to develop the research design for a research project. You are also required to give a short conference length presentation (12 minutes or less) of your proposed project. The goal of this presentation is to hone your skills at presenting your question and design in a conference-like setting.

Class Schedule

January 9: Introduction

Lecture:

Class Organization and Overview

The 5 Types of Validity

January 16: NO CLASS – MLK Day

SECTION 1: Deductive Validity

January 23: Theory and Concepts, Theory Building

- 1) Wagner, R. Harrison. *War and the State: The Theory of International Politics*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2007. (Chapter 1)
- 2) Frieden, Jeffrey A, and David A Lake. "International Relations as a Social Science: Rigor and Relevance." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 600, no. 1 (2005): 136-56.

- 3) Walt, Stephen M. "Rigor or Rigor Mortis?: Rational Choice and Security Studies." *International Security* 23, no. 4 (1999): 5-48.
- 4) Lake, David A. "Why "isms" Are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress1." *International Studies Quarterly* 55, no. 2 (2011): 465-480.

Discussion Readings:

- 5) Glaser, Charles L. *Rational Theory of International Politics*: Princeton University Press, 2010. (Chapter 1-3)
- 6) Fearon, James D. "Two States, Two Types, Two Actions." *Security Studies* 20, no. 3 (2011): 431-40

SECTION 2: Construct Validity

January 30: Units, Concepts and Constructs

- 1) "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" *American Political Science Review* 98, no. 02 (2004): 341-54.
- 2) Geddes, B. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*: University of Michigan Press, 2003, Chapter 2 Big Questions, Little Answers. How the Question you Choose Affect the Answer you get. **Page 27-89**
- 3) Zakaria, Fareed. "Realism and Domestic Politics: A Review Essay." *International Security* 17, no. 1 (1992): 177-98.
- 4) Achen, Christopher, and Duncan Snidal. "Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies." *World Politics* 41, no. 2 (1989): 143--69.
- 5) Lake, David. *Hierarchy in International Relations*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2009. Chapters 2-3

February 6: Indicators and Measurement Strategies

- 1) Geddes, B. *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*: University of Michigan Press, 2003, Chapter 4 How the Evidence you Use Affect the Answers you Get

Discussion Readings:

- 2) Wohlforth, William C. "The Stability of a Unipolar World." *International Security* 24, no. 1 (1999): 5-41.
- 3) Beckley, Michael. "China's Century? Why America's Edge Will Endure." *International Security* 36, no. 3 (2012): 41-78.
- 4) Yarhi-Milo, Keren. "In the Eye of the Beholder: How Leaders and Intelligence Communities Assess the Intentions of Adversaries." *International Security* 38, no. 1 (2013): 7-51.
- 5) Beckley, Michael. "The myth of entangling alliances: reassessing the security risks of US Defense Pacts." *International Security* 39.4 (2015): 7-48.
- 6) Hollyer, James R., B. Peter Rosendorff, and James Raymond Vreeland. "Measuring transparency." *Political analysis* (2014)

February 13: Using Primary, Secondary and Archival Sources

- 1) Trachtenberg, Marc. *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method*: Princeton University Press, 2009 Chapters 3 and Chapter 5.
- 2) Lustick, Ian S. "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias." *The American political science review* 90, no. 3 (1996): 605-18.
- 3) Shiffrinson, Joshua R. Itzkowitz. "Deal or No Deal? The End of the Cold War and the US Offer to Limit NATO Expansion." *International Security* 40.4 (2016): 7-4

Discussion Readings:

- 3) Trachtenberg, Marc. "Audience Costs: An Historical Analysis." *Security Studies* 21, no. 1 (2012): 3-42.

- 4) Snyder, Jack, and Erica D Borghard. "The Cost of Empty Threats: A Penny, Not a Pound." *American Political Science Review* 105, no. 03 (2011): 437-56.
- 5) Gartzke, Erik, and Yonatan Lupu. "Still Looking for Audience Costs." *Security Studies* 21, no. 3 (2012): 391-97.
- 6) Saunders, Elizabeth. War and the Inner Circle: Democratic Elites and the Politics of Using Force. Forthcoming, *Security Studies*

Additional Reading

- Thies, Cameron. "A Pragmatic Guide to Qualitative Historical Analysis in the Study of International Relations," *International Studies Perspectives* 3(4) (November) 351-372.
- Frisch, Scott, Douglas Harris, Sean Kelly and David Parker. "Taking the Road Less Traveled," in Frisch, Harris, Kelly and Parker, eds. *Doing Archival Research in Political Science* (Amherst: Cambria Press, 2012), Chapter 1, pp. 1-32.
- Trachtenberg, Marc. "Identifying the Scholarly Literature" and "Working with Primary Sources." Available on line at:

<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/faculty/trachtenberg/methbk/AppendixI.html>

<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/faculty/trachtenberg/methbk/AppendixII.html>

Further Empirical Examples

- Elizabeth Saunders, *Leaders at War: How Presidents Shape Military Interventions* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011).
- Trachtenberg, Marc. "De Gaulle, Moravcsik, and Europe," *Journal of Cold War Studies*, 2000, vol. 2, no. 3, pp. 101-116.
- Christensen, Thomas. *Worse than a Monolith: Alliance Politics and Coercive Diplomacy in Asia* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011).
- Christensen, Thomas J. and Jack Snyder, "Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity," *International Organization* (Spring 1990).
- Christensen, Thomas and Jack Snyder. "Correspondence: Mobilization and Inadvertence in the July Crisis," *International Security*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Summer 1991).

February 20: NO CLASS – Presidents Day

SECTION 3: Internal Validity

February 27: Causal Inference and the Problem of Selecting Case Studies

- 1) Geddes, Barbara. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis* 2, no. 1 (1990): 131-50.
- 2) Gerring, John, and Rose McDermott. "An Experimental Template for Case Study Research." *American Journal of Political Science* 51, no. 3 (2007): 688-701
- 3) Gerring, John. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*: Cambridge University Press, 2007 (Chapter 5)

Discussion Readings:

- 4) Rosato, Sebastian. "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory." *American Political Science Review* 97, no. 4 (2003): 585--602.
- 5) Slantchev, Branislav, Anna Alexandrova, and Erik Gartzke. "Probabilistic Causality, Selection Bias, and the Logic of the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 99, no. 3 (2005): 459--62.

March 6: Quasi, Natural and Field Experiments and Qualitative Evidence

- 1) Dunning, Thad. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences: A Design-Based Approach*: Cambridge University Press, 2012 (Chapter 1 pg 1-38 and Chapter 7)
- 2) Hyde, Susan D. "The Future of Field Experiments in International Relations." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 628, no. 1 (2010): 72-84.

Discussion Readings:

- 3) Ramsay, Kristopher W. "Revisiting the Resource Curse: Natural Disasters, the Price of Oil, and Democracy." *International Organization* (2011): pp. 507–29.
- 4) Jha, Saumitra, and Steven Wilkinson. "Does Combat Experience Foster Organizational Skill? Evidence from Ethnic Cleansing During the Partition of South Asia." *American Political Science Review* 106, no. 04 (2012): 883-907.
- 5) Hyde, Susan D. "The Observer Effect in International Politics: Evidence from a Natural Experiment." *World Politics* 60, no. 1 (2007): 37-63.

6) Alcoholics Anonymous and the Challenge of Evidence-Based Medicine.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/07/upshot/alcoholics-anonymous-and-the-challenge-of-evidence-based-medicine.html?rref=upshot&module=Ribbon&version=origin®ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=The%20Upshot&pgtype=article&abt=0002&abg=0>

March 13: NO CLASS Spring Break

March 20: Case study Research Design—Comparing Across Units

1) Nielsen, Richard A. "Case Selection Via Matching." *Sociological Methods & Research* (2014).

2) King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*: Princeton University Press, 1994 pg. 75-114).--CUT

Discussion Readings:

3) Weeks, Jessica LP. *Dictators at War and Peace*: Cornell University Press, 2014. Read Chapters 1, 4,5,6 and conclusion

4) Saunders, Elizabeth. *No substitute for experience: Presidents, advisers, and information in group decision-making*. Forthcoming IO, 2016.

5) Saunders, Elizabeth, " Transformative Choices: Leaders and the Origins of Intervention Strategy, " *International Security* 34, 2 (2009), pp.119 - 161.

March 27: Counter-Factuals, Critical Junctures and Single Case Designs

1) Process Tracing: George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005. Chapter 10 on Process Tracing and Historical explanations (read only pages 205-223--CUT

2) Bennett, Andrew, and Jeffrey T Checkel. *Process Tracing*: Cambridge University Press, 2014. Read Chapters 7 Lyall and 8 Dunning.

3) Fearon, James D. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science." *World Politics* 43, no. 2 (1991): 169-95.

4) Capoccia, Giovanni, and R. Daniel Keleman. "The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism." *World Politics* 59, no. 3 (2007): 341-69.

Discussion Readings:

5) Morrison, James Ashley. "Before Hegemony: Adam Smith, American Independence, and the Origins of the First Era of Globalization—Erratum." *International Organization* FirstView (2012): 1-1.

6) Tannenwald, Nina. "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use." *International Organization* 53, no. 03 (1999): 433-68.

7) Brooks, Risa. "An Autocracy at War: Explaining Egypt's Military Effectiveness, 1967 and 1973." *Security Studies* 15, no. 3 (2006): 396-430.

SECTION 4: External Validity

April 3: The Problem of Generalizing

1) Eckstein, Harry. "Case Study and Theory in Political Science. Greenstein, E and N. Polsby, Eds. *Handbook of Political Science* (Vol. 7)." London: Addison-Wesley, 1975.

2) Levy, Jack S. "Case Studies: Types, Designs, and Logics of Inference." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 25, no. 1 (2008): 1-18.

3) Gerring, John. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*: Cambridge University Press, 2007. (Chapter 3)

Discussion Readings:

4) Press, Daryl G. "The Credibility of Power." *International Security* 29, no. 3 (2004): 135--69.

5) Fordham, Benjamin O. "Power or Plenty? Economic Interests, Security Concerns, and American Intervention." *International Studies Quarterly* 52, no. 4 (2008): 737-58

6) Ross, Michael L. "How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases." *International Organization* 58, no. 1 (2004): 35-67.

Make-Up Class (TBA): Alternative Criteria for Selecting Cases

Exogenous Shocks as a measurement strategy

- 1) Frieden, Jeffrey A. "Actors and Preferences in International Relations." In *Strategic Choice and International Relations*, edited by David A. Lake and Bob Powell, 39-76, 1999
- 2) Gourevitch, Peter Alexis. "Breaking with Orthodoxy: The Politics of Economic Policy Responses to the Depression of the 1930s." *International Organization* 38, no. 1 (1984): 95-129.

Probing the Causal Mechanism: Deviant Cases

- 3) McDonald, Patrick J, and Kevin Sweeney. "The Achilles' Heel of Liberal IR Theory?: Globalization and Conflict in the Pre-World War I Era." *World Politics* 59, no. 03 (2007): 370-403.
- 4) Gartzke, Erik, and Yonatan Lupu. "Trading on Preconceptions: Why World War I Was Not a Failure of Economic Interdependence." *International Security* 36, no. 4 (2012): 115-50.

Illustrating Theory

- 5) Lake, David A. "Legitimizing Power: The Domestic Politics of Us International Hierarchy." *International Security* 38, no. 2 (2013): 74-111.

Analytic Narratives

- 6) Bates, Robert H., Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, and Barry Weingast. "The Analytical Narrative Project." *The American Political Science Review* 94, no. 3 (2000): 696-702.

SECTION 5: Conclusion Validity

April 10: Mixed Methods and Medium-N Designs

- 1) Haggard, Stephan, and Robert r. Kaufman. "Inequality and Regime Change: Democratic Transitions and the Stability of Democratic Rule." *American Political Science Review* 107, no. 3 (2012). Daily
- 2) McDonald, Patrick J. *The Invisible Hand of Peace: Capitalism, the War Machine, and International Relations Theory*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009. (Skim Ch 1, Chapter 3, skim 4 +5, read 6 and Conclusion)
- 3) Colgan, Jeff. *Petro-Aggression : When Oil Causes War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. (Chapter 1-3, 11)

4) Biddle, Stephen D. *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle*: Princeton University Press, 2006.—Ch 1, 3-7, skim 8, 9) read 10.

5) Dunning, Thad. *Crude Democracy: Natural Resource Wealth and Political Regimes* Cambridge University Press Cambridge, 2008. Entire Book.---two teams—Team 1 draw the theory, Team 2

April 17: Class Presentations

April 24: Class Presentations