

Research Design in International Relations

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Location: Room U139 (Oettingenstr. 67)

Date/time: Thursdays, 12:00–14:00 (c.t.)

Office hours: Tuesdays, 14:00–15:30, or by appointment. Room G-102 (Oettingenstr. 67)

Seminar Abstract

This course is designed to prepare advanced BA students for writing their Bachelor theses. It will cover the basics of social scientific research design. A good research design includes the formulation of a suitable research question, the identification of a suitable theoretical framework, the specification of hypotheses, and finally the selection of suitable cases, data and methods for testing those hypotheses. We will cover all these steps (and more!) during this seminar.

Structure of class

The first part of the seminar includes discussions of the building blocs of IR research. The second part, several popular methods of social scientific research will be discussed and analyzed. Finally, we will practice how to design and present an independent research project—such as a bachelor's thesis—in the form of an exposé. The goal of the class is for students to a) understand the components of a research project, b) be able to evaluate the feasibility of research ideas, and c) start thinking about a possible Bachelor project. Class sessions and readings will all be in English and students will be expected to write their exposés in English.

Course Requirement

A 20.000 character exposé (Hausarbeit), written in English. Due date is **March 2, 2020**. Please submit both a printed version into the Lehrstuhl Goetz inbox (No. 8) with my name on it AND also as pdf via email.

Course Schedule

The building blocks of IR research

17 October 2019: Introduction and “What is social-scientific research?”

- Akutagawa, R. (1952). In a grove. In *Rashomon and other stories*. Liverlight Publishing Corporation, New York, NY

24 October 2019: Asking the right questions: How, What, Where, When, Why?

1. Panke, D. (2018). *Research Design & Method Selection: Making Good Choices in the Social Sciences*. Sage. Chapter 2.

31 October 2019: No class! Longer final session as replacement.

7 November 2019: Theories and how to test them

1. Héritier, A. (2008). Causal explanation. *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*, pages 61–79.
2. Tannenwald, N. (1999). The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use. *International Organization*, 53(3):433–468

14 November 2019: Data and where to find it

1. Leech, B. L. (2002). Asking Questions: Techniques for Semistructured Interviews. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 35(4):665–668
2. (Skim) Freedom House Political Rights and Civil Liberties Methodology: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/methodology-freedom-world-2018>
3. (Skim) Polity IV Project Codebook: <http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscr/p4manualv2018.pdf>

21 November 2019: “I know it when I see it” and other (better) methods of measurement

1. Panke, D. (2018). *Research Design & Method Selection: Making Good Choices in the Social Sciences*. Sage. Chapter 6.
2. Paxton, P. (2000). Women’s Suffrage in the Measurement of Democracy: Problems of Operationalization. *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 35:92–111

28 November 2019: The writing process: The exposé and beyond

1. Kirschner, S. (n.d.). Some guidelines for writing a research paper in political science
2. Panke, D. (2018). *Research Design & Method Selection: Making Good Choices in the Social Sciences*. Sage. Chapter 9.
3. “Wissenschaftliches Arbeiten at LMU” (in German, so optional reading, but recommended): <https://www.gsi.uni-muenchen.de/studium/wissarb/index.html>

(Some of) the many methods in IR

5 December 2019: Qualitative vs quantitative research: Do I have to pick a side?

1. Panke, D. (2018). *Research Design & Method Selection: Making Good Choices in the Social Sciences*. Sage. Chapter 4.
2. Kelley, J. (2007). Who Keeps International Commitments and Why? The International Criminal Court and Bilateral Nonsurrender Agreements. *The American Political Science Review*, 101(3):573–589

12 December 2019: Case selection and selection effects: Do we care?

1. Geddes, B. (2003). *Paradigms and sand castles: Theory building and research design in comparative politics*. University of Michigan Press. Chapter 4, pp. 131-174.
2. Fortna, V. P. (2004). Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War. *International Studies Quarterly*, 48(2):269–292

19 December 2019: Comparative case studies and how to do them well

1. Panke, D. (2018). *Research Design & Method Selection: Making Good Choices in the Social Sciences*. Sage. Chapter 5.
2. Geddes, B. (2003). *Paradigms and sand castles: Theory building and research design in comparative politics*. University of Michigan Press. Chapter 4, pp. 131-174.
3. Bulutgil, H. Z. (2017). Ethnic Cleansing and its Alternatives in Wartime: A Comparison of the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Russian Empires. *International Security*, 41(4):169–201

9 January 2020: Telling a story with regressions

1. Kuziemko, I. and Werker, E. (2006). How Much is a Seat on the Security Council Worth? Foreign Aid and Bribery at the United Nations. *Journal of Political Economy*, 114(5):905–930

16 January 2020: Formal models and how to read them

1. Werner, S. and Yuen, A. (2005). Making and Keeping Peace. *International Organization*, 59(2):261–292

23 January 2020: The quest for causality: What can experiments tell us?

1. Hyde, S. D. (2015). Experiments in International Relations: Lab, Survey, and Field. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18(1):403–424
2. Malik, R. and Thorvaldsdottir, S. (2019). Are Goodwill Ambassadors Good for Business? The Impact of Celebrities on IO Fundraising. *Working Paper*

Your turn! Presentation and discussion of student exposés

30 January 2020: Student exposés

6 February 2020: Student exposés

Extended session to make up for October 31 class. There will be snacks!

Other useful literature

Below is a very non-comprehensive list of additional books and articles that you may find useful, depending on your interests, perspectives, and type of research design you develop. If you find other literature that you think is especially useful and would like to recommend to others, please let me know and I'll add it to my list!

Angrist, J. D. and Pischke, J.-S. (2008). *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*. Princeton University Press

Berry, W. D. and Sanders, M. S. (2018). *Understanding Multivariate Research : A Primer For Beginning Social Scientists*. Routledge

Brady, H. E. and Collier, D. (2010). *Rethinking social inquiry: Diverse tools, shared standards*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

Clark, T., Foster, L., and Bryman, A. (2019). *How to Do Your Social Research Project Or Dissertation*. Oxford University Press, USA

Geddes, B. (2003). *Paradigms and sand castles: Theory building and research design in comparative politics*. University of Michigan Press

George, A. L. and Bennett, A. (2005). *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA

Gerring, J. (2012). *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition

Grix, J. (2002). Introducing Students to the Generic Terminology of Social Research. *Politics*, 22(3):175–186

Hancké, B. (2009). *Intelligent Research Design: A Guide for Beginning Researchers in the Social Sciences*. Oxford University Press

King, G., Keohane, R. O., and Verba, S. (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press

Klotz, A. and Lynch, C. M. (2014). *Strategies for research in constructivist international relations*. Routledge

Mahoney, J. and Goertz, G. (2006). A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research. *Political Analysis*, 14(3):227–249

McDermott, R. (2002). Experimental Methods in Political Science. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 5(1):31–61

McDermott, R. (2013). The Ten Commandments of Experiments. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 46(3):605–610

- Mosley, L. (2013). *Interview Research in Political Science*. Cornell University Press
- Porta, D. D. and Keating, M. (2008). *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralist Perspective*. Cambridge University Press
- Powner, L. C. (2019). *Empirical Research and Writing*. CQ Press, Washington, DC
- Renner, J. (2016). *Discourse, Normative Change and the Quest for Reconciliation in Global Politics*. Manchester University Press
- Rihoux, B. and Ragin, C. C. (2019). *Configurational Comparative Methods: Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Related Techniques*. SAGE Publications
- Seawright, J. (2016). *Multi-Method Social Science: Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Tools*. Cambridge University Press
- Schreier, M. (2012). *Qualitative content analysis in practice*. Sage Publications
- Schwartz-Shea, P. and Yanow, D. (2013). *Interpretive Research Design: Concepts and Processes*. Routledge
- Toshkov, D. (2016). *Research Design in Political Science*. Macmillan International Higher Education
- Van Evera, S. (2015). *Guide to methods for students of political science*. Cornell University Press