

Master of Arts in Comparative and International Studies

METHODS I

Research Design and Data Collection

Core Seminar

Prof. Frank Schimmelfennig
IFW D 45.1

frank.schimmelfennig@eup.gess.ethz.ch

Dr. Thomas Winzen
IFW D 43.1

thomas.winzen@eup.gess.ethz.ch

Tutor: Jan Bouschen, jan.bouschen@sipo.gess.ethz.ch

Fall Semester 2016

Wed 10-12 (IFW C 33), Tutorial: Mon 12-14 (IFW E 42)

Textbooks

1. Toshkov, Dimiter 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Goertz, Gary 2006: *Social Science Concepts. A User's Guide*. Princeton University Press
3. Gschwend, Thomas and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds.) 2011: *Research Design in Political Science. How to Practice What They Preach*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
4. Gerber, Alan S., and Donald P. Green. 2012. *Field Experiments: Design, Analysis, and Interpretation*. New York: Norton.

PART I Research Design and Small-n Research

21 September 2016

1. Science, Research Design, and Research Questions

Popper, Karl 1963: *Conjectures and Refutations. The Growth of Scientific Knowledge*. London, Chapter 1: "Science: Conjectures and Refutations", 43-86.

Toshkov 2016, ch. 2.

Recommended

Gschwend and Schimmelfennig 2011, chs. 1, 2 and 12.

28 September 2016

2. Theory and concepts

Goertz 2006: 27-127.

Toshkov 2016, chs. 3-4.

5 October 2016

3. Causality, explanation and research design

Little, Daniel 1991: *Varieties of Social Explanation. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Science*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1-29.

Toshkov 2016: ch. 6

12 October 2016

4. Within-Case Analysis: Congruence and Process-Tracing

Beach, Derek and Rasmus Brun Pedersen. 2013. *Process-Tracing Methods. Foundations and Guidelines*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1-94.

Collier, David 2011: Understanding Process Tracing, *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44(4): 823-830.

19 October 2016

5. Comparative Analysis

Gerring 2007, 151-171

Goertz 2006, 159-210.

26 October 2016

6. QCA

Schneider, Carsten Q. and Wagemann, Claudius. 2012. *Set-theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chs. 3-5.

2 November 2016

7. Mixed-Methods Research

Lieberman, Evan S. (2005) Nested analysis as a mixed-methods strategy for comparative research. *American Political Science Review* 99(3): 435-452.

9 November 2016:

***** READING WEEK, NO CLASS *****

16 November 2016

8. Experiments I: Potential Outcomes, Mean Causal Effect, Confidence Intervals

Required

Gerber, Alan S., and Donald P. Green. 2012. *Field Experiments: Design, Analysis, and Interpretation*. New York: Norton, pp. 1-94.

Recommended

Field, Andy, and Graham Hole. 2003. *How to Design and Report Experiments*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 54-105.

21 November 2016 (On Monday 12-14 in E 42. No class on Wednesday.)

9. Experiments II: Internal and External Validity of Experimental Inference

Required

Mutz, Diana C. 2011. *Population-Based Survey Experiments*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 131-154.

Find and read an interesting piece of experimental research.

Group presentation

Groups of 3-5.

We will form groups in class and you can start preparing.

- 1) In your group, decide which experimental article you want to focus on.
- 2) Identify key design choices
- 3) Evaluate the article in terms of internal and external validity
- 4) Prepare a short presentation of your conclusions
- 5) Present your conclusions in the tutorial on Monday 28 November.

Recommended

Shadish, William R., Thomas D. Cook, and Donald T. Campbell. 2002. *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Boston / New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, pp. 33-102.

30 November 2016

10. Ethnographic fieldwork

Required for lecture

- de Volo, L.B. and Schatz, E., 2004. From the inside out: Ethnographic methods in political research. *Political Science and Politics*, 37(02), pp.267-271.
- Jackson, Patrick.T., 2008. Can Ethnographic Techniques Tell Us Distinctive Things About World Politics?. *International Political Sociology*, 2(1), pp.91-93.
- Rhodes, R. A. W. 2015. Ethnography. in Bevir, Mark, and R. A. W. Rhodes, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Interpretive Political Science*. Routledge, 2015, pp.171-185.

Required for the tutorial on 5 December 2016

- Cohn, C. 1987. Sex and death in the rational world of defense intellectuals. *Signs* 12/4: 687-718.
- Pachirat, T., 2011. "Hidden in Plain Sight", *Every twelve seconds: Industrialized slaughter and the politics of sight*. Yale University Press: 1-19

7 December 2016

11. Measurement Validity

Required

- Gerring, John. 2012. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 155-193.
- Adcock, Robert, and David Collier. 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *The American Political Science Review* 95 (3):529-46.
- Goertz, Garry, and James Mahoney. 2012. *A Tale of Two Cultures*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 139-160.

Recommended

- Johnson, Janet B., and H. T. Reynolds. 2012. *Political Science Research Methods*. 7th ed. Los Angeles: Sage, pp. 127-164.
- Schwartz-Shea, Peregrine. "Judging Quality." *Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretative Turn*. D. Yanow und P. Schwartz-Shea. New York, ME Sharpe (2006): 120-146

14 December 2016

12. Data collection techniques I: Interviews and Surveys

Required

- Arthur, Sue, Martin Mitchell, Jane Lewis, and Carol McNaughton Nicholls. 2014. "Designing Fieldwork." In *Qualitative Research Practice*, ed. J. Ritchie, J. Lewis, C. McNaughton Nicholls and R. Ormston. Los Angeles: Sage, 147-76.
- Johnson, Janet B., and H. T. Reynolds. 2012. "Survey Research and Interviewing" *Political Science Research Methods*. 7th ed. Los Angeles: Sage, pp. 306-353

Group presentation

Groups of 3-5.

You will have time to begin preparations during the class on Wednesday.

- 1) Decide on a concept/process you are interested in.
- 2) Device a *short* schedule of 5-10 survey and/or interview questions (with probes).
- 3) Discuss why these questions will deliver valid information, and which challenges remain.
- 4) Present your conclusions in the tutorial on Monday 19 December.

Recommended

- Krosnick, Jon A., and Stanley Presser. 2010. "Question and Questionnaire Design." In *Handbook of Survey Research*, ed. P. V. Marsden and J. D. Wright. Bingley: Emerald Group Publishing, 263-313.
- Mosley, Layna, ed. 2013. *Interview Research in Political Science*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Tansey, Oisín. 2007. "Process Tracing and Elite Interviewing: A Case for Non-probability Sampling." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40 (4):765-72.

21 December 2016

13. Data collection techniques II: Manual and automated text analysis

Required

- Steenbergen, Marco, André Bächtiger, Markus Spörndli, and Jürg Steiner. 2003. "Measuring Political Deliberation: A Discourse Quality Index." *Comparative European Politics* 1 (1):21-48.
- Lantz, Brett. 2013. *Machine Learning with R*. Birmingham: Packt Publishing, pp. 5-64 & 89-118.
- Proksch, Sven-Oliver, and Jonathan B. Slapin. 2009. "Position Taking in European Parliament Speeches." *British Journal of Political Science* 40 (3):587-611.
- Skim through: Grimmer, Justin, and Brandon M. Stewart. 2013. "Text as Data: The Promise and Pitfalls of Automatic Content Analysis Methods for Political Texts." *Political Analysis* 21 (3):267-97.

Final exam: Friday, 3 February 2017

Requirements

- 1) Regular participation in seminar and tutorial
- 2) All required readings
- 3) Group presentations (pass/fail)
- 4) Research design paper (11 November 2016; 30 percent)
- 5) Experiments and data collection home assignment (15 February 2017; 30 percent)
- 6) Written exam (3 February 2017; 40 percent)