

Forschungsdesign für DissertantInnen sozialwissenschaftlicher Fächer

300.250 (2SSt SE, SS 2015) 8 ECTS

Tuesdays 13h00-15h00 PR 115B (RU42OG1.115b)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is designed to guide PhD students in conducting advanced political science research and associated professional activities. It is designed to provide students with guidance, structure, and feedback that will help them to frame and execute well-specified and coherent research projects. This seminar is intended to serve as a forum in which students who are writing a thesis have an opportunity to work through their ideas and test their arguments in an informal and collegial setting and consider various approaches to research in political science.

The intended objective is to advance how students think through their research ideas, help them to craft proposals, write and present conference papers or chapters of their dissertation. In the course of the semester, we will learn to identify important issues to be addressed in political science research, how to develop and implement a method for answering our research questions, and how to present the results of the research. Students will present their own research and subject to peer review; in return, they will also step in the role of referees.

Participants to the course should be prepared to work on dissertation proposals, doctoral or post-doctoral grant proposals, or dissertation chapters.

Examples of themes of the seminar

- What is a good research question?
- Do I need to show different methods skills in my dissertation?
- What to think about collaborations and how to make them successful
- Which cases do I choose and why?
- How do I combine dissertation writing with conference presentations?
- How many and which conferences to go to
- How do I build networks in my discipline?
- How do I give an effective presentation? How do I present in ppt, prezi or other formats?
- How and where do I publish?
- How do I review a journal article?
- How do I respond successfully to reviews of my work?
- How do I write a successful CV? Working towards the job talk.
- How do I successfully “self-market”?

Class will meet every Tuesday from 13h00 to 15h00 in PR 115B (RU42OG1.115b) starting 03.03.2015 until 23.06.2015. The seminar and its evaluation will be conducted in English.

Sprechstunde:

Thursdays 9h00-11h00

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. 3 March: Introduction
2. 10 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Sergiu Gherghina
3. 17 March: Rudiments of philosophy of science
4. 24 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger
5. 14 April: Theory and causality in social science research
6. 21 April: Determining what we know about a topic: the literature review
7. 28 April: Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative
8. 5 May: Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative
9. 12 May: Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement
10. 19 May: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA (possible topics: going to conferences, applying to jobs, the academic CV, websites, diverse methodologies, etc., data sources).
11. 2 June: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA
12. 9 June: Discussion of an article
13. 16 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers
14. 23 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Class Attendance:** As the class is largely based on student interaction, class attendance is mandatory. The course requires several oral presentations and students are expected to be present to usefully comment on the other students' work.
- **Prepare the following written and oral assignments:**
 1. Task 1: Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.
 2. Task 2: Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12 2015.
 3. Task 3: Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9 2015
 4. Seminar paper: Hand in either: a dissertation proposal (only if you have not submitted formally yet), a chapter of your dissertation or a paper you plan to publish or present at a conference. Deadline: first draft ready for mid-June, final draft :July 30th 2015
 5. Presentation of seminar paper: June 16th or 23th (12-15 minutes)
 6. Discussing a colleague's seminar paper, handing written comments as in a peer-reviewed journal, and chairing a panel.

Your final grade will be based on these elements:

Participation (including role as discussant): 30%
Short seminar task papers: 30%
Final seminar paper: 40%

LATE PAPER POLICY:

I understand that printers break, dogs/uncles/grandmas sometimes die, and hard drives often fail around final paper due dates. I will accept late papers, but each late day will cost you 5% of your grade. Short seminar papers cannot be handed-in late since these are writing exercises designed to make you progress.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

A note on plagiarism. Full citations must be included for every source you utilize, including those you paraphrase even loosely. Citations must be included if you paraphrase another author, or if you use another's ideas, even if not the exact words. You should select a standard citation style and stick to it. Lifting papers from the internet will be punished by a failing grade and reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students requiring access to learning tools/special arrangements due to disabilities should contact me at the beginning of the course.

COURSE READINGS AND CONTENT:

NOTE: Readings must be completed for the dates assigned below

WEEK 1 (3 March): Introduction: Roadmap of the course

- Read: "A check list for dissertation proposals"

In-class activity: 5 minute presentation on your background and research interests. Include: what do you find most interesting about politics and Political Science. Describe your dissertation project. When did you start working on it? Where are your ideas coming from? What do you plan to do for this academic year?

WEEK 2 (10 March): Guest Speaker: Sergiu Gherghina: data in political science

To do (task 1): Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.

Required readings:

- Sergiu Gherghina and Alexia Katsanidou. 2013. "Data Availability in Political Science Journals", *European Political Science*, Vol. 12"333-349.

WEEK 3 (17 March): Rudiments of philosophy of science

Required readings:

- Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2003. *Theory and Reality. An introduction to the philosophy of science*. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-121).
- Popper, Karl (1963) *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* (London: Routledge), Chapter 1.

- Kuhn, Thomas S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago), Chapter 9.
- Lakatos, Imre. 1974. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes", in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 91-103, 132-38, and 177-80.

WEEK 4 (24 March): GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger: publishing in Journals

To do (task 2): Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12th.

Recommended for those interested in publishing:

- Schneider, Gerald. 2011. "How to Avoid the Seven Deadly Sins of Academic Writing", *European Political Science* 3 (10): 337-45.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles", *PS: Political Science & Politics* 38 (4): 741-43.

Some good advice for improving your writing

- Scott, Gregory M. and Stephen M. Garrison. 2012. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Pearson-Longman.
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 12-17 (pp. 213-231)
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson Longman.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1996. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. The University of Chicago Press.
- The George Mason University writing centre
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources.php>
- The Harvard University writing centre
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>
- The Yale College writing centre
<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students>

WEEK 5 (14 April): Theory and causality in social science research

Required readings:

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), Chapters 1 and 3.
- Brady, Henry E. (2008) "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.217-270.
- Sekhon, Jasjeet S. (2008) "The Neyman-Rubin Model of Causal Inference and Estimation via Matching Methods." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.271-299.

Recommended :

- Hedstrom, Peter (2008) "Studying Mechanisms to Strengthen causal inferences in Quantitative Research," in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.319-335.
- Gerring, John (2012) *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 3 and 8.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge UP, chapters 3-4

WEEK 6 (21 April): Determining what we know about s topic

DUE: Task 1

Required readings:

- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.44-50), Chapter 4 (pp.73-95), Chapter 5 (96-124).
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 2 (pp.23-48).
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapters 5-6 (pp.68-101)*.

WEEK 7 (28 April): Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative and case studies

Required readings:

- Geddes, Barbara (1990) How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics, *Political Analysis* 2 (1): 131 -150.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sindy Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 4 (pp.115-149).
- Dür, Andreas (2007) Discriminating among Rival Explanations: Some Tools for Small-n Researchers, in Thomas Gschwend and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds) *Research Design in Political Science: How to Practice What They Preach?* (Houndmills: Palgrave): 183-200.
- Levy, Jack (2008) "Counterfactuals and case studies" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.627-645.
- Seawright, Jason and John. Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research. A menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol 61(2): 294-308.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 9 (pp.173-202).
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109).
- Brady, Henry E. (2012) Do Two Research Cultures Imply Two Scientific Paradigms?, *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 49-88).

- Rathburn, Brian C. (2008). Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities. in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.685-701.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 5

WEEK 8 (5 May): Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative, or mixed.

To do (task 3): Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9th 2015.

Required readings:

- Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research", *Political Analysis* 14 (3): 227-49.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 5-6.
- King, Gary. 1986. "How Not to Lie with Statistics: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Quantitative Political Science," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 30(3): 666-687.
- Kittel, Bernhad. 2006. "A Crazy Methodology? On the Limits of Macro-Quantitative Social Science Research," *International Sociology*, Vol. 21 (5):647-677.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed.* Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 8 and 10.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109) plus 8-10 (if you are interested).

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 7-10.

Experiments and Surveys:

- Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams (2008). "Experimentation in Political Science" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.339-356.
- Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green (2008). "Field Experiments and Natural Experiments" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.357-384
- Johnston, Richard (2008). "Survey Methodology" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.385-403.
- Groves, Robert M. et al. (2009) *Survey Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons), Chapters 2 and 7.

- Druckman, James N. and Donald P. Green. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science" *American Political Science Review* Vol.100(4):627-35.
- Keele, Luke, Corrine McConaughy, and Ismail White. 2012. "Strengthening the Experimenter's Toolbox: Statistical Estimation of Internal Validity" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol.56(2): 484-499.

WEEK 9 (12 May): Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement

DUE: Task 2

Required readings:

- Goertz, Gary. 2008. "Theories and Numbers: A checklist for constructing, evaluating, and using concepts or quantitative measures." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.97-118.
- Collier, David, Jody Laporte, and Jason Seawright. 2008. "Typologies: Forming Concepts and Creating Categorical Variables" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.152-173.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*. Prentice Hall, Chapters 4, 5, 6 (pp.41-96).
- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapters 6-7 (pp.125-166).
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 3 (pp.75-114).

EXAMPLES for those interested in democratization:

- Geraldo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5-14.
- Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives. Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. *World Politics* 49:430-51.
- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 2

WEEK 10 (19 May): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 11 (2 June): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 12 (9 June): Discussion of a journal article

DUE: Task 3

DUE: circulate first draft of seminar paper.

Required readings:

- Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1420798/>

- Peer review: quick guide
http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/niu_peerreview/
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~mpayres/teach/HowToReview.pdf>

WEEK 13 (16 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 14 (23 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

Some good advice for presenting your work

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 15 (213-231).

How to be a good discussant:

- <http://chrisblattman.com/2010/02/22/the-discussants-art/>

Resources and further readings:

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.
- "Tips from Faculty and Coaches," "Current and Former Graduate Deans Reflect on Dissertation Completion," and "Advice from UT Alumni" on the UT Intellectual Entrepreneurship homepage at: <https://webspace.utexas.edu/cherwitz/www/ie/disslist.html>.
- Peter A. Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, December 1990, pp. 596-598.
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "The 'Ideal' Research Proposal," Sept. 2002
- Don Thackrey, Proposal Writer's Guide (PWG), including "Why Proposals are Rejected," University of MI Office of Sponsored Projects, at <http://www.drda.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
- Kjell Erik Rudestam and Rae R. Newton, *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*, 2nd Ed., Sage, 2001.
- Joan Bolker, *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day* (Henry Holt & Co., 1998).

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Examples of themes of the seminar

- What is a good research question?
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 4. Seminar paper: Hand in either: a dissertation proposal (only if you have not submitted formally yet), a chapter of your dissertation or a paper you plan to publish or present at a conference. Deadline: first draft ready for mid-June, final draft :July 30th 2015
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 6. Discussing a colleague's seminar paper, handing written comments as in a peer-reviewed journal, and chairing a panel.

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Short seminar task papers: 30%
Final seminar paper: 40%

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I understand that printers break, dogs/uncles/grandmas sometimes die, and hard drives often fail around final paper due dates. I will accept late papers, but each late day will cost you 5% of your grade. Short seminar papers cannot be handed-in late since these are writing exercises designed to make you progress.

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A note on plagiarism. Full citations must be included for every source you utilize, including those you paraphrase even loosely. Citations must be included if you paraphrase another author, or if you use another's ideas, even if not the exact words. You should select a standard citation style and stick to it. Lifting papers from the internet will be punished by a failing grade and reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students requiring access to learning tools/special arrangements due to disabilities should contact me at the beginning of the course.

COURSE READINGS AND CONTENT:

NOTE: Readings must be completed for the dates assigned below

WEEK 1 (3 March): Introduction: Roadmap of the course

- Read: "A check list for dissertation proposals"

In-class activity: 5 minute presentation on your background and research interests. Include: what do you find most interesting about politics and Political Science. Describe your dissertation project. When did you start working on it? Where are your ideas coming from? What do you plan to do for this academic year?

WEEK 2 (10 March): Guest Speaker: Sergiu Gherghina: data in political science

To do (task 1): Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.

Required readings:

- Sergiu Gherghina and Alexia Katsanidou. 2013. "Data Availability in Political Science Journals", *European Political Science*, Vol. 12"333-349.

WEEK 3 (17 March): Rudiments of philosophy of science

Required readings:

- Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2003. *Theory and Reality. An introduction to the philosophy of science*. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-121).
- Popper, Karl (1963) *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* (London: Routledge), Chapter 1.

- Kuhn, Thomas S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago), Chapter 9.
- Lakatos, Imre. 1974. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes", in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 91-103, 132-38, and 177-80.

WEEK 4 (24 March): GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger: publishing in Journals

To do (task 2): Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12th.

Recommended for those interested in publishing:

- Schneider, Gerald. 2011. "How to Avoid the Seven Deadly Sins of Academic Writing", *European Political Science* 3 (10): 337-45.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles", *PS: Political Science & Politics* 38 (4): 741-43.

Some good advice for improving your writing

- Scott, Gregory M. and Stephen M. Garrison. 2012. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Pearson-Longman.
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 12-17 (pp. 213-231)
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson Longman.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1996. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. The University of Chicago Press.
- The George Mason University writing centre
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources.php>
- The Harvard University writing centre
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>
- The Yale College writing centre
<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students>

WEEK 5 (14 April): Theory and causality in social science research

Required readings:

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), Chapters 1 and 3.
- Brady, Henry E. (2008) "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.217-270.
- Sekhon, Jasjeet S. (2008) "The Neyman-Rubin Model of Causal Inference and Estimation via Matching Methods." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.271-299.

Recommended :

- Hedstrom, Peter (2008) "Studying Mechanisms to Strengthen causal inferences in Quantitative Research," in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.319-335.
- Gerring, John (2012) *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 3 and 8.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge UP, chapters 3-4

WEEK 6 (21 April): Determining what we know about s topic

DUE: Task 1

Required readings:

- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.44-50), Chapter 4 (pp.73-95), Chapter 5 (96-124).
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 2 (pp.23-48).
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapters 5-6 (pp.68-101)*.

WEEK 7 (28 April): Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative and case studies

Required readings:

- Geddes, Barbara (1990) How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics, *Political Analysis* 2 (1): 131 -150.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sindy Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 4 (pp.115-149).
- Dür, Andreas (2007) Discriminating among Rival Explanations: Some Tools for Small-n Researchers, in Thomas Gschwend and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds) *Research Design in Political Science: How to Practice What They Preach?* (Houndmills: Palgrave): 183-200.
- Levy, Jack (2008) "Counterfactuals and case studies" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.627-645.
- Seawright, Jason and John. Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research. A menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol 61(2): 294-308.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 9 (pp.173-202).
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109).
- Brady, Henry E. (2012) Do Two Research Cultures Imply Two Scientific Paradigms?, *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 49-88).

- Rathburn, Brian C. (2008). Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities. in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.685-701.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 5

WEEK 8 (5 May): Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative, or mixed.

To do (task 3): Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9th 2015.

Required readings:

- Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research", *Political Analysis* 14 (3): 227-49.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 5-6.
- King, Gary. 1986. "How Not to Lie with Statistics: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Quantitative Political Science," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 30(3): 666-687.
- Kittel, Bernhad. 2006. "A Crazy Methodology? On the Limits of Macro-Quantitative Social Science Research," *International Sociology*, Vol. 21 (5):647-677.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed.* Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 8 and 10.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109) plus 8-10 (if you are interested).

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 7-10.

Experiments and Surveys:

- Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams (2008). "Experimentation in Political Science" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.339-356.
- Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green (2008). "Field Experiments and Natural Experiments" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.357-384
- Johnston, Richard (2008). "Survey Methodology" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.385-403.
- Groves, Robert M. et al. (2009) *Survey Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons), Chapters 2 and 7.

- Druckman, James N. and Donald P. Green. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science" *American Political Science Review* Vol.100(4):627-35.
- Keele, Luke, Corrine McConaughy, and Ismail White. 2012. "Strengthening the Experimenter's Toolbox: Statistical Estimation of Internal Validity" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol.56(2): 484-499.

WEEK 9 (12 May): Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement

DUE: Task 2

Required readings:

- Goertz, Gary. 2008. "Theories and Numbers: A checklist for constructing, evaluating, and using concepts or quantitative measures." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.97-118.
- Collier, David, Jody Laporte, and Jason Seawright. 2008. "Typologies: Forming Concepts and Creating Categorical Variables" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.152-173.
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- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapters 6-7 (pp.125-166).
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EXAMPLES for those interested in democratization:

- Geraldo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5-14.
- Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives. Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. *World Politics* 49:430-51.
- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 2

WEEK 10 (19 May): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 11 (2 June): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 12 (9 June): Discussion of a journal article

DUE: Task 3

DUE: circulate first draft of seminar paper.

Required readings:

- Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1420798/>

- Peer review: quick guide
http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/niu_peerreview/
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~mpayres/teach/HowToReview.pdf>

WEEK 13 (16 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 14 (23 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

Some good advice for presenting your work

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 15 (213-231).

How to be a good discussant:

- <http://chrisblattman.com/2010/02/22/the-discussants-art/>

Resources and further readings:

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.
- "Tips from Faculty and Coaches," "Current and Former Graduate Deans Reflect on Dissertation Completion," and "Advice from UT Alumni" on the UT Intellectual Entrepreneurship homepage at: <https://webspace.utexas.edu/cherwitz/www/ie/disslist.html>.
- Peter A. Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, December 1990, pp. 596-598.
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "The 'Ideal' Research Proposal," Sept. 2002
- Don Thackrey, Proposal Writer's Guide (PWG), including "Why Proposals are Rejected," University of MI Office of Sponsored Projects, at <http://www.drda.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
- Kjell Erik Rudestam and Rae R. Newton, *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*, 2nd Ed., Sage, 2001.
- Joan Bolker, *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day* (Henry Holt & Co., 1998).

Forschungsdesign für DissertantInnen sozialwissenschaftlicher Fächer

300.250 (2SSt SE, SS 2015) 8 ECTS

Tuesdays 13h00-15h00 PR 115B (RU42OG1.115b)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is designed to guide PhD students in conducting advanced political science research and associated professional activities. It is designed to provide students with guidance, structure, and feedback that will help them to frame and execute well-specified and coherent research projects. This seminar is intended to serve as a forum in which students who are writing a thesis have an opportunity to work through their ideas and test their arguments in an informal and collegial setting and consider various approaches to research in political science.

The intended objective is to advance how students think through their research ideas, help them to craft proposals, write and present conference papers or chapters of their dissertation. In the course of the semester, we will learn to identify important issues to be addressed in political science research, how to develop and implement a method for answering our research questions, and how to present the results of the research. Students will present their own research and subject to peer review; in return, they will also step in the role of referees.

Participants to the course should be prepared to work on dissertation proposals, doctoral or post-doctoral grant proposals, or dissertation chapters.

Examples of themes of the seminar

- What is a good research question?
- Do I need to show different methods skills in my dissertation?
- What to think about collaborations and how to make them successful
- Which cases do I choose and why?
- How do I combine dissertation writing with conference presentations?
- How many and which conferences to go to
- How do I build networks in my discipline?
- How do I give an effective presentation? How do I present in ppt, prezi or other formats?
- How and where do I publish?
- How do I review a journal article?
- How do I respond successfully to reviews of my work?
- How do I write a successful CV? Working towards the job talk.
- How do I successfully “self-market”?

Class will meet every Tuesday from 13h00 to 15h00 in PR 115B (RU42OG1.115b) starting 03.03.2015 until 23.06.2015. The seminar and its evaluation will be conducted in English.

Sprechstunde:

Thursdays 9h00-11h00

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. 3 March: Introduction
2. 10 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Sergiu Gherghina
3. 17 March: Rudiments of philosophy of science
4. 24 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger
5. 14 April: Theory and causality in social science research
6. 21 April: Determining what we know about a topic: the literature review
7. 28 April: Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative
8. 5 May: Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative
9. 12 May: Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement
10. 19 May: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA (possible topics: going to conferences, applying to jobs, the academic CV, websites, diverse methodologies, etc., data sources).
11. 2 June: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA
12. 9 June: Discussion of an article
13. 16 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers
14. 23 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Class Attendance:** As the class is largely based on student interaction, class attendance is mandatory. The course requires several oral presentations and students are expected to be present to usefully comment on the other students' work.
- **Prepare the following written and oral assignments:**
 1. Task 1: Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.
 2. Task 2: Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12 2015.
 3. Task 3: Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9 2015
 4. Seminar paper: Hand in either: a dissertation proposal (only if you have not submitted formally yet), a chapter of your dissertation or a paper you plan to publish or present at a conference. Deadline: first draft ready for mid-June, final draft :July 30th 2015
 5. Presentation of seminar paper: June 16th or 23th (12-15 minutes)
 6. Discussing a colleague's seminar paper, handing written comments as in a peer-reviewed journal, and chairing a panel.

Your final grade will be based on these elements:

Participation (including role as discussant): 30%
Short seminar task papers: 30%
Final seminar paper: 40%

LATE PAPER POLICY:

I understand that printers break, dogs/uncles/grandmas sometimes die, and hard drives often fail around final paper due dates. I will accept late papers, but each late day will cost you 5% of your grade. Short seminar papers cannot be handed-in late since these are writing exercises designed to make you progress.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

A note on plagiarism. Full citations must be included for every source you utilize, including those you paraphrase even loosely. Citations must be included if you paraphrase another author, or if you use another's ideas, even if not the exact words. You should select a standard citation style and stick to it. Lifting papers from the internet will be punished by a failing grade and reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students requiring access to learning tools/special arrangements due to disabilities should contact me at the beginning of the course.

COURSE READINGS AND CONTENT:

NOTE: Readings must be completed for the dates assigned below

WEEK 1 (3 March): Introduction: Roadmap of the course

- Read: "A check list for dissertation proposals"

In-class activity: 5 minute presentation on your background and research interests. Include: what do you find most interesting about politics and Political Science. Describe your dissertation project. When did you start working on it? Where are your ideas coming from? What do you plan to do for this academic year?

WEEK 2 (10 March): Guest Speaker: Sergiu Gherghina: data in political science

To do (task 1): Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.

Required readings:

- Sergiu Gherghina and Alexia Katsanidou. 2013. "Data Availability in Political Science Journals", *European Political Science*, Vol. 12"333-349.

WEEK 3 (17 March): Rudiments of philosophy of science

Required readings:

- Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2003. *Theory and Reality. An introduction to the philosophy of science*. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-121).
- Popper, Karl (1963) *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* (London: Routledge), Chapter 1.

- Kuhn, Thomas S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago), Chapter 9.
- Lakatos, Imre. 1974. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes", in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 91-103, 132-38, and 177-80.

WEEK 4 (24 March): GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger: publishing in Journals

To do (task 2): Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12th.

Recommended for those interested in publishing:

- Schneider, Gerald. 2011. "How to Avoid the Seven Deadly Sins of Academic Writing", *European Political Science* 3 (10): 337-45.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles", *PS: Political Science & Politics* 38 (4): 741-43.

Some good advice for improving your writing

- Scott, Gregory M. and Stephen M. Garrison. 2012. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Pearson-Longman.
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 12-17 (pp. 213-231)
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson Longman.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1996. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. The University of Chicago Press.
- The George Mason University writing centre
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources.php>
- The Harvard University writing centre
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>
- The Yale College writing centre
<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students>

WEEK 5 (14 April): Theory and causality in social science research

Required readings:

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), Chapters 1 and 3.
- Brady, Henry E. (2008) "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.217-270.
- Sekhon, Jasjeet S. (2008) "The Neyman-Rubin Model of Causal Inference and Estimation via Matching Methods." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.271-299.

Recommended :

- Hedstrom, Peter (2008) "Studying Mechanisms to Strengthen causal inferences in Quantitative Research," in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.319-335.
- Gerring, John (2012) *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 3 and 8.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge UP, chapters 3-4

WEEK 6 (21 April): Determining what we know about s topic

DUE: Task 1

Required readings:

- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.44-50), Chapter 4 (pp.73-95), Chapter 5 (96-124).
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 2 (pp.23-48).
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapters 5-6 (pp.68-101)*.

WEEK 7 (28 April): Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative and case studies

Required readings:

- Geddes, Barbara (1990) How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics, *Political Analysis* 2 (1): 131 -150.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sindy Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 4 (pp.115-149).
- Dür, Andreas (2007) Discriminating among Rival Explanations: Some Tools for Small-n Researchers, in Thomas Gschwend and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds) *Research Design in Political Science: How to Practice What They Preach?* (Houndmills: Palgrave): 183-200.
- Levy, Jack (2008) "Counterfactuals and case studies" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.627-645.
- Seawright, Jason and John. Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research. A menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol 61(2): 294-308.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 9 (pp.173-202).
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109).
- Brady, Henry E. (2012) Do Two Research Cultures Imply Two Scientific Paradigms?, *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 49-88).

- Rathburn, Brian C. (2008). Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities. in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.685-701.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 5

WEEK 8 (5 May): Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative, or mixed.

To do (task 3): Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9th 2015.

Required readings:

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- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 5-6.
- King, Gary. 1986. "How Not to Lie with Statistics: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Quantitative Political Science," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 30(3): 666-687.
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- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed.* Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 8 and 10.
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Recommended for those interested in democratization:

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Experiments and Surveys:

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WEEK 9 (12 May): Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement

DUE: Task 2

Required readings:

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DUE: circulate first draft of seminar paper.

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- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~mpayres/teach/HowToReview.pdf>

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Resources and further readings:

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- Peter A. Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, December 1990, pp. 596-598.
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "The 'Ideal' Research Proposal," Sept. 2002
- Don Thackrey, Proposal Writer's Guide (PWG), including "Why Proposals are Rejected," University of MI Office of Sponsored Projects, at <http://www.drda.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
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I understand that printers break, dogs/uncles/grandmas sometimes die, and hard drives often fail around final paper due dates. I will accept late papers, but each late day will cost you 5% of your grade. Short seminar papers cannot be handed-in late since these are writing exercises designed to make you progress.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

A note on plagiarism. Full citations must be included for every source you utilize, including those you paraphrase even loosely. Citations must be included if you paraphrase another author, or if you use another's ideas, even if not the exact words. You should select a standard citation style and stick to it. Lifting papers from the internet will be punished by a failing grade and reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students requiring access to learning tools/special arrangements due to disabilities should contact me at the beginning of the course.

COURSE READINGS AND CONTENT:

NOTE: Readings must be completed for the dates assigned below

WEEK 1 (3 March): Introduction: Roadmap of the course

- Read: "A check list for dissertation proposals"

In-class activity: 5 minute presentation on your background and research interests. Include: what do you find most interesting about politics and Political Science. Describe your dissertation project. When did you start working on it? Where are your ideas coming from? What do you plan to do for this academic year?

WEEK 2 (10 March): Guest Speaker: Sergiu Gherghina: data in political science

To do (task 1): Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.

Required readings:

- Sergiu Gherghina and Alexia Katsanidou. 2013. "Data Availability in Political Science Journals", *European Political Science*, Vol. 12"333-349.

WEEK 3 (17 March): Rudiments of philosophy of science

Required readings:

- Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2003. *Theory and Reality. An introduction to the philosophy of science*. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-121).
- Popper, Karl (1963) *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* (London: Routledge), Chapter 1.

- Kuhn, Thomas S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago), Chapter 9.
- Lakatos, Imre. 1974. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes", in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 91-103, 132-38, and 177-80.

WEEK 4 (24 March): GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger: publishing in Journals

To do (task 2): Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12th.

Recommended for those interested in publishing:

- Schneider, Gerald. 2011. "How to Avoid the Seven Deadly Sins of Academic Writing", *European Political Science* 3 (10): 337-45.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles", *PS: Political Science & Politics* 38 (4): 741-43.

Some good advice for improving your writing

- Scott, Gregory M. and Stephen M. Garrison. 2012. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Pearson-Longman.
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 12-17 (pp. 213-231)
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson Longman.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1996. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. The University of Chicago Press.
- The George Mason University writing centre
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources.php>
- The Harvard University writing centre
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>
- The Yale College writing centre
<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students>

WEEK 5 (14 April): Theory and causality in social science research

Required readings:

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), Chapters 1 and 3.
- Brady, Henry E. (2008) "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.217-270.
- Sekhon, Jasjeet S. (2008) "The Neyman-Rubin Model of Causal Inference and Estimation via Matching Methods." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.271-299.

Recommended :

- Hedstrom, Peter (2008) "Studying Mechanisms to Strengthen causal inferences in Quantitative Research," in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.319-335.
- Gerring, John (2012) *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 3 and 8.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge UP, chapters 3-4

WEEK 6 (21 April): Determining what we know about s topic

DUE: Task 1

Required readings:

- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.44-50), Chapter 4 (pp.73-95), Chapter 5 (96-124).
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 2 (pp.23-48).
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapters 5-6 (pp.68-101)*.

WEEK 7 (28 April): Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative and case studies

Required readings:

- Geddes, Barbara (1990) How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics, *Political Analysis* 2 (1): 131 -150.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sindy Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 4 (pp.115-149).
- Dür, Andreas (2007) Discriminating among Rival Explanations: Some Tools for Small-n Researchers, in Thomas Gschwend and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds) *Research Design in Political Science: How to Practice What They Preach?* (Houndmills: Palgrave): 183-200.
- Levy, Jack (2008) "Counterfactuals and case studies" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.627-645.
- Seawright, Jason and John. Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research. A menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol 61(2): 294-308.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 9 (pp.173-202).
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109).
- Brady, Henry E. (2012) Do Two Research Cultures Imply Two Scientific Paradigms?, *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 49-88).

- Rathburn, Brian C. (2008). Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities. in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.685-701.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 5

WEEK 8 (5 May): Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative, or mixed.

To do (task 3): Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9th 2015.

Required readings:

- Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research", *Political Analysis* 14 (3): 227-49.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 5-6.
- King, Gary. 1986. "How Not to Lie with Statistics: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Quantitative Political Science," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 30(3): 666-687.
- Kittel, Bernhad. 2006. "A Crazy Methodology? On the Limits of Macro-Quantitative Social Science Research," *International Sociology*, Vol. 21 (5):647-677.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed.* Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 8 and 10.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109) plus 8-10 (if you are interested).

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 7-10.

Experiments and Surveys:

- Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams (2008). "Experimentation in Political Science" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.339-356.
- Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green (2008). "Field Experiments and Natural Experiments" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.357-384
- Johnston, Richard (2008). "Survey Methodology" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.385-403.
- Groves, Robert M. et al. (2009) *Survey Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons), Chapters 2 and 7.

- Druckman, James N. and Donald P. Green. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science" *American Political Science Review* Vol.100(4):627-35.
- Keele, Luke, Corrine McConaughy, and Ismail White. 2012. "Strengthening the Experimenter's Toolbox: Statistical Estimation of Internal Validity" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol.56(2): 484-499.

WEEK 9 (12 May): Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement

DUE: Task 2

Required readings:

- Goertz, Gary. 2008. "Theories and Numbers: A checklist for constructing, evaluating, and using concepts or quantitative measures." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.97-118.
- Collier, David, Jody Laporte, and Jason Seawright. 2008. "Typologies: Forming Concepts and Creating Categorical Variables" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.152-173.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*. Prentice Hall, Chapters 4, 5, 6 (pp.41-96).
- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapters 6-7 (pp.125-166).
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 3 (pp.75-114).

EXAMPLES for those interested in democratization:

- Geraldo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5-14.
- Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives. Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. *World Politics* 49:430-51.
- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 2

WEEK 10 (19 May): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 11 (2 June): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 12 (9 June): Discussion of a journal article

DUE: Task 3

DUE: circulate first draft of seminar paper.

Required readings:

- Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1420798/>

- Peer review: quick guide
http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/niu_peerreview/
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~mpayres/teach/HowToReview.pdf>

WEEK 13 (16 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 14 (23 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

Some good advice for presenting your work

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 15 (213-231).

How to be a good discussant:

- <http://chrisblattman.com/2010/02/22/the-discussants-art/>

Resources and further readings:

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.
- "Tips from Faculty and Coaches," "Current and Former Graduate Deans Reflect on Dissertation Completion," and "Advice from UT Alumni" on the UT Intellectual Entrepreneurship homepage at: <https://webspace.utexas.edu/cherwitz/www/ie/disslist.html>.
- Peter A. Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, December 1990, pp. 596-598.
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "The 'Ideal' Research Proposal," Sept. 2002
- Don Thackrey, Proposal Writer's Guide (PWG), including "Why Proposals are Rejected," University of MI Office of Sponsored Projects, at <http://www.drda.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
- Kjell Erik Rudestam and Rae R. Newton, *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*, 2nd Ed., Sage, 2001.
- Joan Bolker, *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day* (Henry Holt & Co., 1998).

Forschungsdesign für DissertantInnen sozialwissenschaftlicher Fächer

300.250 (2SSt SE, SS 2015) 8 ECTS

Tuesdays 13h00-15h00 PR 115B (RU42OG1.115b)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is designed to guide PhD students in conducting advanced political science research and associated professional activities. It is designed to provide students with guidance, structure, and feedback that will help them to frame and execute well-specified and coherent research projects. This seminar is intended to serve as a forum in which students who are writing a thesis have an opportunity to work through their ideas and test their arguments in an informal and collegial setting and consider various approaches to research in political science.

The intended objective is to advance how students think through their research ideas, help them to craft proposals, write and present conference papers or chapters of their dissertation. In the course of the semester, we will learn to identify important issues to be addressed in political science research, how to develop and implement a method for answering our research questions, and how to present the results of the research. Students will present their own research and subject to peer review; in return, they will also step in the role of referees.

Participants to the course should be prepared to work on dissertation proposals, doctoral or post-doctoral grant proposals, or dissertation chapters.

Examples of themes of the seminar

- What is a good research question?
- Do I need to show different methods skills in my dissertation?
- What to think about collaborations and how to make them successful
- Which cases do I choose and why?
- How do I combine dissertation writing with conference presentations?
- How many and which conferences to go to
- How do I build networks in my discipline?
- How do I give an effective presentation? How do I present in ppt, prezi or other formats?
- How and where do I publish?
- How do I review a journal article?
- How do I respond successfully to reviews of my work?
- How do I write a successful CV? Working towards the job talk.
- How do I successfully “self-market”?

Class will meet every Tuesday from 13h00 to 15h00 in PR 115B (RU42OG1.115b) starting 03.03.2015 until 23.06.2015. The seminar and its evaluation will be conducted in English.

Sprechstunde:

Thursdays 9h00-11h00

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. 3 March: Introduction
2. 10 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Sergiu Gherghina
3. 17 March: Rudiments of philosophy of science
4. 24 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger
5. 14 April: Theory and causality in social science research
6. 21 April: Determining what we know about a topic: the literature review
7. 28 April: Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative
8. 5 May: Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative
9. 12 May: Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement
10. 19 May: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA (possible topics: going to conferences, applying to jobs, the academic CV, websites, diverse methodologies, etc., data sources).
11. 2 June: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA
12. 9 June: Discussion of an article
13. 16 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers
14. 23 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Class Attendance:** As the class is largely based on student interaction, class attendance is mandatory. The course requires several oral presentations and students are expected to be present to usefully comment on the other students' work.
- **Prepare the following written and oral assignments:**
 1. Task 1: Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.
 2. Task 2: Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12 2015.
 3. Task 3: Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9 2015
 4. Seminar paper: Hand in either: a dissertation proposal (only if you have not submitted formally yet), a chapter of your dissertation or a paper you plan to publish or present at a conference. Deadline: first draft ready for mid-June, final draft :July 30th 2015
 5. Presentation of seminar paper: June 16th or 23th (12-15 minutes)
 6. Discussing a colleague's seminar paper, handing written comments as in a peer-reviewed journal, and chairing a panel.

Your final grade will be based on these elements:

Participation (including role as discussant): 30%
Short seminar task papers: 30%
Final seminar paper: 40%

LATE PAPER POLICY:

I understand that printers break, dogs/uncles/grandmas sometimes die, and hard drives often fail around final paper due dates. I will accept late papers, but each late day will cost you 5% of your grade. Short seminar papers cannot be handed-in late since these are writing exercises designed to make you progress.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

A note on plagiarism. Full citations must be included for every source you utilize, including those you paraphrase even loosely. Citations must be included if you paraphrase another author, or if you use another's ideas, even if not the exact words. You should select a standard citation style and stick to it. Lifting papers from the internet will be punished by a failing grade and reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students requiring access to learning tools/special arrangements due to disabilities should contact me at the beginning of the course.

COURSE READINGS AND CONTENT:

NOTE: Readings must be completed for the dates assigned below

WEEK 1 (3 March): Introduction: Roadmap of the course

- Read: "A check list for dissertation proposals"

In-class activity: 5 minute presentation on your background and research interests. Include: what do you find most interesting about politics and Political Science. Describe your dissertation project. When did you start working on it? Where are your ideas coming from? What do you plan to do for this academic year?

WEEK 2 (10 March): Guest Speaker: Sergiu Gherghina: data in political science

To do (task 1): Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.

Required readings:

- Sergiu Gherghina and Alexia Katsanidou. 2013. "Data Availability in Political Science Journals", *European Political Science*, Vol. 12"333-349.

WEEK 3 (17 March): Rudiments of philosophy of science

Required readings:

- Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2003. *Theory and Reality. An introduction to the philosophy of science*. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-121).
- Popper, Karl (1963) *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* (London: Routledge), Chapter 1.

- Kuhn, Thomas S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago), Chapter 9.
- Lakatos, Imre. 1974. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes", in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 91-103, 132-38, and 177-80.

WEEK 4 (24 March): GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger: publishing in Journals

To do (task 2): Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12th.

Recommended for those interested in publishing:

- Schneider, Gerald. 2011. "How to Avoid the Seven Deadly Sins of Academic Writing", *European Political Science* 3 (10): 337-45.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles", *PS: Political Science & Politics* 38 (4): 741-43.

Some good advice for improving your writing

- Scott, Gregory M. and Stephen M. Garrison. 2012. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Pearson-Longman.
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 12-17 (pp. 213-231)
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson Longman.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1996. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. The University of Chicago Press.
- The George Mason University writing centre
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources.php>
- The Harvard University writing centre
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>
- The Yale College writing centre
<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students>

WEEK 5 (14 April): Theory and causality in social science research

Required readings:

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), Chapters 1 and 3.
- Brady, Henry E. (2008) "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.217-270.
- Sekhon, Jasjeet S. (2008) "The Neyman-Rubin Model of Causal Inference and Estimation via Matching Methods." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.271-299.

Recommended :

- Hedstrom, Peter (2008) "Studying Mechanisms to Strengthen causal inferences in Quantitative Research," in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.319-335.
- Gerring, John (2012) *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 3 and 8.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge UP, chapters 3-4

WEEK 6 (21 April): Determining what we know about s topic

DUE: Task 1

Required readings:

- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.44-50), Chapter 4 (pp.73-95), Chapter 5 (96-124).
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 2 (pp.23-48).
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapters 5-6 (pp.68-101)*.

WEEK 7 (28 April): Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative and case studies

Required readings:

- Geddes, Barbara (1990) How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics, *Political Analysis* 2 (1): 131 -150.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sindy Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 4 (pp.115-149).
- Dür, Andreas (2007) Discriminating among Rival Explanations: Some Tools for Small-n Researchers, in Thomas Gschwend and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds) *Research Design in Political Science: How to Practice What They Preach?* (Houndmills: Palgrave): 183-200.
- Levy, Jack (2008) "Counterfactuals and case studies" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.627-645.
- Seawright, Jason and John. Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research. A menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol 61(2): 294-308.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 9 (pp.173-202).
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109).
- Brady, Henry E. (2012) Do Two Research Cultures Imply Two Scientific Paradigms?, *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 49-88).

- Rathburn, Brian C. (2008). Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities. in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.685-701.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 5

WEEK 8 (5 May): Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative, or mixed.

To do (task 3): Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9th 2015.

Required readings:

- Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research", *Political Analysis* 14 (3): 227-49.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 5-6.
- King, Gary. 1986. "How Not to Lie with Statistics: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Quantitative Political Science," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 30(3): 666-687.
- Kittel, Bernhad. 2006. "A Crazy Methodology? On the Limits of Macro-Quantitative Social Science Research," *International Sociology*, Vol. 21 (5):647-677.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed.* Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 8 and 10.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109) plus 8-10 (if you are interested).

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 7-10.

Experiments and Surveys:

- Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams (2008). "Experimentation in Political Science" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.339-356.
- Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green (2008). "Field Experiments and Natural Experiments" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.357-384
- Johnston, Richard (2008). "Survey Methodology" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.385-403.
- Groves, Robert M. et al. (2009) *Survey Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons), Chapters 2 and 7.

- Druckman, James N. and Donald P. Green. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science" *American Political Science Review* Vol.100(4):627-35.
- Keele, Luke, Corrine McConaughy, and Ismail White. 2012. "Strengthening the Experimenter's Toolbox: Statistical Estimation of Internal Validity" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol.56(2): 484-499.

WEEK 9 (12 May): Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement

DUE: Task 2

Required readings:

- Goertz, Gary. 2008. "Theories and Numbers: A checklist for constructing, evaluating, and using concepts or quantitative measures." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.97-118.
- Collier, David, Jody Laporte, and Jason Seawright. 2008. "Typologies: Forming Concepts and Creating Categorical Variables" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.152-173.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*. Prentice Hall, Chapters 4, 5, 6 (pp.41-96).
- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapters 6-7 (pp.125-166).
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 3 (pp.75-114).

EXAMPLES for those interested in democratization:

- Geraldo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5-14.
- Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives. Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. *World Politics* 49:430-51.
- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 2

WEEK 10 (19 May): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 11 (2 June): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 12 (9 June): Discussion of a journal article

DUE: Task 3

DUE: circulate first draft of seminar paper.

Required readings:

- Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1420798/>

- Peer review: quick guide
http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/niu_peerreview/
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~mpayres/teach/HowToReview.pdf>

WEEK 13 (16 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 14 (23 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

Some good advice for presenting your work

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 15 (213-231).

How to be a good discussant:

- <http://chrisblattman.com/2010/02/22/the-discussants-art/>

Resources and further readings:

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.
- "Tips from Faculty and Coaches," "Current and Former Graduate Deans Reflect on Dissertation Completion," and "Advice from UT Alumni" on the UT Intellectual Entrepreneurship homepage at: <https://webspace.utexas.edu/cherwitz/www/ie/disslist.html>.
- Peter A. Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, December 1990, pp. 596-598.
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "The 'Ideal' Research Proposal," Sept. 2002
- Don Thackrey, Proposal Writer's Guide (PWG), including "Why Proposals are Rejected," University of MI Office of Sponsored Projects, at <http://www.drda.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
- Kjell Erik Rudestam and Rae R. Newton, *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*, 2nd Ed., Sage, 2001.
- Joan Bolker, *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day* (Henry Holt & Co., 1998).

Forschungsdesign für DissertantInnen sozialwissenschaftlicher Fächer

300.250 (2SSt SE, SS 2015) 8 ECTS

Tuesdays 13h00-15h00 PR 115B (RU42OG1.115b)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is designed to guide PhD students in conducting advanced political science research and associated professional activities. It is designed to provide students with guidance, structure, and feedback that will help them to frame and execute well-specified and coherent research projects. This seminar is intended to serve as a forum in which students who are writing a thesis have an opportunity to work through their ideas and test their arguments in an informal and collegial setting and consider various approaches to research in political science.

The intended objective is to advance how students think through their research ideas, help them to craft proposals, write and present conference papers or chapters of their dissertation. In the course of the semester, we will learn to identify important issues to be addressed in political science research, how to develop and implement a method for answering our research questions, and how to present the results of the research. Students will present their own research and subject to peer review; in return, they will also step in the role of referees.

Participants to the course should be prepared to work on dissertation proposals, doctoral or post-doctoral grant proposals, or dissertation chapters.

Examples of themes of the seminar

- What is a good research question?
- Do I need to show different methods skills in my dissertation?
- What to think about collaborations and how to make them successful
- Which cases do I choose and why?
- How do I combine dissertation writing with conference presentations?
- How many and which conferences to go to
- How do I build networks in my discipline?
- How do I give an effective presentation? How do I present in ppt, prezi or other formats?
- How and where do I publish?
- How do I review a journal article?
- How do I respond successfully to reviews of my work?
- How do I write a successful CV? Working towards the job talk.
- How do I successfully “self-market”?

Class will meet every Tuesday from 13h00 to 15h00 in PR 115B (RU42OG1.115b) starting 03.03.2015 until 23.06.2015. The seminar and its evaluation will be conducted in English.

Sprechstunde:

Thursdays 9h00-11h00

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. 3 March: Introduction
2. 10 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Sergiu Gherghina
3. 17 March: Rudiments of philosophy of science
4. 24 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger
5. 14 April: Theory and causality in social science research
6. 21 April: Determining what we know about a topic: the literature review
7. 28 April: Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative
8. 5 May: Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative
9. 12 May: Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement
10. 19 May: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA (possible topics: going to conferences, applying to jobs, the academic CV, websites, diverse methodologies, etc., data sources).
11. 2 June: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA
12. 9 June: Discussion of an article
13. 16 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers
14. 23 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Class Attendance:** As the class is largely based on student interaction, class attendance is mandatory. The course requires several oral presentations and students are expected to be present to usefully comment on the other students' work.
- **Prepare the following written and oral assignments:**
 1. Task 1: Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.
 2. Task 2: Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12 2015.
 3. Task 3: Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9 2015
 4. Seminar paper: Hand in either: a dissertation proposal (only if you have not submitted formally yet), a chapter of your dissertation or a paper you plan to publish or present at a conference. Deadline: first draft ready for mid-June, final draft :July 30th 2015
 5. Presentation of seminar paper: June 16th or 23th (12-15 minutes)
 6. Discussing a colleague's seminar paper, handing written comments as in a peer-reviewed journal, and chairing a panel.

Your final grade will be based on these elements:

Participation (including role as discussant): 30%
Short seminar task papers: 30%
Final seminar paper: 40%

LATE PAPER POLICY:

I understand that printers break, dogs/uncles/grandmas sometimes die, and hard drives often fail around final paper due dates. I will accept late papers, but each late day will cost you 5% of your grade. Short seminar papers cannot be handed-in late since these are writing exercises designed to make you progress.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

A note on plagiarism. Full citations must be included for every source you utilize, including those you paraphrase even loosely. Citations must be included if you paraphrase another author, or if you use another's ideas, even if not the exact words. You should select a standard citation style and stick to it. Lifting papers from the internet will be punished by a failing grade and reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students requiring access to learning tools/special arrangements due to disabilities should contact me at the beginning of the course.

COURSE READINGS AND CONTENT:

NOTE: Readings must be completed for the dates assigned below

WEEK 1 (3 March): Introduction: Roadmap of the course

- Read: "A check list for dissertation proposals"

In-class activity: 5 minute presentation on your background and research interests. Include: what do you find most interesting about politics and Political Science. Describe your dissertation project. When did you start working on it? Where are your ideas coming from? What do you plan to do for this academic year?

WEEK 2 (10 March): Guest Speaker: Sergiu Gherghina: data in political science

To do (task 1): Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.

Required readings:

- Sergiu Gherghina and Alexia Katsanidou. 2013. "Data Availability in Political Science Journals", *European Political Science*, Vol. 12"333-349.

WEEK 3 (17 March): Rudiments of philosophy of science

Required readings:

- Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2003. *Theory and Reality. An introduction to the philosophy of science*. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-121).
- Popper, Karl (1963) *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* (London: Routledge), Chapter 1.

- Kuhn, Thomas S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago), Chapter 9.
- Lakatos, Imre. 1974. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes", in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 91-103, 132-38, and 177-80.

WEEK 4 (24 March): GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger: publishing in Journals

To do (task 2): Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12th.

Recommended for those interested in publishing:

- Schneider, Gerald. 2011. "How to Avoid the Seven Deadly Sins of Academic Writing", *European Political Science* 3 (10): 337-45.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles", *PS: Political Science & Politics* 38 (4): 741-43.

Some good advice for improving your writing

- Scott, Gregory M. and Stephen M. Garrison. 2012. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Pearson-Longman.
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 12-17 (pp. 213-231)
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson Longman.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1996. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. The University of Chicago Press.
- The George Mason University writing centre
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources.php>
- The Harvard University writing centre
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>
- The Yale College writing centre
<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students>

WEEK 5 (14 April): Theory and causality in social science research

Required readings:

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), Chapters 1 and 3.
- Brady, Henry E. (2008) "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.217-270.
- Sekhon, Jasjeet S. (2008) "The Neyman-Rubin Model of Causal Inference and Estimation via Matching Methods." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.271-299.

Recommended :

- Hedstrom, Peter (2008) "Studying Mechanisms to Strengthen causal inferences in Quantitative Research," in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.319-335.
- Gerring, John (2012) *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 3 and 8.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge UP, chapters 3-4

WEEK 6 (21 April): Determining what we know about s topic

DUE: Task 1

Required readings:

- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.44-50), Chapter 4 (pp.73-95), Chapter 5 (96-124).
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 2 (pp.23-48).
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapters 5-6 (pp.68-101)*.

WEEK 7 (28 April): Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative and case studies

Required readings:

- Geddes, Barbara (1990) How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics, *Political Analysis* 2 (1): 131 -150.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sindy Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 4 (pp.115-149).
- Dür, Andreas (2007) Discriminating among Rival Explanations: Some Tools for Small-n Researchers, in Thomas Gschwend and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds) *Research Design in Political Science: How to Practice What They Preach?* (Houndmills: Palgrave): 183-200.
- Levy, Jack (2008) "Counterfactuals and case studies" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.627-645.
- Seawright, Jason and John. Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research. A menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol 61(2): 294-308.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 9 (pp.173-202).
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109).
- Brady, Henry E. (2012) Do Two Research Cultures Imply Two Scientific Paradigms?, *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 49-88).

- Rathburn, Brian C. (2008). Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities. in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.685-701.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 5

WEEK 8 (5 May): Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative, or mixed.

To do (task 3): Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9th 2015.

Required readings:

- Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research", *Political Analysis* 14 (3): 227-49.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 5-6.
- King, Gary. 1986. "How Not to Lie with Statistics: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Quantitative Political Science," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 30(3): 666-687.
- Kittel, Bernhad. 2006. "A Crazy Methodology? On the Limits of Macro-Quantitative Social Science Research," *International Sociology*, Vol. 21 (5):647-677.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed.* Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 8 and 10.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109) plus 8-10 (if you are interested).

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 7-10.

Experiments and Surveys:

- Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams (2008). "Experimentation in Political Science" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.339-356.
- Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green (2008). "Field Experiments and Natural Experiments" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.357-384
- Johnston, Richard (2008). "Survey Methodology" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.385-403.
- Groves, Robert M. et al. (2009) *Survey Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons), Chapters 2 and 7.

- Druckman, James N. and Donald P. Green. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science" *American Political Science Review* Vol.100(4):627-35.
- Keele, Luke, Corrine McConaughy, and Ismail White. 2012. "Strengthening the Experimenter's Toolbox: Statistical Estimation of Internal Validity" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol.56(2): 484-499.

WEEK 9 (12 May): Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement

DUE: Task 2

Required readings:

- Goertz, Gary. 2008. "Theories and Numbers: A checklist for constructing, evaluating, and using concepts or quantitative measures." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.97-118.
- Collier, David, Jody Laporte, and Jason Seawright. 2008. "Typologies: Forming Concepts and Creating Categorical Variables" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.152-173.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*. Prentice Hall, Chapters 4, 5, 6 (pp.41-96).
- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapters 6-7 (pp.125-166).
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 3 (pp.75-114).

EXAMPLES for those interested in democratization:

- Geraldo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5-14.
- Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives. Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. *World Politics* 49:430-51.
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WEEK 10 (19 May): TOPIC TBA

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DUE: circulate first draft of seminar paper.

Required readings:

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How to be a good discussant:

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- Peter A. Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, December 1990, pp. 596-598.
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "The 'Ideal' Research Proposal," Sept. 2002
- Don Thackrey, Proposal Writer's Guide (PWG), including "Why Proposals are Rejected," University of MI Office of Sponsored Projects, at <http://www.drda.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
- Kjell Erik Rudestam and Rae R. Newton, *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*, 2nd Ed., Sage, 2001.
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300.250 (2SSt SE, SS 2015) 8 ECTS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Examples of themes of the seminar

- What is a good research question?
- Do I need to show different methods skills in my dissertation?
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- Which cases do I choose and why?
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- How many and which conferences to go to
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- How do I give an effective presentation? How do I present in ppt, prezi or other formats?
- How and where do I publish?
- How do I review a journal article?
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8. 5 May: Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative
9. 12 May: Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement
10. 19 May: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA (possible topics: going to conferences, applying to jobs, the academic CV, websites, diverse methodologies, etc., data sources).
11. 2 June: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA
12. 9 June: Discussion of an article
13. 16 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers
14. 23 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Class Attendance:** As the class is largely based on student interaction, class attendance is mandatory. The course requires several oral presentations and students are expected to be present to usefully comment on the other students' work.
- **Prepare the following written and oral assignments:**
 1. Task 1: Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.
 2. Task 2: Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12 2015.
 3. Task 3: Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9 2015
 4. Seminar paper: Hand in either: a dissertation proposal (only if you have not submitted formally yet), a chapter of your dissertation or a paper you plan to publish or present at a conference. Deadline: first draft ready for mid-June, final draft :July 30th 2015
 5. Presentation of seminar paper: June 16th or 23th (12-15 minutes)
 6. Discussing a colleague's seminar paper, handing written comments as in a peer-reviewed journal, and chairing a panel.

Your final grade will be based on these elements:

Participation (including role as discussant): 30%
Short seminar task papers: 30%
Final seminar paper: 40%

LATE PAPER POLICY:

I understand that printers break, dogs/uncles/grandmas sometimes die, and hard drives often fail around final paper due dates. I will accept late papers, but each late day will cost you 5% of your grade. Short seminar papers cannot be handed-in late since these are writing exercises designed to make you progress.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

A note on plagiarism. Full citations must be included for every source you utilize, including those you paraphrase even loosely. Citations must be included if you paraphrase another author, or if you use another's ideas, even if not the exact words. You should select a standard citation style and stick to it. Lifting papers from the internet will be punished by a failing grade and reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students requiring access to learning tools/special arrangements due to disabilities should contact me at the beginning of the course.

COURSE READINGS AND CONTENT:

NOTE: Readings must be completed for the dates assigned below

WEEK 1 (3 March): Introduction: Roadmap of the course

- Read: "A check list for dissertation proposals"

In-class activity: 5 minute presentation on your background and research interests. Include: what do you find most interesting about politics and Political Science. Describe your dissertation project. When did you start working on it? Where are your ideas coming from? What do you plan to do for this academic year?

WEEK 2 (10 March): Guest Speaker: Sergiu Gherghina: data in political science

To do (task 1): Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.

Required readings:

- Sergiu Gherghina and Alexia Katsanidou. 2013. "Data Availability in Political Science Journals", *European Political Science*, Vol. 12"333-349.

WEEK 3 (17 March): Rudiments of philosophy of science

Required readings:

- Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2003. *Theory and Reality. An introduction to the philosophy of science*. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-121).
- Popper, Karl (1963) *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* (London: Routledge), Chapter 1.

- Kuhn, Thomas S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago), Chapter 9.
- Lakatos, Imre. 1974. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes", in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 91-103, 132-38, and 177-80.

WEEK 4 (24 March): GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger: publishing in Journals

To do (task 2): Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12th.

Recommended for those interested in publishing:

- Schneider, Gerald. 2011. "How to Avoid the Seven Deadly Sins of Academic Writing", *European Political Science* 3 (10): 337-45.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles", *PS: Political Science & Politics* 38 (4): 741-43.

Some good advice for improving your writing

- Scott, Gregory M. and Stephen M. Garrison. 2012. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Pearson-Longman.
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 12-17 (pp. 213-231)
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson Longman.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1996. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. The University of Chicago Press.
- The George Mason University writing centre
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources.php>
- The Harvard University writing centre
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>
- The Yale College writing centre
<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students>

WEEK 5 (14 April): Theory and causality in social science research

Required readings:

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), Chapters 1 and 3.
- Brady, Henry E. (2008) "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.217-270.
- Sekhon, Jasjeet S. (2008) "The Neyman-Rubin Model of Causal Inference and Estimation via Matching Methods." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.271-299.

Recommended :

- Hedstrom, Peter (2008) "Studying Mechanisms to Strengthen causal inferences in Quantitative Research," in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.319-335.
- Gerring, John (2012) *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 3 and 8.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge UP, chapters 3-4

WEEK 6 (21 April): Determining what we know about s topic

DUE: Task 1

Required readings:

- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.44-50), Chapter 4 (pp.73-95), Chapter 5 (96-124).
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 2 (pp.23-48).
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapters 5-6 (pp.68-101)*.

WEEK 7 (28 April): Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative and case studies

Required readings:

- Geddes, Barbara (1990) How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics, *Political Analysis* 2 (1): 131 -150.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sindy Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 4 (pp.115-149).
- Dür, Andreas (2007) Discriminating among Rival Explanations: Some Tools for Small-n Researchers, in Thomas Gschwend and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds) *Research Design in Political Science: How to Practice What They Preach?* (Houndmills: Palgrave): 183-200.
- Levy, Jack (2008) "Counterfactuals and case studies" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.627-645.
- Seawright, Jason and John. Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research. A menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol 61(2): 294-308.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 9 (pp.173-202).
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109).
- Brady, Henry E. (2012) Do Two Research Cultures Imply Two Scientific Paradigms?, *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 49-88).

- Rathburn, Brian C. (2008). Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities. in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.685-701.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 5

WEEK 8 (5 May): Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative, or mixed.

To do (task 3): Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9th 2015.

Required readings:

- Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research", *Political Analysis* 14 (3): 227-49.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 5-6.
- King, Gary. 1986. "How Not to Lie with Statistics: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Quantitative Political Science," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 30(3): 666-687.
- Kittel, Bernhad. 2006. "A Crazy Methodology? On the Limits of Macro-Quantitative Social Science Research," *International Sociology*, Vol. 21 (5):647-677.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed.* Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 8 and 10.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109) plus 8-10 (if you are interested).

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 7-10.

Experiments and Surveys:

- Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams (2008). "Experimentation in Political Science" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.339-356.
- Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green (2008). "Field Experiments and Natural Experiments" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.357-384
- Johnston, Richard (2008). "Survey Methodology" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.385-403.
- Groves, Robert M. et al. (2009) *Survey Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons), Chapters 2 and 7.

- Druckman, James N. and Donald P. Green. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science" *American Political Science Review* Vol.100(4):627-35.
- Keele, Luke, Corrine McConaughy, and Ismail White. 2012. "Strengthening the Experimenter's Toolbox: Statistical Estimation of Internal Validity" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol.56(2): 484-499.

WEEK 9 (12 May): Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement

DUE: Task 2

Required readings:

- Goertz, Gary. 2008. "Theories and Numbers: A checklist for constructing, evaluating, and using concepts or quantitative measures." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.97-118.
- Collier, David, Jody Laporte, and Jason Seawright. 2008. "Typologies: Forming Concepts and Creating Categorical Variables" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.152-173.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*. Prentice Hall, Chapters 4, 5, 6 (pp.41-96).
- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapters 6-7 (pp.125-166).
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 3 (pp.75-114).

EXAMPLES for those interested in democratization:

- Geraldo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5-14.
- Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives. Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. *World Politics* 49:430-51.
- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 2

WEEK 10 (19 May): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 11 (2 June): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 12 (9 June): Discussion of a journal article

DUE: Task 3

DUE: circulate first draft of seminar paper.

Required readings:

- Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1420798/>

- Peer review: quick guide
http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/niu_peerreview/
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~mpayres/teach/HowToReview.pdf>

WEEK 13 (16 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 14 (23 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

Some good advice for presenting your work

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 15 (213-231).

How to be a good discussant:

- <http://chrisblattman.com/2010/02/22/the-discussants-art/>

Resources and further readings:

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.
- "Tips from Faculty and Coaches," "Current and Former Graduate Deans Reflect on Dissertation Completion," and "Advice from UT Alumni" on the UT Intellectual Entrepreneurship homepage at: <https://webspace.utexas.edu/cherwitz/www/ie/disslist.html>.
- Peter A. Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, December 1990, pp. 596-598.
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "The 'Ideal' Research Proposal," Sept. 2002
- Don Thackrey, Proposal Writer's Guide (PWG), including "Why Proposals are Rejected," University of MI Office of Sponsored Projects, at <http://www.drda.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
- Kjell Erik Rudestam and Rae R. Newton, *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*, 2nd Ed., Sage, 2001.
- Joan Bolker, *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day* (Henry Holt & Co., 1998).

Forschungsdesign für DissertantInnen sozialwissenschaftlicher Fächer

300.250 (2SSt SE, SS 2015) 8 ECTS

Tuesdays 13h00-15h00 PR 115B (RU42OG1.115b)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is designed to guide PhD students in conducting advanced political science research and associated professional activities. It is designed to provide students with guidance, structure, and feedback that will help them to frame and execute well-specified and coherent research projects. This seminar is intended to serve as a forum in which students who are writing a thesis have an opportunity to work through their ideas and test their arguments in an informal and collegial setting and consider various approaches to research in political science.

The intended objective is to advance how students think through their research ideas, help them to craft proposals, write and present conference papers or chapters of their dissertation. In the course of the semester, we will learn to identify important issues to be addressed in political science research, how to develop and implement a method for answering our research questions, and how to present the results of the research. Students will present their own research and subject to peer review; in return, they will also step in the role of referees.

Participants to the course should be prepared to work on dissertation proposals, doctoral or post-doctoral grant proposals, or dissertation chapters.

Examples of themes of the seminar

- What is a good research question?
- Do I need to show different methods skills in my dissertation?
- What to think about collaborations and how to make them successful
- Which cases do I choose and why?
- How do I combine dissertation writing with conference presentations?
- How many and which conferences to go to
- How do I build networks in my discipline?
- How do I give an effective presentation? How do I present in ppt, prezi or other formats?
- How and where do I publish?
- How do I review a journal article?
- How do I respond successfully to reviews of my work?
- How do I write a successful CV? Working towards the job talk.
- How do I successfully “self-market”?

Class will meet every Tuesday from 13h00 to 15h00 in PR 115B (RU42OG1.115b) starting 03.03.2015 until 23.06.2015. The seminar and its evaluation will be conducted in English.

Sprechstunde:

Thursdays 9h00-11h00

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. 3 March: Introduction
2. 10 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Sergiu Gherghina
3. 17 March: Rudiments of philosophy of science
4. 24 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger
5. 14 April: Theory and causality in social science research
6. 21 April: Determining what we know about a topic: the literature review
7. 28 April: Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative
8. 5 May: Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative
9. 12 May: Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement
10. 19 May: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA (possible topics: going to conferences, applying to jobs, the academic CV, websites, diverse methodologies, etc., data sources).
11. 2 June: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA
12. 9 June: Discussion of an article
13. 16 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers
14. 23 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Class Attendance:** As the class is largely based on student interaction, class attendance is mandatory. The course requires several oral presentations and students are expected to be present to usefully comment on the other students' work.
- **Prepare the following written and oral assignments:**
 1. Task 1: Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.
 2. Task 2: Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12 2015.
 3. Task 3: Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9 2015
 4. Seminar paper: Hand in either: a dissertation proposal (only if you have not submitted formally yet), a chapter of your dissertation or a paper you plan to publish or present at a conference. Deadline: first draft ready for mid-June, final draft :July 30th 2015
 5. Presentation of seminar paper: June 16th or 23th (12-15 minutes)
 6. Discussing a colleague's seminar paper, handing written comments as in a peer-reviewed journal, and chairing a panel.

Your final grade will be based on these elements:

Participation (including role as discussant): 30%
Short seminar task papers: 30%
Final seminar paper: 40%

LATE PAPER POLICY:

I understand that printers break, dogs/uncles/grandmas sometimes die, and hard drives often fail around final paper due dates. I will accept late papers, but each late day will cost you 5% of your grade. Short seminar papers cannot be handed-in late since these are writing exercises designed to make you progress.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

A note on plagiarism. Full citations must be included for every source you utilize, including those you paraphrase even loosely. Citations must be included if you paraphrase another author, or if you use another's ideas, even if not the exact words. You should select a standard citation style and stick to it. Lifting papers from the internet will be punished by a failing grade and reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students requiring access to learning tools/special arrangements due to disabilities should contact me at the beginning of the course.

COURSE READINGS AND CONTENT:

NOTE: Readings must be completed for the dates assigned below

WEEK 1 (3 March): Introduction: Roadmap of the course

- Read: "A check list for dissertation proposals"

In-class activity: 5 minute presentation on your background and research interests. Include: what do you find most interesting about politics and Political Science. Describe your dissertation project. When did you start working on it? Where are your ideas coming from? What do you plan to do for this academic year?

WEEK 2 (10 March): Guest Speaker: Sergiu Gherghina: data in political science

To do (task 1): Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.

Required readings:

- Sergiu Gherghina and Alexia Katsanidou. 2013. "Data Availability in Political Science Journals", *European Political Science*, Vol. 12"333-349.

WEEK 3 (17 March): Rudiments of philosophy of science

Required readings:

- Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2003. *Theory and Reality. An introduction to the philosophy of science*. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-121).
- Popper, Karl (1963) *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* (London: Routledge), Chapter 1.

- Kuhn, Thomas S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago), Chapter 9.
- Lakatos, Imre. 1974. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes", in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 91-103, 132-38, and 177-80.

WEEK 4 (24 March): GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger: publishing in Journals

To do (task 2): Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12th.

Recommended for those interested in publishing:

- Schneider, Gerald. 2011. "How to Avoid the Seven Deadly Sins of Academic Writing", *European Political Science* 3 (10): 337-45.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles", *PS: Political Science & Politics* 38 (4): 741-43.

Some good advice for improving your writing

- Scott, Gregory M. and Stephen M. Garrison. 2012. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Pearson-Longman.
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 12-17 (pp. 213-231)
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson Longman.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1996. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. The University of Chicago Press.
- The George Mason University writing centre
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources.php>
- The Harvard University writing centre
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>
- The Yale College writing centre
<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students>

WEEK 5 (14 April): Theory and causality in social science research

Required readings:

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), Chapters 1 and 3.
- Brady, Henry E. (2008) "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.217-270.
- Sekhon, Jasjeet S. (2008) "The Neyman-Rubin Model of Causal Inference and Estimation via Matching Methods." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.271-299.

Recommended :

- Hedstrom, Peter (2008) "Studying Mechanisms to Strengthen causal inferences in Quantitative Research," in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.319-335.
- Gerring, John (2012) *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 3 and 8.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge UP, chapters 3-4

WEEK 6 (21 April): Determining what we know about s topic

DUE: Task 1

Required readings:

- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.44-50), Chapter 4 (pp.73-95), Chapter 5 (96-124).
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 2 (pp.23-48).
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapters 5-6 (pp.68-101)*.

WEEK 7 (28 April): Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative and case studies

Required readings:

- Geddes, Barbara (1990) How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics, *Political Analysis* 2 (1): 131 -150.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sindy Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 4 (pp.115-149).
- Dür, Andreas (2007) Discriminating among Rival Explanations: Some Tools for Small-n Researchers, in Thomas Gschwend and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds) *Research Design in Political Science: How to Practice What They Preach?* (Houndmills: Palgrave): 183-200.
- Levy, Jack (2008) "Counterfactuals and case studies" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.627-645.
- Seawright, Jason and John. Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research. A menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol 61(2): 294-308.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 9 (pp.173-202).
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109).
- Brady, Henry E. (2012) Do Two Research Cultures Imply Two Scientific Paradigms?, *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 49-88).

- Rathburn, Brian C. (2008). Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities. in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.685-701.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 5

WEEK 8 (5 May): Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative, or mixed.

To do (task 3): Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9th 2015.

Required readings:

- Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research", *Political Analysis* 14 (3): 227-49.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 5-6.
- King, Gary. 1986. "How Not to Lie with Statistics: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Quantitative Political Science," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 30(3): 666-687.
- Kittel, Bernhad. 2006. "A Crazy Methodology? On the Limits of Macro-Quantitative Social Science Research," *International Sociology*, Vol. 21 (5):647-677.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed.* Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 8 and 10.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109) plus 8-10 (if you are interested).

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 7-10.

Experiments and Surveys:

- Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams (2008). "Experimentation in Political Science" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.339-356.
- Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green (2008). "Field Experiments and Natural Experiments" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.357-384
- Johnston, Richard (2008). "Survey Methodology" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.385-403.
- Groves, Robert M. et al. (2009) *Survey Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons), Chapters 2 and 7.

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- Keele, Luke, Corrine McConaughy, and Ismail White. 2012. "Strengthening the Experimenter's Toolbox: Statistical Estimation of Internal Validity" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol.56(2): 484-499.

WEEK 9 (12 May): Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement

DUE: Task 2

Required readings:

- Goertz, Gary. 2008. "Theories and Numbers: A checklist for constructing, evaluating, and using concepts or quantitative measures." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.97-118.
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EXAMPLES for those interested in democratization:

- Geraldo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5-14.
- Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives. Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. *World Politics* 49:430-51.
- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 2

WEEK 10 (19 May): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 11 (2 June): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 12 (9 June): Discussion of a journal article

DUE: Task 3

DUE: circulate first draft of seminar paper.

Required readings:

- Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1420798/>

- Peer review: quick guide
http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/niu_peerreview/
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~mpayres/teach/HowToReview.pdf>

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WEEK 14 (23 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

Some good advice for presenting your work

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How to be a good discussant:

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Resources and further readings:

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- "Tips from Faculty and Coaches," "Current and Former Graduate Deans Reflect on Dissertation Completion," and "Advice from UT Alumni" on the UT Intellectual Entrepreneurship homepage at: <https://webspace.utexas.edu/cherwitz/www/ie/disslist.html>.
- Peter A. Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, December 1990, pp. 596-598.
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "The 'Ideal' Research Proposal," Sept. 2002
- Don Thackrey, Proposal Writer's Guide (PWG), including "Why Proposals are Rejected," University of MI Office of Sponsored Projects, at <http://www.drda.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
- Kjell Erik Rudestam and Rae R. Newton, *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*, 2nd Ed., Sage, 2001.
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The intended objective is to advance how students think through their research ideas, help them to craft proposals, write and present conference papers or chapters of their dissertation. In the course of the semester, we will learn to identify important issues to be addressed in political science research, how to develop and implement a method for answering our research questions, and how to present the results of the research. Students will present their own research and subject to peer review; in return, they will also step in the role of referees.

Participants to the course should be prepared to work on dissertation proposals, doctoral or post-doctoral grant proposals, or dissertation chapters.

Examples of themes of the seminar

- What is a good research question?
- Do I need to show different methods skills in my dissertation?
- What to think about collaborations and how to make them successful
- Which cases do I choose and why?
- How do I combine dissertation writing with conference presentations?
- How many and which conferences to go to
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2. 10 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Sergiu Gherghina
3. 17 March: Rudiments of philosophy of science
4. 24 March: GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger
5. 14 April: Theory and causality in social science research
6. 21 April: Determining what we know about a topic: the literature review
7. 28 April: Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative
8. 5 May: Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative
9. 12 May: Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement
10. 19 May: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA (possible topics: going to conferences, applying to jobs, the academic CV, websites, diverse methodologies, etc., data sources).
11. 2 June: OPEN SESSION, TOPIC TBA
12. 9 June: Discussion of an article
13. 16 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers
14. 23 June: Mini-conference: Presentations of papers

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Class Attendance:** As the class is largely based on student interaction, class attendance is mandatory. The course requires several oral presentations and students are expected to be present to usefully comment on the other students' work.
- **Prepare the following written and oral assignments:**
 1. Task 1: Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.
 2. Task 2: Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12 2015.
 3. Task 3: Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9 2015
 4. Seminar paper: Hand in either: a dissertation proposal (only if you have not submitted formally yet), a chapter of your dissertation or a paper you plan to publish or present at a conference. Deadline: first draft ready for mid-June, final draft :July 30th 2015
 5. Presentation of seminar paper: June 16th or 23th (12-15 minutes)
 6. Discussing a colleague's seminar paper, handing written comments as in a peer-reviewed journal, and chairing a panel.

Your final grade will be based on these elements:

Participation (including role as discussant): 30%
Short seminar task papers: 30%
Final seminar paper: 40%

LATE PAPER POLICY:

I understand that printers break, dogs/uncles/grandmas sometimes die, and hard drives often fail around final paper due dates. I will accept late papers, but each late day will cost you 5% of your grade. Short seminar papers cannot be handed-in late since these are writing exercises designed to make you progress.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

A note on plagiarism. Full citations must be included for every source you utilize, including those you paraphrase even loosely. Citations must be included if you paraphrase another author, or if you use another's ideas, even if not the exact words. You should select a standard citation style and stick to it. Lifting papers from the internet will be punished by a failing grade and reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students requiring access to learning tools/special arrangements due to disabilities should contact me at the beginning of the course.

COURSE READINGS AND CONTENT:

NOTE: Readings must be completed for the dates assigned below

WEEK 1 (3 March): Introduction: Roadmap of the course

- Read: "A check list for dissertation proposals"

In-class activity: 5 minute presentation on your background and research interests. Include: what do you find most interesting about politics and Political Science. Describe your dissertation project. When did you start working on it? Where are your ideas coming from? What do you plan to do for this academic year?

WEEK 2 (10 March): Guest Speaker: Sergiu Gherghina: data in political science

To do (task 1): Pick an important study in your discipline that addresses a causal question, show the causal mechanism graphically, and briefly summarize the causal mechanism verbally. Deadline: 21 April 2015.

Required readings:

- Sergiu Gherghina and Alexia Katsanidou. 2013. "Data Availability in Political Science Journals", *European Political Science*, Vol. 12"333-349.

WEEK 3 (17 March): Rudiments of philosophy of science

Required readings:

- Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2003. *Theory and Reality. An introduction to the philosophy of science*. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-121).
- Popper, Karl (1963) *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* (London: Routledge), Chapter 1.

- Kuhn, Thomas S. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago), Chapter 9.
- Lakatos, Imre. 1974. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes", in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 91-103, 132-38, and 177-80.

WEEK 4 (24 March): GUEST SPEAKER: Berthold Rittberger: publishing in Journals

To do (task 2): Find a publication that uses two or three case studies to answer a causal research question and analyze the criteria applied in selecting the case(s). Does the case selection allow for causal inference? Explain. Deadline: May 12th.

Recommended for those interested in publishing:

- Schneider, Gerald. 2011. "How to Avoid the Seven Deadly Sins of Academic Writing", *European Political Science* 3 (10): 337-45.
- Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2005. "A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing Scholarly Journal Articles", *PS: Political Science & Politics* 38 (4): 741-43.

Some good advice for improving your writing

- Scott, Gregory M. and Stephen M. Garrison. 2012. *The Political Science Student Writer's Manual*. Pearson-Longman.
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 12-17 (pp. 213-231)
- Strunk, William and E.B. White. 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Pearson Longman.
- Turabian, Kate L. 1996. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. The University of Chicago Press.
- The George Mason University writing centre
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources.php>
- The Harvard University writing centre
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/resources.html>
- The Yale College writing centre
<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students>

WEEK 5 (14 April): Theory and causality in social science research

Required readings:

- King, Gary, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994) *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), Chapters 1 and 3.
- Brady, Henry E. (2008) "Causation and Explanation in Social Science." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.217-270.
- Sekhon, Jasjeet S. (2008) "The Neyman-Rubin Model of Causal Inference and Estimation via Matching Methods." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.271-299.

Recommended :

- Hedstrom, Peter (2008) "Studying Mechanisms to Strengthen causal inferences in Quantitative Research," in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.319-335.
- Gerring, John (2012) *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Chapters 3 and 8.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. *Democratization and Research Methods*. Cambridge UP, chapters 3-4

WEEK 6 (21 April): Determining what we know about s topic

DUE: Task 1

Required readings:

- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapter 3 (pp.44-50), Chapter 4 (pp.73-95), Chapter 5 (96-124).
- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapter 2 (pp.23-48).
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. *Chapters 5-6 (pp.68-101)*.

WEEK 7 (28 April): Picking your cases and empirical strategy I: Qualitative and case studies

Required readings:

- Geddes, Barbara (1990) How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics, *Political Analysis* 2 (1): 131 -150.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sindy Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 4 (pp.115-149).
- Dür, Andreas (2007) Discriminating among Rival Explanations: Some Tools for Small-n Researchers, in Thomas Gschwend and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds) *Research Design in Political Science: How to Practice What They Preach?* (Houndmills: Palgrave): 183-200.
- Levy, Jack (2008) "Counterfactuals and case studies" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.627-645.
- Seawright, Jason and John. Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research. A menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options" *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol 61(2): 294-308.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed*. Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 9 (pp.173-202).
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109).
- Brady, Henry E. (2012) Do Two Research Cultures Imply Two Scientific Paradigms?, *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: NY, Cornell University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 49-88).

- Rathburn, Brian C. (2008). Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities. in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.685-701.

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 5

WEEK 8 (5 May): Picking your cases and empirical strategy II: Quantitative, or mixed.

To do (task 3): Review an article that I will put on Blackboard. Discuss its strengths and weaknesses, as if you were writing a report for a journal editor. Deadline: June 9th 2015.

Required readings:

- Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research", *Political Analysis* 14 (3): 227-49.
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 5-6.
- King, Gary. 1986. "How Not to Lie with Statistics: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Quantitative Political Science," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 30(3): 666-687.
- Kittel, Bernhad. 2006. "A Crazy Methodology? On the Limits of Macro-Quantitative Social Science Research," *International Sociology*, Vol. 21 (5):647-677.

Optional:

- John W. Creswell. 2009. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 3rd Ed.* Los Angeles: Sage. Chapters 8 and 10.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*, Prentice Hall, chapter 7 (pp.97-109) plus 8-10 (if you are interested).

Recommended for those interested in democratization:

- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 7-10.

Experiments and Surveys:

- Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams (2008). "Experimentation in Political Science" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.339-356.
- Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green (2008). "Field Experiments and Natural Experiments" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.357-384
- Johnston, Richard (2008). "Survey Methodology" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.385-403.
- Groves, Robert M. et al. (2009) *Survey Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons), Chapters 2 and 7.

- Druckman, James N. and Donald P. Green. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science" *American Political Science Review* Vol.100(4):627-35.
- Keele, Luke, Corrine McConaughy, and Ismail White. 2012. "Strengthening the Experimenter's Toolbox: Statistical Estimation of Internal Validity" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol.56(2): 484-499.

WEEK 9 (12 May): Dealing with concepts and issues of measurement

DUE: Task 2

Required readings:

- Goertz, Gary. 2008. "Theories and Numbers: A checklist for constructing, evaluating, and using concepts or quantitative measures." in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.97-118.
- Collier, David, Jody Laporte, and Jason Seawright. 2008. "Typologies: Forming Concepts and Creating Categorical Variables" in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, David Collier. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, OUP, pp.152-173.
- Shively, W. Philipps. 2004. *The Craft of Political Research*. Prentice Hall, Chapters 4, 5, 6 (pp.41-96).
- Carlson, James M., Mark S. Hyde. 2003. *Doing Empirical Political Research*. Chapters 6-7 (pp.125-166).
- King, Gary, Robert Keohane, Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 3 (pp.75-114).

EXAMPLES for those interested in democratization:

- Geraldo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices. *Comparative Political Studies* 35:5-14.
- Collier, David and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives. Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. *World Politics* 49:430-51.
- Coppedge, Michael. 2012. Democratization and Research Methods. Cambridge UP, chapter 2

WEEK 10 (19 May): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 11 (2 June): TOPIC TBA

WEEK 12 (9 June): Discussion of a journal article

DUE: Task 3

DUE: circulate first draft of seminar paper.

Required readings:

- Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1420798/>

- Peer review: quick guide
http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/niu_peerreview/
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~mpayres/teach/HowToReview.pdf>

WEEK 13 (16 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 14 (23 June): Mini-conference: PRESENTATIONS

Some good advice for presenting your work

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 15 (213-231).

How to be a good discussant:

- <http://chrisblattman.com/2010/02/22/the-discussants-art/>

Resources and further readings:

- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.
- "Tips from Faculty and Coaches," "Current and Former Graduate Deans Reflect on Dissertation Completion," and "Advice from UT Alumni" on the UT Intellectual Entrepreneurship homepage at: <https://webspace.utexas.edu/cherwitz/www/ie/disslist.html>.
- Peter A. Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, December 1990, pp. 596-598.
- Philippe C. Schmitter, "The 'Ideal' Research Proposal," Sept. 2002
- Don Thackrey, Proposal Writer's Guide (PWG), including "Why Proposals are Rejected," University of MI Office of Sponsored Projects, at <http://www.drda.umich.edu/proposals/PWG/pwgcontents.html>
- Kjell Erik Rudestam and Rae R. Newton, *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process*, 2nd Ed., Sage, 2001.
- Joan Bolker, *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day* (Henry Holt & Co., 1998).