

Quantitative Approaches to International Politics

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Location: Room C003 (Oettingenstr. 67)

Date/time: Thursdays, 14:00–16:00 (c.t.)

Office hours: GSI, Room G102. Tuesdays, 14:00–15:30, or by appointment.

Seminar Abstract

This course will provide students with a solid foundation in consuming, analyzing, and producing quantitative research in international relations. We will cover central issues in quantitative research design, e.g., identifying, manipulating, and describing data as well as performing regression analysis. The course will cover a variety of topics within IR, with special focus on recent developments in quantitative IR research, such as causal inference, survey research, experiments, and big data. Topics may shift based on student interest.

Students will be expected to use and manipulate data (their own or from other sources) for analysis. The course is designed to be hands-on and interactive, so we will spend time in class discussing the practicalities of performing data analysis and troubleshooting student issues. We will use the (open-source) R statistical language throughout the course; however, no prior knowledge of the language will be assumed. All students will be expected to perform their own quantitative analysis for their class assignment.

Course Requirements

Students have a choice between writing a longer paper assignments (Hausarbeit) or completing a shorter dataset assignment. Note that if you choose a longer paper in this class, you need to choose the shorter assignment in your WP2.1 seminar, and vice versa. Details will be discussed in the first class session.

Long paper requirements:

Students choosing to write a longer assignment in this class will be expected to write a paper approximately 20-30.000 characters in length. We can collaboratively decide the exact format that this paper will take early in the semester, but the paper must include quantitative analysis beyond descriptives.

Dataset assignment requirements:

Students choosing to write a shorter assignment in this class will be expected to submit a dataset presentation (written or oral). The length of this assignment will be roughly 9.000 characters (or 15-20 minute video presentation (with slides)).

Useful information

- Deadline for the long papers will be **August 31, 2020, by 23:59 (in Munich)**.
- Deadline for the shorter assignment will be the beginning of **the final day of class**, to be uploaded to the course Moodle.

Course Schedule

The building blocks of quantitative research

23 April 2020: Introduction and how to work with R and RStudio. **Live meeting**

We will use this live class to get to know each other and get used to videoconferencing and exploring the different features available. I will go over the course schedule and requirements and answer any questions you may have. I will also take this opportunity to poll you guys on your background with quantitative data (and it's fine if your background is zero!) so that I can best tailor the class to meet your needs.

1. Download and try out RStudio. See tutorials for helping you do that on the course website or find ones that work for you online. If you run into problems, no worries, we will discuss them during our live meeting.

30 April 2020: R basics and all about datasets **Self-learning and group work**

1. Kosuke Imai. *Quantitative social science: An introduction*. Princeton University Press, 2018, pp. 1-28.
2. Group work: Identifying common IR datasets and building literature.

7 May 2020: Reading quantitative IR, testing hypotheses with data **Live meeting**

1. Ilyana Kuziemko and Eric Werker. "How Much is a Seat on the Security Council Worth? Foreign Aid and Bribery at the United Nations". In: *Journal of Political Economy* 114.5 (2006), pp. 905–930
2. Judith Kelley. "Who Keeps International Commitments and Why? The International Criminal Court and Bilateral Nonsurrender Agreements". In: *The American Political Science Review* 101.3 (2007), pp. 573–589

14 May 2020: Regression refresher and graphs in R **Self-learning plus troubleshooting**

1. Running regression in R (lm), fixed effects, and clustered SEs.
2. Making basic graphs in R
3. Tana Johnson. "Institutional Design and Bureaucrats' Impact on Political Control". In: *The Journal of Politics* 75.1 (2013), pp. 183–197

28 May 2020: Reading and replicating **Live meeting**

1. Rabia Malik and Randall W Stone. "Corporate Influence in World Bank Lending". In: *The Journal of Politics* 80.1 (2018), pp. 103–108.
2. Ranjit Lall. "Beyond Institutional Design: Explaining the Performance of International Organizations". In: *International Organization* 71.2 (2017), pp. 245–280

Old and new methods for studying IR with quantitative data

4 June 2020: Dealing with selection, censoring, and endogeneity [Self/Group-learning](#)

1. Axel Dreher et al. "Aid, China, and Growth: Evidence from a New Global Development Finance Dataset". In: *Working Paper* 46 (2017) OR Edward Miguel, Shanker Satyanath, and Ernest Sergenti. "Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict: An Instrumental Variables Approach". In: *Journal of Political Economy* 112.4 (2004), pp. 725–753
2. Bernhard Reinsberg and Oliver Westerwinter. "The global governance of international development: Documenting the rise of multi-stakeholder partnerships and identifying underlying theoretical explanations". In: *The Review of International Organizations* (2019)
3. Anastassia V. Obydenkova and Vinícius G. Rodrigues Vieira. "The Limits of Collective Financial Statecraft: Regional Development Banks and Voting Alignment with the United States at the United Nations General Assembly". In: *International Studies Quarterly* 64.1 (2020), pp. 13–25

18 June 2020: Causal inference introduction, potential outcomes [Live meeting](#)

1. Kosuke Imai. *Quantitative social science: An introduction*. Princeton University Press, 2018, pp. 32–69.
2. Susan D. Hyde. "Experiments in International Relations: Lab, Survey, and Field". In: *Annual Review of Political Science* 18.1 (2015), pp. 403–424
3. Elaine K. Denny and Jesse Driscoll. "Calling Mogadishu: How Reminders of Anarchy Bias Survey Participation". In: *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 6.2 (2019), pp. 81–92

25 June 2020: Causal inference in IR, experimental data

1. Jason Lyall, Yang-Yang Zhou, and Kosuke Imai. "Can Economic Assistance Shape Combatant Support in Wartime? Experimental Evidence from Afghanistan". In: *American Political Science Review* 114.1 (2020), pp. 126–143
2. Rabia Malik and Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir. "Are Goodwill Ambassadors Good for Business? The Impact of Celebrities on IO Fundraising". In: *Working Paper* (2019)

2 July 2020: Causal inference in IR, observational data

1. Jason Lyall. "Does Indiscriminate Violence Incite Insurgent Attacks?: Evidence from Chechnya". In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2009)
2. Allison Carnegie and Cyrus Samii. "International Institutions and Political Liberalization: Evidence from the World Bank Loans Program". In: *British Journal of Political Science* 49.4 (2019), pp. 1357–1379

9 July 2020: Big data in IR

1. Jacob M. Montgomery and Santiago Olivella. "Tree-Based Models for Political Science Data". In: *American Journal of Political Science* 62.3 (2018), pp. 729–744
2. Zachary M. Jones and Yonatan Lupu. "Is There More Violence in the Middle?" In: *American Journal of Political Science* 62.3 (2018), pp. 652–667

16 July 2020: Student presentations and discussion

23 July 2020: Final session and catch-up