

Methods in Comparative Government: Analysing Electoral Systems

Chair of Political Science II

University of Mannheim - Fall Term 2014-2015

Thursday, 12:00 to 13:30 (weekly)

From 04.09.2014 to 04.12.2014

Room: A 5, 6 Bauteil C - 108 Methodenlabor

Instructor:

Patrícia Calca

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Office Hours: by appointment

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Seminar Description:

Comparative Politics can entail different focus according with the specific variables that we are looking at. Some of the most studied and central aspects of comparison in political science are the distinct electoral systems. This exercise will introduce its participants to the study of electoral systems differences and similarities, the way political institutions are designed and how legislative processes and political behavior interact. To be aware of the major techniques when comparing political institutions and specific characteristics of electoral systems by looking at major academic studies and considering empirical tests of theories and operationalization of related concepts it is expect from the participants of this exercise, in order to better understand the dynamics behind this reality. Because this exercise has a strong focus in data analysis, a background of statistics and STATA is required.

Seminar Goals:

1. The overall objective of this exercise is to provide a strong and solid knowledge on methods used on studding Comparative Politics.
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. The exercise will be taught in English.

Seminar Characteristics and Requirements:

1. This exercise will be put together, with my guidance and will count with exercises/group activities, in-class discussions and presentation of the final paper.
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 **08.12.2014** (1st date), or with a different topic, by **19.12.2014** (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 **14.11.2014**).
4. The grades are calculated as followed:
 - *Final Paper* - **70%**
 - *Paper Presentation* - **20%**
 - *In-Class Activities* - **10%**

Course Materials:

1. **STATA** - we will use this software in our statistical and and data analysis. The licenses and installation should be dealt with the informatics support of the University.

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

Seminar Structure:

04.09.2014 - Syllabus, Schedule's Discussion, and Other Organizational Aspects

11.09.2014 - Comparative Politics: Method, Methodology and Theories

Readings:

- Clark, Golder and Golder (2009), pp.1-51;
- Caramani (2009), pp.21-63;
- Newton and van Deth (2011), pp.1-10.

18.09.2014 - Concepts and Operationalization

Readings:

- Mair (2008), pp.177-197.

25.09.2014 - Comparative Analysis: The Cases

Readings:

- della Porta (2008), pp.198-222;
- Geddes (2009), pp. 89-129.

02.10.2014 - Example 1: Party Government

Readings:

- Müller-Rommel and Harfst (2004).

09.10.2014 - Example 2: Governance

Readings:

- Kaufmann and Mastruzzi (2006).

16.10.2014 - Example 3: Political Protest

Readings:

- Kitschelt (1986).

25.10.2014 - Introduction to STATA

- Exercises.

30.10.2014 - Analysis and Replication 1 (*STATA*)

- Exercises.

06.11.2014 - Analysis and Replication 2 (*STATA*)

- Exercises.

13.11.2014 - Analysis and Replication 3 (*STATA*)

- Exercises.

20.11.2014 - Analysis and Replication 4 (*STATA*)

- Exercises.

27.11.2014 - Paper Presentations

04.12.2014 - Final Questions and Discussion of the Evaluation

Readings:²

1. Books

- Booth, Wayne C., Colomb, Gregory G. and Williams, Joseph M. (2008) *The Craft of Research*, Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- Buttoloh Johnson, Janet, Reynolds, H.T. and Mycoff, Jason D. (2008) *Political Science Research Methods*, Washington, D.C.: CQPress.
- Caramani, Daniele (2001) *Comparative Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Clark, W. Roberts, Golder, Matt and Golder, S. Nadenicheck (2009) *Principles of Comparative Politics*, Washington, D.C.: CQPress.
- Geddes, Barbara (2003) *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics* Ann Harbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Goertz, Gary (2006) *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*, Princeton: Princeton University 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*

²All the readings are available on ILIAS.

Enquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

- Kohler, Ulrich and Kreuter, Frauke (2009) *Data Analysis Using Stata*, College Station: Stata Press.
- Long, J. Scott (2009) *The Workflow of Data Analysis* College Station: Stata Press.
- Morgan, Stephen L. and Winship (2007) Newton, Kenneth and van Deth, Jan W. (2011) *Foundations of Comparative Politics*, 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.
- Shively, W. Phillips (2013) *The Craft of Political Research*, New Jersey: Pearson.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- della Porta, Donatella (2008) "Comparative analysis: case-oriented versus variable-oriented research", In, Donatella della Porta and Michael Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the social Sciences*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.198-222.
- 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.

- Kaufmann, D. Kraay, A. and Mastruzzi, M. (2006) "Governance Matters, v. Aggregate and Individual Governance Indicators for 1996-2005", World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, 4012, Washington, D.C.: World Bank.
- Kitschelt, H. (1986) "Political Opportunity Structures and Political protest: Anti-Nuclear Movements in Four Democracies", *British Journal of Political Science*, 16: 57-86.
- Knopf, Jeffrey W. (2006) "Doing a Literature Review", *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 39, (January 2006), pp.127-132.
- Knopf, Jeffrey W. (2006) "Doing a Literature Review", *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 39, (January 2006), pp.127-132.
- Mair, Peter (2008) "Concepts and concept formation", In, Donatella della Porta and Michael Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the social Sciences*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.177-187.
- Müller-Rommel, F. and Harfst, P. (2004) "Party Government in Central Eastern European Democracies: A Data-Collection (1990-2003)", *European Journal of Political Research*, 43, 869-893.
- Nagler, Jonathan (1995) "Coding Style and Good Computer Practices", *The Political Methodologist*, 6(2): 2-8.
- 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.