

Crafting Research in International Relations

Chair of Political Science II

University of Mannheim - Spring Term 2014

Wednesday, 17:15 to 18:45 (weekly)

From 12.02.2014 to 28.05.2014

Room: A 5, 6 Bauteil B - B 318

Instructor:

Patrícia Calca

Office: A5, 6, A 327

Office Hours: by appointment

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Seminar Description:

Without method there is not science. This class will introduce its participants to the study of International Relations' research methods. Aiming at the comparison of cases and variables, this seminar will be focused in the craft of research design. The challenges of scientific research, within the social sciences are, most of the times, solved by using the appropriate methodological approaches. Going deeper in aspects as: (a) method, methodology and research design; (b) conceptualisation and measurement; (b) theory formation; (c) case selection; (d) correlation and causality; (e) theory testing and, (f) operationalisation, this class will help students to undertaking relevant steps in the path of scientific investigation. It is not the purpose of this class to training students in specific research techniques, but rather, to teach them to choose appropriated methodological views and to think about theoretical problems and their empirical features (data collection, hypothesis testing, etc.).

Seminar Goals:

1. The overall objective of this seminar is to provide a strong and solid knowledge on methods used in the study of International Relations.
2. To improve critical and analytical thinking is expected from the participants of these classes (using theories and test them empirically).

Seminar Expectations:

1. Class attendance is mandatory. In case of compelling reason(s) for non-attendance I expect you to notify me before. In case that this does not happens, your permanence in the class can be compromised.
2. The readings are to be prepared in advance.

3. Active participation in class is important to improve the understanding of theories and perspectives presented.
4. You are suppose to deliver all the assignments before the next class.
5. The seminar will be taught in English.

Seminar Characteristics and Requirements:

1. This seminar will be put together, with my guidance and will count with exercises (assignments and in-class), group activities and in-class discussions.
2. The practical activities count towards the final grade.
3. The seminar grade will highly depend on an empirical final paper¹ (with 5 to 8 pages A₄, font size 12, one space and a half). It shall be delivered until 23:55 of **09.06.2014** (1st date), or with a different topic, by **20.06.2014** (2nd date). The printed copy have to be signed and can be delivered after. The structure of the paper has to be discussed with the instructor and implies the delivery of an A₄ page with an abstract (this should be delivered until the **01.05.2014**).
4. The grades are calculated as followed:
 - *Final Paper* - **50%**
 - *Assignments* - **40%**
 - *In-Class Activities* - **10%**
5. All the assignments are due Mondays at 23:55 to p.calca@uni-mannheim.de, on the following dates:
 - Assignment 1: **26.02.2014**(due by 03.03.2014);
 - Assignment 2: **26.03.2014** (due by 31.03.2014);
 - Assignment 3: **09.04.2014**(due by 14.04.2014);
 - Assignment 4: **21.05.2014**(due by 26.05.2014).

Course Materials:

1. **Laptop** - if you have your own laptop, please bring it to class. We will make exercises with it. The classes that require laptop will be signaled with the word *laptop*;
2. **STATA** - we will use this software in our statistical and and data analysis. The licences will be distributed in class, once the University of Mannheim provides home licenses for students free of charge.

¹The topic and structure of the paper shall be previously discussed with the instructor.

Seminar Structure:

12.02.2014 - Syllabus, Schedule's Discussion, and Other Organizational Aspects

19.02.2014 - Method, Methodology and Research Design

Readings:

- Bernstein, Lebow, Stein and Weber, 2000;
- King, Keohane and Verba, 1994;
- Morton, 1999;
- Shiveley, 2013.

26.02.2014 - Conceptualization and Measurement

Readings:

- Adcock and Collier, 2001;
- Goertz, 2008;
- Sartori, 1970;
- **Assignment 1.**

05.03.2014 - Theory Formation

Readings:

- Geddes, 2003;
- Bennett and Elman, 2007;

12.03.2014 - Case Selection

Readings:

- Bennett and Elman, 2007;
- Collier, 2008;
- Gerring, 2004 and 2008.

19.03.2014 - Correlation and Causality

Readings:

- Beck, 2006;
- Gerring, 2010.

26.03.2014 - Theory Testing

Readings:

- Clark, Gilligan and Golder, 2006;
- Fearon, 1991;
- **Assignment 2** (about the text Clark, 2001).

02.04.2014 - Operationalization 1: Introduction to STATA (*laptop*)

Readings:

- Nagler, 1995.
- Exercises.

09.04.2014 - Operationalization 2: Data Management (*laptop*)

Readings:

- Exercises;
- **Assignment 3.**

Easter Break

30.04.2014 - Operationalization 3: Descriptive Statistics and Graphs (*laptop*)

Readings:

- Exercises.

07.05.2014 - Operationalization 4: Introduction to OLS (*laptop*)

Readings:

- Exercises.

14.05.2014 - Operationalization 5: OLS (*laptop*)

Readings:

- Exercises.

21.05.2014 - Operationalization 6: Introduction to Logit and Probit Models (*laptop*)

Readings:

- Exercises;
- **Assignment 4.**

28.05.2014 - Final Questions

Readings:²

1. Books

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Stokman, Frans N. (eds.) (1994) *European Community Decision-Making: Models, Applications and Comparisons*, New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Brady, Henry E. and Collier, David (eds.) (2010) *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Buttoloh Johnson, Janet, Reynolds, H.T. and Mycoff, Jason D. (2008) *Political Science Research Methods*, Washington, D.C.: CQPress.
- Cameron, Charles and Morton, Rebecca (2002) "Formal Theory Meets Data", in Katnelzon, Ira and Milner, Helen (eds.), *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*, W.W. Norton.
- Geddes, Barbara (2003) *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics* Ann Harbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Gerring, John (2008) "Case Selection for Case-Study Analysis: Qualitative and Quantitative Techniques", in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady and David Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Goertz, Gary (2006) *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Harvey, Frank P. and Brecher, Michael (eds.) (2002) *Evaluating Methodology in International Studies*, Michigan: University of Michigan Press.
- Healey, Joseph F. (2013) *The Essentials of Statistics - A Tool of Social Research*, US: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.
- King, Gary, Keohane, Robert O. and Verba, Sidney (eds.) (1994) *Designing Social Enquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Kohler, Ulrich and Kreuter, Frauke (2009) *Data Analysis Using Stata*, College Station: Stata Press.
- Kratochwil, F. (2007) "Evidence, Inference and Truth as Problems of Theory-Building in the Social Sciences", in R.N. Lebow and M.I. Lichbach (eds.) *Theory and Evidence in Comparative Politics and International Relations*, New York: Palgrave, pp.25-84.
- Lakatos, Imre (1970) "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research

²All the readings are available on ILIAS.

- Programmes", in Imre Lakatos (ed) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Long, J. Scott (2009) *The Workflow of Data Analysis* College Station: Stata Press.
 - Morgan, Stephen L. and Winship (2007) *Counterfactuals and Causal Inference: Methods and Principles for Social Research*, New York: Cambridge University Press.
 - Morton, Rebecca B. (1999) *Methods and Models: A Guide to the Empirical Analysis of Formal Models in Political Science*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
 - Pollock III, Philip H. (2010) *A Stata Companion to Political Analysis*, Washington, DC: Sage/CQ Press.
 - Pollock III, Philip H. (2012) *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, Washington, DC: Sage/CQ Press.
 - Rihoux, B. (2008). 'Case-Oriented Configurational Research: Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady and David Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 722-736.
 - Shively, W. Phillips (2013) *The Craft of Political Research*, New Jersey: Pearson.
 - Sprinz, Detlef F. and Wolinsky-Nahmias, Yael (eds.) (2004) *Models, Numbers and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
 - Weingast, Barry (2002) *Rational Choice Institutionalism* in Katnelzon, Ira and Milner, Helen (eds.), *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*, W.W. Norton.

2. Articles

- Adcock, Robert and Collier, David (2001) "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research", *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 95, N. 3. (Sep., 2001), pp. 529-546.
- Beck, Nathaniel (2006) "Is Causal-Process Observation an Oxymoron?", *Political Analysis*, 14, 3 (Summer): 347-352.
- Bennett, Andrew and Elman, Colin (2007) "Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield", *Comparative Political Studies*, 40(2) (February 2007), 170-95.
- Bernstein, S., Lebow, R.N., Stein J.G., Weber, S. (2000) "God gave physics the easy problems: Adapting social science to an unpredictable world", *European Journal of International Relations*, 6 (1): 43-76.
- Clark, William, Gilligan, Michael and Golder, Matt (2006) "A Simple Multivariate Test for Asymmetric Hypotheses", *Political Analysis*, 14, 3: 311-331.
- Clarke, Kevin A. (2001) "Testing Nonnested Models of International Relations:

Reevaluating Realism", *American Journal of Political Science*, 45(3): 724-744.

- Collier, David (2008) "Case Selection, Case Studies, and Causal Inference: A Symposium", *Newsletter of the American Political Science Association Organized Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*, Vol. 6, N. 2, pp. 2-16.
- Fearon, James D. (1991) "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science", *World Politics*, Vol. 43, N. 2 (Jan., 1991), pp. 169-195.
- Gerring, John (2004) "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good for?", *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 98, N. 2 (May, 2004), pp. 341-354.
- Gerring, John (2010) "Causal Mechanisms: Yes, But?", *Comparative Political Studies*, November 2010, Vol. 43 N. 11 1499-1526.
- Knopf, Jeffrey W. (2006) "Doing a Literature Review", *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 39, (January 2006), pp.127-132.
- Mahoney, James, Kimball, Erin and Koivu, Kendra L. (2009) "The Logic of Historical Explanation in the Social Sciences", *Comparative Political Studies*, January 2009, Vol. 42, n. 1, pp.114-146.
- Nagler, Jonathan (1995) "Coding Style and Good Computer Practices", *The Political Methodologist*, 6(2): 2-8.
- Page E., Scott (2006) "Path Dependence", *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 1: 87-115.
- Sartori, Giovanni (1970) "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics", *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 64, N. 4. (Dec., 1970), pp. 1033-1053.
- Tilly, Charles (1995) "To Explain Political Processes", *The American Journal of Sociology*, 100 (6), 1594-610.