

Summer Term 2012

Prof. Dr. André Kaiser

Research Logic and Research Design in Comparative Politics

Core Course at Cologne Graduate School and International Max Planck Research School, Forschungsprojekt Vergleichende Politik for MA Students

Time: Fri, 17:45 – 19:15 hrs on 27 April 2012, 11 May 2012, 25 May 2012, 15 June 2012, 29 June 2012, 13 July 2012.

AND

compact seminar on Sat, 7 July 2012, 10.00 – 18:00 hrs

Location: Gottfried-Keller-Straße 6, Hörsaal des Forschungsinstituts

First Course Meeting: 27 April 2012

Office Hour: Tue, 11:30 – 12:30 hrs

This course provides essential knowledge of research design problems and solutions in comparative research. It follows the main stages of a research project: identification of a research question – concept formation and formulation of hypotheses – selection of research design – case selection – data collection and analysis – control for alternative explanations. Students are expected to present their own research projects in class as well as to draft a paper of about 10 pages in length.

General References:

Gschwend, Thomas/Schimmelfennig, Frank (eds) (2007). *Research Design in Political Science: How to Practice What They Preach*. London: Palgrave Macmillan [= GS].

Geddes, Barbara (2002). *Paradigms and Sand Castles. Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press [= GEDDES].

Gerring, John (2001). *Social Science Methodology. A Criterial Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

King, Gary/Keohane, Robert/Verba, Sidney (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press [= KKV].

Morton, Rebecca (1999). *Methods and Models. A Guide to the Empirical Analysis of Formal Models in Political Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [= MORTON].

Course Schedule:

(1) Introduction and Overview

(2) Identification of a Research Question

GS 21-38. GEDDES 1-88.

(3) Description and Causality

KKV 3-33 and 75-114. Gerring, John (2005). Causation: A Unified Framework for the Social Sciences. *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 17(2), 163-198. Ganghof, Steffen (2005). Vergleichen in qualitativer und quantitativer Politikwissenschaft: X-zentrierte versus Y-zentrierte Forschungsstrategien, in: Sabine Kropp and Michael Minkenberg (eds), *Vergleichen in der Politikwissenschaft*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag, 76-93.

(4) Theory and Concept Formation

MORTON 33-97. GS 62-79.

(5) Formulation of Hypotheses and Models

(a) Game Theory

(b) Simulation

GEDDES 27-88. Scharpf, Fritz W. (1997). *Games Real Actors Play. Actor-Centered Institutionalism in Policy Research*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 69-96 and 245-279.

(6) Designs: Experiments and Quasi Experiments

Druckman, James N. et al. (2006). The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science. *American Political Science Review* 100(4), 627-635. Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams (2008). Experimentation in Political Science, in: Janet Box-Steffensmeier, David Collier and Henry Brady (eds): *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 339-356.

(7) Designs: Case Studies and Criteria of Case Selection

KKV 34-74 and 208-230. GEDDES 89-129.

(8) Designs: Analytic Narratives

Bates, Robert et al. (2000). The Analytical Narrative Project. *American Political Science Review* 94(3), 696-702.

(9) Designs: Small N Studies

KKV 115-149. GEDDES 131-173.

(10) Designs: Large N Studies and Mixed-Methods Designs

GS 127-144. Lieberman, Evan S. (2005). Nested Analysis as a Mixed-method Strategy for Comparative Research. *American Political Science Review* 99(3), 435-52. Rohlfing, Ingo (2008). What You See and What You Get: Pitfalls and Principles of Nested Analysis in Comparative Research. *Comparative Political Studies* 41(11), 1492-1514.

(11) Controls for Alternative Explanations

GS 163-200.

(12) Presentation and Discussion of Research Projects