

Course: Research Design and Methods in Political Science¹

NOTE: GUEST SPEAKERS ARE YET TO BE CONFIRMED; SCHEDULE OF TOPICS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMMENTS WELCOME.

Instructor: Gábor Tóka (Department of Political Science, CEU)

Credits: 4 credits (8 ECTS credits)

Semester: Fall 2009

Level, track: Core course for all tracks in the PhD program in Political Science

Course Objectives

This course is to assist participants in designing dissertation projects and other research activities, and in debating and adjudicating methodological issues in the profession. As a starting point, we shall locate dissertation projects within the broader framework of careers in political science and contemplate how the concept and evaluative criteria of dissertations have evolved in the profession in recent years. We will then review issues in conceptualizing research questions, study design, methodology, data collection, and different strategies in data analysis. In doing so, the course will focus partly on the issues and problems that occur in all fields and methodological traditions in political science, and partly on strategies related to “small-N” qualitative research, for the most part setting aside techniques of large-N statistical analysis that are dealt with in separate statistics courses in the school’s curriculum. The course participants will read and discuss texts related to theory formation, hypothesis testing, and concept formation; creating proxies and measurement; descriptive and causal inference; basics of logical reasoning; longitudinal, comparative and case study research; field data collection; working with texts and analyzing qualitative data; and, finally, dissertation write-up. Throughout the course, we will not avoid issues of epistemology, i.e., how we know what we know and how to adjudicate competing “truth” claims. However, we will set aside or bracket many of the epistemological and ontological debates in order to discuss at a practical level particular techniques for researching and analyzing social phenomena. The course will therefore focus on the following main topics: (1) the goals of dissertations and other scholarly analyses, and elements of research design; (2) selection and application of different methodologies for conducting research; (3)

¹ **Acknowledgements:** The general concept of this course was developed in exchanges with Zsolt Enyedi, Erin Jenne, and Carsten Schneider. The section on course objectives is a nearly direct borrowing from the predecessor of this course, i.e Erin Jenne’s ‘Methods and Research Design’ for PhD students in IR and European Studies. Zdenek Kudrna, Elena Stavreska, and Sara Svensson offered a number of thoughts and comments on the initial concept that helped refining and expanding the agenda. Xymena Kurowska was very helpful in selecting readings and developing concepts for the sessions on interpretive methods and discourse analysis. Thilo Bodenstern, Andreas Goldthau, Andrea Krizsán, and Nick Sitter gave valuable advice on readings, methods and topics that may be of particular interest to public policy scholars, while Dorothee Bohle, András Bozóki, Levente Littvay and Carsten Schneider offered various suggestions on readings in the philosophy of science and methodology. Scott Althaus kindly agreed to let his dissertation be used as a course reading. Thanks are due to all of them for the advice and encouragement.

collection of primary and secondary data on the field; (4) analysis and synthesis of data in the dissertation-writing process; (5) professional practices and conventions.

Learning outcome

By the end of this course, participants will be better able to:

- ✓ Identify their central research question
- ✓ Situate their research question in the relevant literature(s)
- ✓ Formulate a theoretically-interesting argument
- ✓ Identify the relevant universe of cases and units of analysis
- ✓ Select appropriate methods best suited for addressing the research question
- ✓ Prepare an executable research plan
- ✓ Apply the method(s) to a research project
- ✓ Assess the empirical support for an argument
- ✓ Make informed decisions on their future academic career path
- ✓ Participate in scholarly discussions and the peer-review system in political science
- ✓ Argue about the relevance and merits of different research methods and study designs in the context of particular research questions

Course requirements: reading, participation, presentations, short assignments, final paper

Readings are listed below in the week-by-week program. Readings marked by a # mark are mandatory and everyone has to cover them before the first class of the respective week. The syllabus also gives shortlists of further useful readings, occasionally showing internet addresses or Dewey numbers (e.g. 300./1) for library shelves where they can be accessed.

Class participation including two presentations (30%): Active participation in discussions throughout the course will be essential and should help in developing a better understanding of your already existing strengths and (soon to be overcome) weaknesses as a researcher, and improving your approach to methods issues as a participant to discussions. Each participant will introduce the discussion on one of the research articles discussed in the course and play the role of the (reasonable and not necessarily uncritical, but nevertheless firm) advocate of the positions taken by that reading while the rest of us will contemplate the merits and possible weaknesses of the given analysis. Presenters must meet the instructor during office hours during the week before their presentation is scheduled, and submit by e-mail their slides by 1 pm on the Wednesday of the presentation's week. The second presentation will be a five-minute outline of a draft dissertation proposal, which we will discuss then at some length. The topic may be something that you just invented merely for the purpose of this course, but ideally it would be the one that you actually intend to develop into your dissertation proposal in the coming months. The two presentations will each count for 10% of the final grade.

Weekly assignments (30%): several times during the term, each course participant will have to turn in a short written assignment by email to the instructor (at ceu.hu). Unless otherwise noted in the syllabus below, the deadline for submission is always at noon on the

Wednesday of the given week. For details on the assignments see the week by week program below.

Final paper (40%): By the beginning of the Winter 2010 term, all course participants will have to submit a maximum 4000 words (plus references) long draft research proposal – ideally, for those planning to do empirical research in their dissertation, a first draft of the participants’ dissertation proposal. This paper should contain (1) the central research question; (2) an identification of the scholarly literature and the debate (if any) that it addresses; (3) the theory and hypotheses/theoretical expectations (the latter have to be stated if the purpose of the study is not purely descriptive); (4) the methodology; (5) a technical discussion of case selection and its substantive and methodological justification; (6) a plan of data collection; and may add (7) a timetable for the planned research activities, including write-up.

Rules on late submission: Marks on written assignments submitted after the deadline will be reduced by ten percent for every day passed since the respective deadline unless evidence is provided of a (e.g., medical) condition beyond the student’s control that inhibited work on the assignment. Any such evidence has to be submitted together with the assignment in question.

Class schedule and course structure

As a general rule, we have three time slots for this class every week during the term: Wednesday 17:20-19:00; Thursday 15:30-17:10; and Friday 15:30-17:10. The idea is that we split into two groups for half the classes so that we can have more intense participation in the seminar discussions. Thus, the Wednesday and Thursday classes will normally be dedicated to discussions and you will each attend just one of the two classes, while we will all meet on Friday afternoons to complete and wrap up the topics of the week. The Friday classes will also have some mini-lectures on methods topics that – in a somewhat arbitrary order – were added to the topics to be covered during the various weeks.

The course is divided into four parts. The first two weeks cover various aspects of the profession and should be useful for making prudent choices about your academic targets for the next couple of years. The second section looks at some other factors that you should consider in choosing a dissertation topic, like what epistemologies do you feel comfortable with; how can you identify or develop appropriate theories; and where will you get the necessary data for your analysis? Part three surveys some scholarly methods of analysis. The purpose here is neither to organize a crash-course introduction into particular methods nor to have a systematic and comprehensive survey of the most frequently used methodologies in the profession. Instead, the aim is to improve your understanding of (A) general methodological issues in political research and how they occur with respect to just about any method that you may use; and (B) the strengths of particular methods and what their application may require from you in terms of research questions, data, skills, and further training. Part four will consist of two kinds of events. The Friday classes of this period will explore some very practical issues with the help of guest speakers, while the seminars will be devoted to your presentation of your (possibly just

preliminary) ideas for a research proposal, which you will then revise, elaborate and submit as the final assignment for this course in January 2009.

Expected prior knowledge, general and further readings

This course is meant to be taken by a relatively large and heterogeneous group of participants. Many of you took academic writing as well as methods classes like *Qualitative Methods* with Thilo Boldenstein, or *Methods and Research Design* with Erin Jenne or *Scope and Methods in Political Science* with Levi Littvay and Tamas Meszerics during your previous studies, and we cannot revisit here the material covered in those courses (for a good collection of syllabi for similar courses, visit <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/moynihan/programs/cqrm/syllabi.html>). Instead, this course is organized mostly as a series of seminar discussions about concrete examples of empirical research, and we will merely refer back to the specialist literature on research design and specific methods when issues covered in that literature arise in our discussions. On the questions of greatest relevance for your own work, you will of course want to follow up independently the scholarly discussions of the specific methods, research design, or professional practice issues covered in this course, but the course can only direct you to some further readings on each week's topics, and it may be useful to browse these materials before the seminars, and, maybe, also shortlist for yourself a couple of them for careful reading some time after this semester is over. To take full advantage of this course while it is running, you should, however, never accept having difficulties in following discussions in the class, but either ask for instant clarification or consult some of the following general works (that provide at least some starting points) or other appropriate sources.

A. Epistemological issues

- 300./1 Martin, Michael, and Lee C. McIntyre, eds. 1994. *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. (Especially Carl Hempel's "The Function of General Laws in History", Clifford Geertz's "Thick Description: Towards an Interpretive Theory of Culture", Charles Taylor's "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man," and Jon Elster's "The Nature and Scope of Rational Choice Explanation" and "Functional Explanations in the Social Sciences".)
- Hollis, Martin. 1994. *The Philosophy of Social Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kuhn, Thomas S. (1962) 1970. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. 2nd enlarged ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Lakatos, Imre. 1970. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programs." in *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, ed. Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Available at <http://www.philosophy.ru/edu/ref/sci/lakatos.html>
- 501 LAK Motterlini, Matteo, ed. 1999. *For and Against Method: Including Lakatos's Lectures on Scientific Method and the Lakatos-Feyerabend Correspondence*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Newall, Paul et al. 2004-. *The Galilean Library on the History and Philosophy of Science*. URL: <http://www.galilean-library.org/hps.php#>

B. Modes and designs of inquiry. Methodology textbooks and handbooks

- 300./72 GRA Gray, Paul S., John B. Williamson, David A. Karp, John R. Dalphin, with Karen Bettez Halnon and James Carritte. 2007. *The Research Imagination: An Introduction to Qualitative and Quantitative Methods*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 300.1 KIN King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- 300./3 SIL Smelser, Neil J., and Paul B. Baltes, eds. 2001. *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
- 300./72 BRA Brady, Henry E., and David Collier. eds. 2004. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- 320.072 Evera, Stephen van. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- 300.1 RAG Ragin, Charles C. 1987. *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- 300./72 DEL della Porta, Donatella, and Michael Keating, eds. 2008. *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralist Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 320./072 BOX Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Henry E. Brady, and David Collier, eds. 2008. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- King, Gary, Michael Tomz, and Jason Wittenberg. 2000. "Making the Most of Statistical Analyses: Improving Interpretation and Presentation." *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (2): 347–361.
- 300./722 Yin, Robert K. 1994. *Case Study Research: Design and Method*. 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 300./72 RIT Ritchie, Jane, and Jane Lewis, eds. 2003. *Qualitative Research Practice: A Guide for Social Science Students and Researchers*. London: Sage.
- 300./72 SEA Seale, Clive, Giampietro Gobo, Jaber F. Gubrium, and David Silverman, eds. 2003. *Qualitative Research Practice*. London: Sage.
- 300./72 SIL Silverman, David. 2000. *Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook*. London: Sage.
- Morton, Rebecca B. 1999. *Methods and Models: A Guide to the Empirical Analysis of Formal Models in Political Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

C. Academic Writing, Style Sheets, Prose, Charts, Figures, Reference Managers

- 808./042 Swales, John M., and Christine B. Feak. 2004. *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills*. 2nd ed. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- P301.T8 Turabian, Kate L. (revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, and University of Chicago Press editorial staff). 2007. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 7th rev. ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- 808./0663 Becker, Howard S., and with Pamela Richards. 2007. *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*. 2nd ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- 302.2/3 TUF Tufte, Edward R. 2006. *Beautiful Evidence*. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press.

- Cleveland, William S. 1993. *Visualizing Data*. Summit, NJ: Hobart Press. (Note that Stata, SAS and R/S-Plus textbook examples for this book are available from the UCLA Academic Technology Services, Statistical Consulting Group at <http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/examples/vizdata/>)
- Kastellec, Jonathan P., and Eduardo L. Leoni. 2007. "Using Graphs Instead of Tables in Political Science." *Perspectives on Politics* 5 (4): 755-771.
- Association of College and Research Libraries. 2000. "Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education." Available from <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/standards.pdf>. Accessed on 12 August 2009.
- <http://www.academicproductivity.com/> (A specialized site with lots of advice, including reviews of some of the many books about effective academic writing, including:)
- Silvia, Paul J. 2007. *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Muldrow, Jason, and Stephen Yoder. 2009. "Out of Cite! How Reference Managers Are Taking Research to the Next Level." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 42 (1): 167-172.

TOPICS BY WEEK

Zero Week: The plan and scope of the course

All course participants are strongly encouraged to attend the "PhD ZeroWeekend" organized for you by senior PhD students on 18-21 September. That event will be an excellent opportunity for some peer-to-peer exchange of information about how to get by during and after doing a CEU PhD, and to establish contacts that can provide you some of the essential gossip that may be useful in making some big choices, and which you will anyway need if for no other reason than to be a valued information source among your colleagues!

PART I: CHOOSING INSPIRING TARGETS

Week 1: The place and role of the dissertation in a career. Types of PhD programs and the design of ours. The composition and role of dissertation committees. Dissertation topics, attrition rates, placement stats. Managing relations with supervisors. Conference presentations, professional associations, summer schools, soliciting feedback. Criteria for choosing a dissertation topic. Assignment of presentation topics

Readings (just sample and skim some of these before the classes as they will help you contribute questions, observations and theories to our discussions):

- Rothman, Steven B. 2008. "Comparatively Evaluating Potential Dissertation and Thesis Projects." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 41 (2): 367-369.
- 300./72 BRE Brewer, John, and Albert Hunter. 2006. *Foundations of Multimethod Research: Synthesizing Styles*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, pp. 39-58.

- O'Leary, Zina. 2004. *The Essential Guide to Doing Research*. London: Sage, chapter 3.
- 808./02 DUN Dunleavy, Patrick. 2003. *Authoring a PhD Thesis: How to Plan, Draft, Write and Finish a Doctoral Dissertation*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Rothgeb, John M., Annemarie Spadafore, and Betsy Burger. 2007. "Faculty Training in Political Science: Results from a Survey of Department Chairs." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40 (4): 759-763.
- Stefuriuc, Irina, Peter Mair, Jan Erk, Lori Thorlakson, and Erin K. Jenne. 2009. "Symposium: Building an Academic Profile – Considerations for Graduate Students Embarking on an Academic Career in Political Science in Europe." *European Political Science* 8 (2): 138-74.
- Stone, Diane. 2007. "Market Principles, Philanthropic Ideals, and Public Service Values in International Public Policy Programs." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40 (3): 545-51.
- Tonge, Jonathan. 2005. "The Last Bastion of Ad Hocery? Research Supervision from Idea to Viva." *European Political Science* 4 (2): 230-7.
- 378 DEL Delamont, Sara, and Paul Atkinson. 2004. *Successful Research Careers: A Practical Guide*. Maidenhead: Open University Press
- Muiznieks, Nils. 2009. "A Political Scientist's Experience in the Real World of Politics." *European Political Science* 8 (1): 68–78.
- Keohane, Robert O. 2009. "Political Science as a Vocation." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 42 (2): 359-363.
- Goldsmith, Michael, ed. 2005. *Doctoral Studies in Political Science – A European Comparison*. Budapest: espNet. S-Teaching Available from http://www.epsnet.org/mem_only/Doctoral%20Studies%20in%20Europe.pdf, accessed on 7 August 2009.
- APSA Task Force on Graduate Education. 2004. "2004 Report to the APSA Council." Washington, DC: The American Political Science Association. Available from <http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/Final%20Report%20Formatted%20for%20Distribution.pdf>, accessed on 7 August 2009.
- Leijenaar, Monique, and Emiliano Grossman. 2000. "Doing a PhD in Political Science in Europe: Information, Facts, Debate." Paris: Thematic Network Political Science. Available from <http://www.epsnet.org/publications/4%20Brochure%20PhD.pdf>. Accessed on 7 August 2009.
- Thorlakson, Lori, Michael Laver, Max Kaase, Jean-Michel Eymer, and Paul M. Heywood. 2005. "Symposium: Debating the Future of Doctoral Training in European Political Science " *European Political Science* 4 (1): 79-125.

Assignment: Consult at least some of the readings listed above before the classes and come prepared to say what you are contemplating to choose as your dissertation topic. After the classes of this week, think this through again and write down in one or two pages what you are, at this moment, thinking about to pick as your dissertation topic and why. What kind of data and methods of analysis do you think may be needed, and what may be the possible problems or disadvantages of picking this topic? It is more than OK if you are not totally sure about your choice of topic at this point, and in that case list and discuss two or three alternatives rather than just one topic. But in any case, try to think about each possible choice from the multiple

perspectives that came up during our discussions, not just in terms of intellectual appeal, and consider as many criteria for a good choice as you can identify. Email me your product by the Monday of the second week of the semester.

Week 2: Scholarly journals and their central role in regulating the attention and other rewards that your work will receive. Choosing outlets and titles for your papers, writing abstracts. The review process. Journal rankings, impact factors, tracking citations, and why all this matter. Bibliographic performance indicators and their increasing use in administrative decisions. Anticipating publication targets in dissertation, paper and grant proposals. Structuring your argument

Readings:

- # Polsky, Andrew J. 2007. "Seeing Your Name in Print: Unpacking the Mysteries of the Review Process at Political Science Scholarly Journals." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40 (3): 539-43.
- # Wuffle, A. 1989. "Uncle Wuffle's Advice to the Advanced Graduate Student." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 22 (4): 838-9.
- # Schmitter, Philippe C. 2002. "The Ideal Research Proposal." Manuscript. Florence: European University Institute.
- # Przeworski, Adam, and Frank Salomon. 1995. "The Art of Writing Proposals." Washington DC: Social Science Research Council. Available from http://www.ssrc.org/workspace/images/crm/new_publication_3/%7B7a9cb4f4-815f-de11-bd80-001cc477ec70%7D.pdf, accessed on 7 August 2009.)
- # Choi, Kwan. 2002. "How to Publish in Top Journals." Manuscript posted at the website of the *Review of International Economics* at <http://www.roie.org/how.htm>.
- 808./02 Germano, William. 2005. *From Dissertation to Book*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- 808./02 Germano, William. 2001. *Getting It Published: A Guide for Scholars and Anyone Else Serious about Serious Books*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- 300./72 SIL Silverman, David. 2000. *Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook*. London: Sage, pp. 113-8, 221-56, 266-71.
- 808./0663 BEC Becker, Howard S. 1998. *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think About Research While You're Doing It*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Schneider, Gerald, Bernard Steunenberg, Katharina Holzinger, and Nils Petter Gleditsch. 2007. "Symposium: Why European Political Science is So Unproductive and What Should Be Done About It." *European Political Science* 6 (2): 156-191.
- Rogowski, Ronald, and Daniel Treisman. 2009. "Report of the Editors of the American Political Science Review, 2007-2008." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 42 (2): 426-8.
- Boncourt, Thibaud. 2008. "Is European Political Science different from European Political Sciences? A Comparative Study of the *European Journal of Political Research*, *Political Studies* and the *Revue française de science politique* 1973–2002." *European Political Science* 7 (3): 366-81.

- Neuman, W. Russell, Roei Davidson, Sung-Hee Joo, Yong Jin Park, and Ann E. Williams. 2008. "The Seven Deadly Sins of Communication Research." *Journal of Communication* 58 (2): 220-237.
- Johnson, Teresa Pelton. 1991. "Writing for International Security: A Contributors' Guide." *International Security* 16 (2): 171-80.
- Bonjean, Charles M., and Hullum, Jan. 1978. "Reasons for Journal Rejection: An Analysis of 600 Manuscripts." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 11 (4): 480-3.
- Wolfinger, Raymond E. 1993. "Tips for Writing Papers." *PS: Political Science* 26 (1) 87-8.
- Thunder, David. 2004. "Back to Basics: Twelve Rules for Writing a Publishable Article." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 37 (3): 493-5.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 38 (4): 741-3.
- Shatz, David. 2004. *Peer Review: A Critical Inquiry*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield
- Jeydel, Alana S., Julie Dolan, David S. Meyer, Robert J. Spitzer, and Peter Labella. 2005. "A Guide to Publishing Your First Book." *PS: Political Science* 38 (3): 745-8.
- Breuning, Marijke, and Kathryn Sanders. 2007. "Gender and Journal Authorship in Eight Prestigious Political Science Journals." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40 (2): 347-51.
- Wasby, Stephen J. ed. 2001. "Symposium: Advisors and the Dissertation Proposal." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 34 (December): 841-58.
- Masuoka, Natalie, Bernard Grofman, and Scott L. Feld. 2007. "The Political Science 400: A 20-Year Update." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40 (1): 133-45. (Note the corrections published in *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40 (4): 629).
- Hix, Simon. 2004. "A Global Ranking of Political Science Departments." *Political Studies Review* 2: 293-313.
- Hix, Simon. 2004. "European Universities in a Global Ranking of Political Science Departments." *European Political Science* 3 (2): 5-23.
- Masuoka, Natalie, Bernard Grofman, and Scott L. Feld. 2007. "Ranking Departments: A Comparison of Alternative Approaches." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40 (3): 531-537.
- Giles, Micheal W., and James C. Garand. 2007. "Ranking Political Science Journals: Reputational and Citational Approaches." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40 (4): 741-751.
- Moed, Henk F. 2005. *Citation Analysis in Research Evaluation*. Dordrecht: Springer.
- David, Miriam E. 2008. "Research Quality Assessment and the Metrication of the Social Sciences." *European Political Science* 7 (1): 52-63.

For data on how many journal articles are produced by PhD students, see:

- Breuning, Marijke, and Kathryn Sanders. 2007. "Gender and Journal Authorship in Eight Prestigious Political Science Journals." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 40 (2): 347-51.

Assignment: For the seminar of this week, do a little research to find out the answers to the following questions. What are the six scholarly journals that are most likely to publish articles in the field of your interest? Do not just focus on specialist outlets but also consider general political science journals. Which others do you have to follow regularly to keep up with the literature? What is the impact factor of these journals relative to the most cited political science

journals (for a list of these, see, e.g., the first article by Hix among the readings)? Which ones do you think you may be able to get published in? Look through all research articles in the last two full volumes of this journal and prepare the following statistics: what percentage of these articles uses one method and another, and what is the percentage distribution of the various substantive topics that appear in these publications? Prepare these tables (one for topics and one for methods) with the help of your own coding scheme that allows you to classify every article into one or more categories and less than ten percent of all articles are allocated in the residual 'other methods/topics' category. Last but not least, explain why you would not want to target a more highly ranked journal. Email me your results by noon on the Wednesday of the second week.

PART II: CHOOSING YOUR THEORY, DATA, AND METHODS

Week 3: Nomothetic versus ideographic research. The template for clinical research in medical science compared to policy studies and hypothesis testing in the social sciences. Experiments and quasi-experiments provided by cross-sectional, panel or longitudinal data. Interpretive research in the ethnographic tradition; participant observation

Guest speaker:

Readings:

- # Gray, Mark M., and A. Wuffle. 2005. "Vindicating Anthony Downs." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 38 (3): 737-740.
- # Ulbig, Stacy. 2009. "Engaging the Unengaged: Using Visual Images to Enhance Students' "Poli Sci 101" Experience." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 42 (2): 385-391.
- # Yanow, Dvora, and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, eds. 2006. *Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn*. New York: M.E. Sharpe, chapter 13.
- # Cohn, Carol. 1987. "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 12 (4): 687-718.
- # Neumann, Iver B. 2005. "To Be a Diplomat." *International Studies Perspectives* 6 (1): 72-93.
- Morton, Rebecca and Kenneth Williams, *From Nature to the Lab: Experimental Political Science and the Study of Causality*, manuscript available at: <http://politics.as.nyu.edu/docs/IO/2797/experiment.pdf>
- Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2001. "Advantages and Disadvantages of Cognitive Heuristics in Political Decision Making." *American Journal of Political Science* 45: 951-971.
- Zimbardo, Philip. 2007. *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*. New York: Random House.
- McDermott, Rose. 2002. "Experimental Methodology in Political Science." *Political Analysis* 10: 325-342.
- Druckman, James, Donald Green, James Kuklinski, and Arthur Lupia. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 100 (4): 627-35.

- Knorr Cetina, Karin. 1999. *Epistemic Cultures: How the Sciences Make Knowledge*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- 320./072 BUR Burnham, Peter, Karin Gilland, Wyn Grant, and Zig Layton-Henry. 2004. *Research Methods in Politics*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 221-49.
- 300./72 JOR Jorgensen, Danny L. *Participant Observation: A Methodology for Human Studies*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- 306.1/072 HUM Hume, Lynne, and Jane Mulcock, eds. 2004. *Anthropologists in the Field: Cases in Participant Observation*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- 306.1/01 ATK Atkinson, Paul. ed. 2007. *Handbook of Ethnography*. London: Sage.
- Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1990. *Watching Politicians: Essays on Participant Observation*. Berkeley, CA: IGS Press.
- Bennett, Andrew, and Colin Elman. 2007. "Qualitative Methods: The View from the Subfields." *Comparative Political Studies* 40 (2): 111-121.
- Bevir, Mark, and R A W Rhodes. 2006. "Defending Interpretation." *European Political Science* 5 (1): 69-83.
- 300.1 KIN King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-33.
- 320./072 Gerber, Alan S., Donald P. Green, and Edward H. Kaplan. 2004. "The Illusion of Learning from Observational Research." In *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics*, edited by Ian Shapiro, Rogers M. Smith and Tarek E. Masoud. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 251-73.
- Taagepera, Rein, Stephen Coleman, Josep M. Colomer, and Bernard Grofman. 2007. "Symposium: Why Political Science is not Scientific Enough." *European Political Science* 6 (2): 111-155.
- 300./72 ALF Alford, Robert R. 1998. *The Craft of Inquiry: Theories, Methods, Evidence*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lin, Ann Chih. "Bridging Positivist and Interpretivist Approaches to Qualitative Methods." *Policy Studies Journal* 26:1 (Spring 1998), 162-80.
- 320./072 Shapiro, Ian. 2004. "Problems, Methods, and Theories in the Study of Politics, or: What's Wrong with Political Science and What to Do About it." In *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics*, edited by Ian Shapiro, Rogers M. Smith and Tarek E. Masoud. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 19-41.

Assignment: I would like you to practice a bit how you can make a research proposal appealing to reviewers, and to do so before you would even start writing your dissertation proposal (and have forgotten, while struggling to develop the detailed design of your own study, what we learnt about the keys to a successful proposal). So let's play a bit and pretend that the research reported in the assigned readings for this week have not yet been done, we have no idea what results they would produce, and you are about to propose exactly one of those projects for a grant agency. Write a very concise, max. three-page research proposal for undertaking this study. Feel free to improve on the study design employed in the reading. Omit references and any literature review this time, but otherwise please follow closely the Schmitter and Przeworski-Salomon guidelines (see both among the previous week's readings) for the ideal proposal.

Week 4: The role and development of generalizations, theories, concepts, and hypotheses. Causal laws, social mechanisms, probabilistic relationships, multiple conjunctural causation, analytical narratives, causal chains, feedback processes, self-fulfilling and self-negating prophecies

Readings:

- # Lijphart, Arend. 1996. "The Puzzle of Indian Democracy: A Consociational Interpretation." *American Political Science Review* 90 (2): 258-268.
- # Grofman, Bernard. 2004. "Downs and Two-Party Convergence." *Annual Review of Political Science* 7 (1): 25-46.
- # Schelling, Thomas C. 2006. "Dynamic Models of Segregation." in *Strategies of Commitment and Other Essays*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 249-310. (Note that for our current purposes, it is enough if you read the section titled "Prologue, 2006" on pp. 249-53; however, it is worth to at least browse the whole article to get a feel for what it does.)
- # Rothstein, Bo. 2005. *Social Traps and the Problem of Trust*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 28-42.
- # Schmitter, Philippe C. 2009. "The Confessions of a Repeat Offending and Unrepentant Conceptualist." Paper presented at the Mattei Dogan Prize Ceremony at the 21st IPSA World Congress of Political Science, Santiago de Chile, 12-16 July 2009.
- Morgenthau, Hans J. 1978. "Six Principles of Political Realism." in *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, 5th revised ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, pp. 4-15.
- Morgenthau, Hans J. 1948. "A Realist Theory of International Politics" in *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, chapters. 1, 3.
- 300.1 King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 12-22, 75-114.
- 300./72 Silverman, David. 2000. *Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook*. London: Sage, pp. 75-87.
- 300./72 BRE Brewer, John, and Albert Hunter. 2006. *Foundations of Multimethod Research: Synthesizing Styles*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, pp. 125-68.
- Gerring, John. 2001. *Social Science Methodology: A Criterial Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapter 1.
- Hedström, Peter, and Richard Swedberg, eds. 1998. *Social Mechanisms: An Analytical Approach to Social Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, introductory chapter.
- Gerring, John. 2005. "Causation: A Unified Framework for the Social Sciences." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 17 (2): 163-98.
- Mahoney, James. 2008. "Toward a Unified Theory of Causality." *Comparative Political Studies* 41 (4-5): 412-36.
- Brady, Henry E. 2008. "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, ed. Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Elster, Jon, 1998. "A Plea for Mechanisms." In *Social Mechanisms: An Analytical Approach to Social Theory*, ed. Peter Hedström and Richard Swedberg. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 45–73.
- Wuffle, A. 1999. "Credo of a "Reasonable Choice" Modeler." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 11 (2): 203-6.
- 320.6 Schelling, Thomas C. 2006. "Social Mechanisms and Social Dynamics." in *Strategies of Commitment and Other Essays*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 235-48.
- Fearon, John. 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science." *World Politics* 43 (2): 169–95.
- Pierson, Paul. 2000. "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence and the Study of Politics." *American Political Science Review* 94 (2): 251–67.
- Bates, Robert H., Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, and Barry R. Weingast. 2000. "The Analytic Narrative Project." *American Political Science Review* 94 (3): 696-702.
- Bates, Robert H., Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, and Barry Weingast. 2000. "Analytic Narratives Revisited." *Social Science History* 24 (4): 685-96.
- 320./072 Levi, Margaret. 2004. "An Analytic Narrative Approach to Puzzles and Problems." In *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics*, edited by Ian Shapiro, Rogers M. Smith and Tarek E. Masoud. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 201-26.
- Sartori, Giovanni 1970. "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics." *American Political Science Review* 64 (4): 1033-53.
- Collier, David, and Robert Adcock 1999. "Democracy and Dichotomies: A Pragmatic Approach to Choices about Concepts." *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 537-65.
- Collier, David, and James Mahoney. 1993. "Conceptual 'Stretching' Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Politics." *American Political Science Review* 87: 845-55.
- 300./72 Goertz, Gary. ed. 2006. *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Bevir, Mark, and Asaf Kedar. 2008. "Concept Formation in Political Science: An Anti-Naturalist Critique of Qualitative Methodology." *Perspectives on Politics* 6 (3): 503-517.

Assignment: This week’s readings illustrate some ways of forming theories and concepts that we will discuss in class. But first, test yourself. Develop an empirically testable theory about “why European political science is so unproductive” (cf. Schneider, Gerald, Bernard Steunenberg, Katharina Holzinger, and Nils Petter Gleditsch. 2007. "Symposium: Why European Political Science is So Unproductive and What Should Be Done About It." *European Political Science* 6 (2): 156-91), clarify the concepts in your theory and suggest hypotheses that follow from it. Write up the whole thing in maximum two pages. Obviously, you may or may not accept at face value the proposition that “European political science is so unproductive”, e.g. if you so wish then you can propose theories about who and why has this perception and/or makes this claim, and then propose feasible empirical tests of your propositions.

Week 5: The ambiguous relationship between data and theory. Data archives, publicly available databases, replications datasets, data available on request, expert surveys,

secondary data analysis, fraud in science. Replicability, validity and reliability: how can you tell what data sets and variables are credible enough for you to rely on them? An example of how these questions emerge in case study designs

Readings:

- # Collier, Paul, Anke Hoeffler, and Nicholas Sambanis. 2005. "The Collier-Hoeffler Model of Civil War Onset and the Case Study Project Research Design." In *Understanding Civil War: Evidence and Analysis*, edited by Paul Collier and Nicholas Sambanis. Washington, DC: World Bank, pp. 1-34.
- # Kalynas, Stathis N., and Nicholas Sambanis. 2005. "Bosnia's Civil War: Origins and Violence Dynamics." In *Understanding Civil War: Evidence and Analysis*, edited by Paul Collier and Nicholas Sambanis. Washington, DC: World Bank, pp. 191-230.
- 303.6/6 COL Collier, Paul, and Nicholas Sambanis, eds. 2005. *Understanding Civil War: Evidence and Analysis, Vols. 1-2*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- 303.6/6 LEV Levy, Jack, and Gary Goertz. 2007. *Explaining War and Peace: Case Studies and Necessary Condition Counterfactuals*. London: Routledge.
- 300.1 KIN King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 34-74, 151-67.
- 300./72 BRE Brewer, John, and Albert Hunter. 2006. *Foundations of Multimethod Research: Synthesizing Styles*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, pp. 105-124.
- Thies, Cameron G. 2002. "A Pragmatic Guide to Qualitative Historical Analysis in the Study of International Relations." *International Studies Perspectives* 3: 351-72.
- Trachtenberg, Marc. 2006. *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Adcock, Robert, and David Collier. 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *American Political Science Review* 95 (3): 529-546.
- Zeller, Richard A., and Edward G. Carmines. 1980. *Measurement in the Social Sciences: The Link between Theory and Data*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gerring, John. 2004. "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good for?" *American Political Science Review* 98 (2): 341-354.
- Gerring, John. 2007. "Is There a (Viable) Crucial-Case Method?" *Comparative Political Studies* 40 (3): 231-253.
- Coppedge, Michael. 1999. "Thickening Thin Concepts and Theories: Combining Large N and Small in Comparative Politics." *Comparative Politics* 31: 465-476.
- Gerring, John, and Rose McDermott. 2007. "An Experimental Template for Case Study Research." *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (3): 688-701.
- 300./72 SIL Silverman, David. 2000. *Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook*. London: Sage, pp. 102-12.
- Mahoney, James. 2007. "Qualitative Methodology and Comparative Politics." *Comparative Political Studies* 40 (2): 122-44.
- 300./72 Gerring, John. 2007. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- 300./722 George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Ragin, Charles, and Howard Becker, eds. 1992. *What is a Case: Exploring the Foundations of Social Inquiry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 300./722 Yin, Robert K. 1993. *Applications of Case Study Research*. London: Sage
- 300./722 Stake, Robert E. 1995. *The Art of Case Study Research*. London: Sage.
- 300./72 Gillham, Bill. 2000. *Case Study Research Methods*. London: Continuum.

Assignment: Search for publicly available data sets in your field of interest. Choose one and describe (in about a page) a theoretical problem that you could analyze using these data. Explain how exactly this data will allow the required analysis.

PART III: Problems of case selection, data collection and analysis, external and internal validity, and inference under different methods

Motto: "I've missed over 9,000 shots in my career. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over again in life. And that is why I succeed." (Michael Jordan)

Week 6: Research cultures from arts via crafts to industrial production. Frequency distribution of various methods in political science and across its different fields. Formal models, simulations, agent-based modeling, and quantitative-empirical analysis. Cross-sectional and longitudinal data in the analysis of causal relationships

Readings:

Putnam, Robert D., with Roberto Leonardi, and Raffaella Y. Nanetti. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 1-120.

For some commentary on Putnam's book, see:

Morlino, Leonardo. 1995. "Italy's Civic Divide." *Journal of Democracy* 6 (1): 173-177.

Tarrow, Sidney. 1996. "Making Social Science Work Across Space and Time: A Critical Reflection on Robert Putnam's Making Democracy Work." *American Political Science Review* 90 (2): 389-97.

Jackman, Robert W., and Ross A. Miller. 1996. "A Renaissance of Political Culture?" *American Journal of Political Science* 40: 632-59.

Jackman, Robert W., and Ross A. Miller. 1998. "Social Capital and Politics." *Annual Review of Political Science* 1: 47-73.

Rothstein, Bo. 2005. *Social Traps and the Problem of Trust*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 43-70.

For some recent evidence on the frequency distribution of various methods and approaches in the discipline, see:

- Turner, Charles C., and Cameron G. Thies. 2009. "What We Mean by Scope and Methods: A Survey of Undergraduate Scope and Methods Courses." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 42 (2): 367-373.
- Schwartz-Shea, Peregrine. 2003. "Is This the Curriculum We Want? Doctoral Requirements and Offerings in Methods and Methodology." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 36 (3): 379-386.
- Bennett, Andre, Aharo Barth, and Kennet R. Rutherford. 2003. "Do We Preach What We Practice? A Survey of Methods in Political Science Journals and Curricula." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 36 (3): 373-8. Also available from <http://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/PreachWhatWePractice-Bennett.pdf>
- King, Ronald F., and Cosmin Gabriel Maria. 2008. "Defining Political Science: A Cross-National Survey." *European Political Science* 7 (2): 207–219.
- 300./3 SIL Smelser, Neil J., and Paul B. Baltes, eds. 2001. *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
- 320./072 BOX Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Henry E. Brady, and David Collier, eds. 2008. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 7: Interpretive research with discourse analysis

Guest speaker:

Readings:

- # Yanow, Dvora, and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, eds. 2006. *Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn*. New York: M.E. Sharpe, chapter 16.
- # Hansen, Lene. 2006. *Security as Practice: Discourse Analysis and the Bosnian War*. London: Routledge. Chapters 2-3 and 6-9.
- Milliken, Jennifer. 1999. "The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods." *European Journal of International Relations* 5 (2): 225-254.
- Milliken, Jennifer. 2002. *The Social Construction of the Korean War: Conflict Possibilities*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- 327./1/01 Klotz, Audie, and Cecelia M. Lynch. 2007. *Strategies for Research in Constructivist International Relations*. New York: M.E. Sharpe
- 306.4/4 Wodak, Ruth, Rudolf de Cillia, Martin Reisigl, and Karin Liebhart. 1999. *The Discursive Construction of National Identity*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- 302.2/3 Richardson, John E. 2007. *Analysing Newspapers: An Approach from Critical Discourse Analysis*. Basingstoke: Palgrave-Macmillan.
- Dessler, David, and John Owen. 2005. "Constructivism and the Problem of Explanation." *Perspectives on Politics* 3 (3): 597-610.
- 300./72 Silverman, David. 2000. *Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook*. London: Sage, pp. 88-101.
- 300./72 Brewer, John, and Albert Hunter. 2006. *Foundations of Multimethod Research: Synthesizing Styles*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, pp. 59-78.

- 401.4/1 Wodak, Ruth, and Michael Meyer, eds. 2001. *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*. London: Sage.
- Potter, Jonathan, and Margaret Wetherell. 1994. "Analyzing Discourse." In *Analyzing Qualitative Data*, edited by Alan Bryman and Robert G. Burgess. London: Routledge, pp. 47-66.
- 320./014 Howarth, David, and Jacob Torfing, eds. 2005. *Discourse Theory in European Politics: Identity, Policy and Governance*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 401.4/1 Wetherell, Margaret, Stephanie Taylor, and Simeon J. Yates. 2001. *Discourse as Data: A Guide for Analysis*. London: Sage.
- 335./009 Laclau, Ernesto, and Chantal Mouffe. 1985. *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*. London: Verso.
- 321./094 Laclau, Ernesto. 1990. *New Reflections on the Revolution of Our Time*. London: Verso.
- 321.8 Laclau, Ernesto. 2005. *On Populist Reason*. London: Verso.
- 320./011 Stavrakakis, Yannis. 1999. *Lacan & The Political*. London: Routledge.
- 140 Zizek, Slavoj. 1989. *The Sublime Object of Ideology*. London: Verso.
- Glynos, Jason, and David Howarth. 2008. "Structure, Agency and Power in Political Analysis: Beyond Contextualized Self-Interpretations." *Political Studies Review* 6: 155-169.

Week 8: Hypothesis testing in comparative (case) studies. Case selection in small-, medium-, large-N and multilevel research

Readings:

- # Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2003. "Political Competition and the Politicization of the State in East Central Europe." *Comparative Political Studies* 36 (10): 1123-1147.
- # Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2006. "The Discreet Charm of Formal Institutions: Postcommunist Party Competition and State Oversight." *Comparative Political Studies* 39 (3): 271-300.
- Grzymala-Busse, Anna. 2007. *Rebuilding Leviathan: Party Competition and State Exploitation in Post-Communist Democracies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 320.3 LAN Landman, Todd. 2008. *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. London: Routledge.
- 300.1 KIN King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 115-49, 208-30.
- 320./072 BUR Burnham, Peter, Karin Gilland, Wyn Grant, and Zig Layton-Henry. 2004. *Research Methods in Politics*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 58-79, 165-88, 205-20.
- 300./72 BRE Brewer, John, and Albert Hunter. 2006. *Foundations of Multimethod Research: Synthesizing Styles*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, pp. 79-104.
- Collier, David 1993. "The Comparative Method." in *Political Science: The State of the Discipline II*, ed. by Ada W. Finifter. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association, pp. 105-19.

- Collier, David 1991. "The Comparative Method: Two Decades of Change." in *Comparative Political Dynamics: Global Research Perspectives*, ed. by Dankwart A. Rustow, and Kenneth Paul Erickson. New York: Harper Collins, pp. 7-31.
- Sartori, Giovanni 1996. "Comparing and Miscomparing." In *Comparative Politics. Notes and Readings*. 8th ed., ed. Belmont, Steven L. Brown and Roy C. Macridis. CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company. pp. 20–30.
- Lijphart, Arend 1975. "The Comparable-cases Strategy in Comparative Research." *Comparative Political Studies* 8: 158–77.
- Hicks, Alexander M. 1994. "Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Analytical Induction: The Case of the Emergence of the Social Security State." *Sociological Methods and Research* 23 (1): 86-113 .
- Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis* 2: 131-150.
- Collier, David 1995. "Translating Quantitative Methods for Qualitative Researchers: The Case of Selection Bias." *American Political Science Review* 89: 461-74.
- Collier, David G., and James Mahoney 1996. "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research." *World Politics* 49: 56-91.
- Ashworth, Scott, Joshua D. Clinton, Adam Meiowitz, and Kristopher W. Ramsay. 2008. "Design, Inference, and the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 102 (2): 269-273.
- Pape, Robert A. 2008. "Methods and Findings in the Study of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 102 (2): 275-277.
- Clarke, Kevin A. 2007. "The Necessity of Being Comparative: Theory Confirmation in Quantitative Political Science." *Comparative Political Studies* 40 (7): 886-908.
- Lieberman, Evan S. 2005. "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-method Strategy for Comparative Research." *American Political Science Review* 99 (3): 435–52.
- Rohlfing, Ingo. 2008. "What You See and What You Get: Pitfalls and Principles of Nested Analysis in Comparative Research." *Comparative Political Studies* 41 (11): 1492–514.

Week 9: Research at the ideographic end of the continuum. The use of interviews, (participatory) action research, content analysis, and focus groups. Accounting for possible data errors and the treatment of missing observations in the analysis

Guest speaker:

Readings (*Descriptively-oriented research tends to require longer reports than nomothetic studies, so be prepared to skim Ferree et al. 2002 in its entirety. As you will see, the book is organized around 'two stories'. We will discuss the first (analyzing alternative frames of an issue) at the Wednesday seminar, so if you attend that seminar then make sure that you read more carefully the following bits: pp. 3-24, 43-57, 59, 82-153, 286-304. The second 'story' (evaluating discourse quality) will be discussed at the Thursday seminar, so if you attend that then make sure that you read more carefully the following bits: pp. 3-24, 43-57, 59, 126-30, 201-255, 280-5, 286-304. On Friday we shall move on to have a look at some further methods topics*

that, once again, were somewhat arbitrarily allocated to this week, and you find a few readings for those below).

- # Ferree, Myra Marx, William Anthony Gamson, Jürgen Gerhards, and Dieter Rucht. 2002. *Shaping Abortion Discourse. Democracy and Public Sphere in Germany and the US*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Drzewiecka, Anna. 2007. "The Joys and Perils of Conducting Field Research in Eastern Europe." *European Political Science* 6 (3): 295-301.
- 300.1 KIN King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 34-74.
- 300./72 WEN Wengraf, Tom. 2001. *Qualitative Research Interviewing: Biographical Narrative and Semi-structured Methods*. London: Sage.
- 300./72 SIL Silverman, David. 2000. *Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook*. London: Sage, pp. 119-190.
- 401.4/1 POP Popping, Roel. 2000. *Computer-assisted Text Analysis*. London: Sage.
- 300./72 SEA Kelle, Udo. 2004. "Computer-Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis." in *Qualitative Research Practice*, edited by Clive Seale, Giampietro Gobo, Jaber F. Gubrium, and David Silverman. London: Sage, pp. 473-489.
- Jerit, Jennifer, and Jason Barabas. 2006. "Bankrupt Rhetoric: How Misleading Information Affects Knowledge about Social Security." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 70 (3): 278-303.
- 320./014 STE Steiner, Jürg, André Bächtiger, Markus Spörndli, and Marco R. Steenbergen. 2004. *Deliberative Politics in Action: Analysing Parliamentary Discourse*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hofferbert, Richard I., and Hans-Dieter Klingemann. 1990. "The Policy Impact of Party Programmes and Government Declarations in the Federal Republic of Germany." *European Journal of Political Research* 18: 277-304.
- Barker, David C., and Adam B. Lawrence. 2006. "Media Favoritism and Presidential Nominations: Reviving the Direct Effects Model." *Political Communication* 23 (1): 41-59.
- Allison, Paul D. 2002. *Missing Data*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 300./723 MOR Morgan, David L. 1998. *Planning Focus Groups*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 300./723 KRU Krueger, Richard A. 1998. *Moderating Focus Groups*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage
- Bartle, John. 2003. "Measuring Party Identification: An Exploratory Study with Focus Groups." *Electoral Studies* 22 (2): 217-37.
- CEUL 941./085/092 Billig, Michael. 1998. *Talking of the Royal Family*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.
- 300./72 HEN Hennink, Monique M. 2007. *International Focus Group Research: A Handbook for the Health and Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

PART IV: PRESENTATIONS OF DRAFT PROPOSALS AND SOME PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

Week 10: Discussion of draft dissertation proposals. The facts and values debate, especially with respect to explanations, predictions, policy recommendations and evaluation research. Research ethics and legal issues in studying human subjects

Guest speaker:

Readings:

- # 362.8/3 BAC Bacchi, Carol Lee. 1999. "What is the Problem? An Approach to Policy." In *Women, Policy and Politics: The Construction of Policy Problems*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, pp. 15-64.
- # Berrebi, Claude. 2009. "The Economics of Terrorism and Counterterrorism: What Matters and Is Rational-Choice Theory Helpful?" In *Social Science for Counterterrorism: Putting the Pieces Together*, edited by Paul K. Davis and Kim Cragin. Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation, pp. 151-208.
- Eriksson, Johan, and Bengt Sundelius. 2005. "Molding Minds That Form Policy: How to Make Research Useful." *International Studies Perspectives* 6 (1): 51-71.
- Woon, Jonathan. 2009. "Change We Can Believe In? Using Political Science to Predict Policy Change in the Obama Presidency." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 42 (2): 329-333.
- American Political Science Association Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights and Freedoms. 2008. "APSA Guide to Professional Ethics in Political Science." 2nd revised ed. Available from http://www.apsanet.org/section_513.cfm
- 320./072 Norton, Anne. 2004. "Political Science as a Vocation." In *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics*, edited by Ian Shapiro, Rogers M. Smith and Tarek E. Masoud. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 67-82.
- 320./019 TET Tetlock, Philip E. 2005. *Expert Political Judgment: How Good is it? How Can we Know?* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- 320./072 Piven, Frances Fox. 2004. "The Politics of Policy Science." In *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics*, edited by Ian Shapiro, Rogers M. Smith and Tarek E. Masoud. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 83-105.
- 320./072 BUR Burnham, Peter, Karin Gilland, Wyn Grant, and Zig Layton-Henry. 2004. *Research Methods in Politics*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 250-69.
- O'Leary, Zina. 2004. *The Essential Guide to Doing Research*. London: Sage, chapter 4.
- 300./72 KIM Kimmel, Allan J. 1988. *Ethics and Values in Applied Social Research*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- 305.8/09/1717 DES Zanca, Russel. 2000. "Intruder in Uzbekistan: Walking the Line between Community Needs and Anthropological Desiderata." In *Fieldwork Dilemmas: Anthropologists in Postsocialist States*, edited by Hermine G. De Soto and Nora Dudwick. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, pp. 153-171
- 320.6 HOD Cowburn, Malcolm. 2007. "Ethics, Research and Policy." In *Policy Reconsidered: Meaning, Politics and Practices*, edited by Susan M. Hodgson and Zoë Irving. Bristol: The Policy Press.
- Hauck, Robert J. P., and et al. 2008. "Symposium—Protecting Human Research Participants, IRBs, and Political Science Redux." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 41 (3): 475-511.

Hertwig, Ralph, and Andreas Ortmann. 2008. "Deception in Experiments: Revisiting the Arguments in its Defense." *Ethics & Behavior* 18 (1): 59-92.

300./72 PAL Pallone, Nathaniel J., and James J. Hennessy, eds. 1995. *Fraud and Fallible Judgment: Varieties of Deception in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

Assignment: The readings for this week should give you some ideas about how your research (i.e., the one that you present some initial ideas about in our seminar series) might raise ethical concerns. Send in at least one relevant question so that we can discuss it in class.

Week 11: Discussion of draft dissertation proposals continues. Discussion on literature reviews, library search techniques, and the formal evaluation of past evidence. The differential role and composition of literature reviews in articles, books, proposals and dissertations. Literature search techniques for books, journal articles, conference papers, work in progress, electronic publications, open access and grey literature. Speed reading. Meta-analysis and the incorporation of past evidence in the analysis of new data via Bayesian models

Guest speaker:

Readings:

- # Althaus, Scott L. 1996. "Who Speaks for the People? Political Knowledge, Representation, and the Use of Opinion Surveys in Democratic Politics." PhD thesis. UMI Number 9714540. Chicago, IL: Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, chapter 5.
- # Althaus, Scott L. 1998. "Information Effects in Collective Preferences." *American Political Science Review* 92 (3): 545-558.
- # Althaus, Scott L. 2003. *Collective Preferences in Democratic Politics: Opinion Surveys and the Will of the People*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapter 4.
- Shadbolt, Nigel, Tim Brody, Les Carr, and Stevan Harnad. 2006. "The Open Research Web: A Preview of the Optimal and the Inevitable." Available from <http://cogprints.org/4841/>. Accessed on 15 August 2009.
- May, Christopher. 2005. "The Academy's New Electronic Order? Open Source Journals and Publishing Political Science." *European Political Science* 4 (1): 14-24.
- "The Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities." Available from <http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>
- Willinsky, John. 2009. *The Access Principle: The Case for Open Access to Research and Scholarship*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Sunstein, Cass R. 2008. *Infotopia: How Many Minds Produce Knowledge*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- O'Leary, Zina. 2004. *The Essential Guide to Doing Research*. London: Sage, chapter 6.
- 300./72 LIP Lipsey, Mark W. and David B. Wilson. 2001. *Practical Meta-analysis*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Jackman, Simon. 2004. "Bayesian Analysis for Political Research." *Annual Review of Political Science* 7 (1): 483-505. (Focus on his first example: the second example is beyond the orbit of this week's conversation.)

Assignment: All participants will have two tasks this week. First, send in at least one relevant question about how you can search for relevant literature for your research that you would like to ask from a library information service specialist. Second, analyze how an article, a monograph, and a PhD dissertation by the same person and on the same topic cover the previous literature and write a one-page summary of the differences that you find. Think about possible explanations for these differences. Summarize in max two pages where you see such differences and what is your explanation for them. The article-monograph-dissertation set that we take as our example comes from Scott Althaus, because he was so successful in turning his dissertation into influential, prize-winning, much cited publications.²

Week 12: Presentation of draft dissertation proposals ends. Discussion about job markets, jobbanks, interview guides and mock-interviews. Combining dissertation writing with teaching, other research, and parenthood. Taking stock - what have we learnt, what do we miss, and what can we do about that?

Guest speaker:

Readings (none is mandatory this week and the caveat again applies that, unless you are interested in Anglosaxon job markets, the readings below may give more ideas about the questions that you can ask than about the answers that you are interested in):

378.1/2 DEN DeNeef, A. Leigh, and Craufurd D. Goodwin, eds. 1995. *The Academic's Handbook*. 2nd ed. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. (The 3rd edition came out in 2007 but is not yet available in the library.)

Fuerstman, Daniel, and Stephan Lavertu. 2005. "The Academic Hiring Process: A Survey of Department Chairs." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 38 (4): 731-6.

Rothgeb, John M., and Betsy Burger. 2009. "Tenure Standards in Political Science Departments: Results from a Survey of Department Chairs." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 42 (3): 513-9.

Klingemann, Hans-Dieter. 2008. "Capacities: Political Science in Europe." *West European Politics* 31 (1): 370-96.

² The book version was awarded both the 2004 David Easton Prize by the Foundations of Political Theory Section of the American Political Science Association (this prize is given for a book published in the previous five years that "broadens the horizons of contemporary political science by engaging issues of philosophical significance in political life through any of a variety of approaches in the social sciences and humanities") and the 2004 Goldsmith Book Prize by the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University (the Goldsmith Prize is given to "the best academic and best trade books that seek to improve the quality of government or politics through an examination of press and politics in the formation of public policy.") The 1998 APSR article on the same topic, in turn, became a mainstay in graduate reading packs in voting behavior and public opinion research (cf. e.g. the most widely used Niemi and Weisberg textbook).

- 378 DEL Delamont, Sara, and Paul Atkinson. 2004. *Successful Research Careers: A Practical Guide*. Maidenhead: Open University Press
- Klingemann, Hans-Dieter, and *et al.* 2009. "Political Science in Central and Eastern Europe: National Development and International Integration." Berlin, Mannheim: Gesis - Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften. Available from <http://www.cee-socialscience.net/archive/politicalscience/article1.html>. Accessed on 7 August 2009.
- The PS: Political Science & Politics magazine of the APSA and European Political Science published by the ECPR are useful source of informal but evidence-based commentary on this kind of matters, and are written specifically for political scientist. Less discipline-specific, far more subjective, but also more plentiful advice can be found in the magazine Inside Higher Education, which has a 'Career Advice' section featuring a handy search facility and lots of great tips. See, e.g.:*
- Sabine Hikel. 2009. "When Should You Quit?" *Inside Higher Education*, July 20, 2009. Available at http://www.insidehighered.com/advice/leaving_academia/hikel2
- Mary Jane Hurst. 2009. "Mentor Yourself." *Inside Higher Education*, July 29, 2009. Available at <http://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2009/29/hurst>
- Piss Poor Prof. 2009. "Can You Afford to Be an Adjunct?" *Inside Higher Education*, August 3, 2009. Available at <http://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2009/06/15/adjunct>
- Piss Poor Prof. 2009. "Adjunct Survival." *Inside Higher Education*, August 3, 2009. Available at <http://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2009/08/03/adjunct>
- Mycock, Andrew. 2007. "'Where's the Real Lecturer?' The Experiences of Doctoral Educators in the UK." *European Political Science* 6 (2): 208-18.
- Rhodes, Martin. 2006. "Young People in the European Political Science Profession." *European Political Science* 5 (3): 232-4.
- Hassner, Ron E. 2008. "Trial by Fire: Surviving the Job Talk Q&A." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 41 (4): 803-8.
- Wuffle, A. 2006. "Uncle Wuffle's Advice on Job Talks." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 39 (4): 883-6. Available from <http://www.socsci.uci.edu/~bgrofman/Wuffle-Advice%20on%20job%20talks.pdf>
- Mathews-Gardner, Lanethea, Michelle D. Deardorff, Grant Reeher, William Hudson, MaryAnne Borrelli, and Glen Halva-Neubauer. 2008. "Getting a Job at a Teaching Institution and Then Succeeding: A Q&A with Experienced Teacher-Scholars." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 41 (3): 575-8.
- Wuffle, A. 1993. "Uncle Wuffle's Advice to the Assistant Professor." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 26 (1): 89-90. Available from: <http://web.archive.org/web/20040212123359/www.apsanet.org/PS/march93/wuffle.cfm>
- There are plenty of websites with commentary and rumours on academic job markets, but chances are that you can get better tips about these from peers than senior faculty.*
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