

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**  
**Department of Political Science**

<b>Comparative Case Study Method</b>	<b>Robert Pape</b>
<b>Political Science 50900</b>	<b>Tuesdays: 1:30-4:20 pm, Pick 506</b>
<b>Spring 2014</b>	<b>Office Hours: Wednesdays 4:00-5:00</b>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course examines the logic and practice of causal inference in qualitative analysis. It compares the multiple theories of causal inference that underlie the main approaches to research using comparative case studies.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** This course involves heavy reading. Every student is expected to do all the readings, attend all sessions, and make two presentations. Grades will be based on class participation (33%) and a final paper (66%). The final paper must be one of the following: a) a reconstruction of a case study conducted by another scholar, b) a case study chapter from the student's own PhD dissertation, or c) an empirical test part of the student's own research article which uses case studies. The final paper should be no longer than 5000 words (approx. 20 pages). To facilitate completion of paper during the quarter, students must adhere to the following due dates: 1 page proposal on Tuesday May 13; final paper (in hard copy) on Friday June 13 at 4pm in Pick 418.

The following books are available for purchase at the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

- Graham Allison and Philip Zelikow, Essence of Decision, 2nd Edition (Longman 1999).
- Robert Bates et al, Analytic Narratives (Princeton University Press 1998).
- Peter Hedström and Richard Swedberg, eds., Social Mechanisms: An Analytical Approach to Social Theory (Cambridge University Press 1998).
- Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba, Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research (Princeton University Press 1994).
- Lisa L. Martin, Coercive Cooperation (Princeton University Press 1992).
- Robert A. Pape, Bombing to Win (Cornell University Press 1996).
- Theda Skocpol, States and Social Revolutions (Cambridge University Press 1979).
- Stephen Van Evera, Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science (Cornell University Press 1997).
- Lisa Wedeen, Ambiguities of Domination (University of Chicago Press 1999).
- Stathis Kalyvas, The Logic of Violence in Civil War (Cambridge University Press 2006),

Other assigned readings will be placed on Chalk, reserve in the library, or are available at the indicated websites.

- (E-journals)      Link from the electronic journals entry in the library catalog
- (JSTOR)            <http://www.jstor.org>
- (Project MUSE)    <http://muse.jhu.edu>
- (ProQuest)        ProQuest in library's electronic resources; "guided search" is most efficient

## COURSE OUTLINE

### April 1: Organizational Meeting and “Observables” Debate

- Milton Friedman, “Methodology of Positive Economics,” all 6 sections, eg.: <http://members.shaw.ca/compilerpress1/Anno%20Friedman%20Positive%20b.htm>
- Paul MacDonald, “Useful Fiction or Miracle Maker: The Competing Epistemological Foundations of Rational Choice Theory,” American Political Science Review Vol. 97, No. 4 (November 2003), pp. 551-565.

### April 8: Competing Theories of Causal Inference

- Conditional Approach to Causal Inference
  - J. S. Mill, A System of Logic, Introduction and Book III, chapters I, V, VII, and VIII
- Statistical Approach to Causal Inference
  - Karl Pearson, Grammar of Science, Ch IV “Cause and Effect – Probability”
  - Paul Holland, “Statistics and Causal Inference,” Journal of the American Statistical Association, Vol. 81, No. 396 (Dec., 1986), pp. 945-960.
- Social Mechanism Approach to Causal Inference
  - Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations, pp. 7-16.
  - Hedström and Swedberg eds., Social Mechanisms, chapter 1.
  - David Dessler, “Beyond Correlations,” International Studies Quarterly, Vol. 35, No. 3 (Sep., 1991), pp. 337-355.

### April 15: Statistical Approach to Case Studies

- The Method
  - King, Keohane, and Verba, Designing Social Inquiry, entire.
- The Practice
  - Lisa L. Martin, Coercive Cooperation, chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, and pp. 95-97.

### April 22: Plausibility Probes and Conditional Approach to Case Studies

- Plausibility Probes
  - Method: Harry Eckstein, “Case Study and Theory in Political Science,” in F. Greenstein and N. Polsby, eds., Handbook of Political Science, Vol. 7: Strategies of Inquiry (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1975), pp. 79-135.
- Practice: Pape, Bombing to Win, chapter 6. (skim)
- Conditional Approach
  - Method
    - Van Evera, Guide to Methods, chapters 1 and 2.
    - George and Bennett, Case Studies and Theory Development, chapters 8 and 9.
  - Practice
- Theda Skocpol, States and Social Revolutions, pp. 3-157.
- James Mahoney, “Nominal, Ordinal, and Narrative Appraisal in Macrocausal Analysis,” American Journal of Sociology (January 1999), pp. 1154-1169 (half the article)

- John J. Mearsheimer, Conventional Deterrence (Cornell University Press 1985), Chapters 1, 2, and 4.

### **April 29: NO CLASS**

### **May 6: Social Mechanisms Approach to Case Studies**

- The Method
  - John Gerring, "The Case Study: What It Is and What It Does," in C. Boix and S. C. Stokes eds., Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics (Oxford University Press 2007), chapter 4.
  - Hedström and Swedberg eds., Social Mechanisms, chapters 1-4, 6, 9, and 10.
- The Practice
  - Allison and Zelikow, Essence of Decision, Introduction and chapters 3 and 4.
  - Hedström and Swedberg eds., Social Mechanisms, chapter 11.

### **May 9 (FRIDAY): Process Tracing and Time Slice Analysis**

- Process Tracing:
  - George and Bennett, Case Studies and Theory Development, chapter 10.
  - Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder, Electing to Fight (MIT Press 2005), chapters 7 and 8.
- Time Slice Analysis:
  - Pape, Bombing to Win, chapters 1, 2, and 4.
  - Fotini Christia, Alliance Formation in Civil Wars (Cambridge University Press 2012), chapters 1, 2, 3, and 8.

### **May 13: Interpretive Narratives and Case Studies Paper Proposal due**

- Bates et al, Analytic Narratives, Introduction, chapters 4 and 5, and Conclusion
- Jon Elster, "Rational Choice History: A Case of Excessive Ambition," American Political Science Review, Vol. 94, No. 3 (Sep., 2000), pp. 685-695.
- Lisa Wedeen, Ambiguities of Domination, entire.

### **May 16 (Friday): Case Selection**

- Sample Bias and the Statistical Approach
  - Barbara Geddes, "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics," Political Analysis, Vol. 2, No. 1(1990), pp. 131-150.
  - Christopher H. Achen and Duncan Snidal, "Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies," World Politics, Vol. 41, No. 2 (Jan., 1989), pp. 143-169.
  - David Collier and James Mahoney, "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research," World Politics, Vol. 49, No. 1 (1996), pp. 56-91.
  - Douglas Dion, "Evidence and Inference in the Comparative Case Study," Comparative Politics, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Jan., 1998), pp. 127-145.

- Case Selection Options
  - Jason Seawright and John Gerring, "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research," *Political Research Quarterly* Vol. 61, No. 2 (June 2008), pp. 294-308.
  - James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, "Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods," in J. M. Box-Steffensmeir, H. E. Brady, and D. Collier eds., *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford University Press, 2008), chapter 33.
- Value of Anomalies for Causal Logic Testing
  - Brady and Collier, eds., *Rethinking Social Inquiry*, chapter 5
  - Pape, *Bombing to Win*, chapter 8.

**May 20: No Class**

**May 23 (Friday): Experimental Approach to Case Studies**

- Alan S. Gerber and Donald P. Green, "Field Experiments and Natural Experiments," in *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, chapter 15.
- Stephen L. Morgan and Christopher Winship, *Counterfactual and Causal Inference* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007), chapter 4.
- Alan S. Gerber and Donald Green, "The Effects of Canvassing, Telephone Calls, and Direct Mail on Voter Turnout: A Field Experiment," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 94, No. 3 (Sep., 2000), pp. 653-663.
- Kosuke Imai, "Do Get-Out-the-Vote Calls Reduce Turnout? The Importance of Statistical Methods for Field Experiments," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 99, No. 2 (May 2005), pp. 283-300.
- Jason Lyall, "Does Indiscriminate Violence Incite Insurgent Attacks?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 53, No. 3 (Jun., 2009), pp. 331-362.
- Jasjeet S. Sekhon and Rocio Titiunik, "When Natural Experiments Are Neither Natural nor Experiments," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 106, No. 1 (Feb., 2012), pp. 35-57.

**May 27: Practicum on Testing a Causal Logic**

- A Causal Logic: Stathis Kalyvas, *The Logic of Violence in Civil War* (Cambridge University Press 2006), chapters 5-9.
- A Test in Progress: CPOST Targeting Book (chapters to be distributed)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13: PAPERS DUE (hard copy in Pick 418 by 4pm)**

Recommended Reading:

Karl Popper, The Logic of Scientific Discovery, chapters 1, 3, 4; skim chapter 6

James Mahoney and Gary Goertz, "A Tale of Two Cultures," Political Analysis, Vol. 14 (2006), pp. 227-249.

Jose Cortina and William Dunlap, "On the Logic and Purpose of Significance Testing," Psychological Methods, Vol. 2, No. 2 (1997), pp. 161-72.

Gerry Quinn and Michael Keough, "Hypothesis Testing," Experimental Design and Data Analysis for Biologists, pp. 37-40, 53-55.

H. E. Brady and D. Collier, eds., Rethinking Social Inquiry, Second Edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2010), chapters 3, 4, and 9.

James Mahoney, "Strategies of Causal Inference in Small-N Analysis," Sociological Methods and Research, Vol. 28, No. 4 (May, 2000), pp.387-424.

Timothy J. McKeown, "Case Studies and Statistical Worldview," International Organization, Vol. 53, No. 1 (Winter, 1999), pp. 161-190.

Leonard Wantchekon, "Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin," World Politics, Vol. 55, No. 3 (2003), pp. 399-422.

Nuno Monteiro and Keven Ruby, "IR and the False Promise of Philosophical Foundations," International Theory, Vol. 1 No. 1 (2009), pp. 15-48.