

University of Potsdam

Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences



## Course Outline

### Research Design in International Relations

Winter Term 2021/2022



*Time & Date* Thursday, 14.00 – 16.00

*First Session* 28 October 2021

*Venue* Campus Griebnitzsee, Room 3.06.H06

*Lecturer* Dr. Julia Leib  
Chair of International Relations  
Campus Griebnitzsee, Building 7, Room 3.11  
[leib@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:leib@uni-potsdam.de)

*Office Hours* Wednesday, 11.00 – 12.00 (in person or via Zoom // for details see Moodle)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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What is Political Science Research and how does it work? In times of “fake news” and claims of a “post factual society”, the skill to distinguish between fact and opinion, between theory and evidence, is key. Empirical-analytical political science research is a tool to describe and explain the world around us by using a specific set of methods. It is the scientific method as such that sets research apart from other modes of producing knowledge. The course will guide through various steps in the process of producing high-quality research and teach students the hard skills and difficult choices involved in the craft. The practical examples are taken from applied research in International Relations (IR) and the course aims at students in the political science master programs who have already taken courses in the field of IR.

Political science includes a large variety of different methods, each with their own advantages and disadvantages. The type of methods applied to pursue a research question are called research designs. Only a thorough understanding of research designs and how they have been applied will allow the reader to assess the quality of research and challenge the validity of evidence. In this seminar, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of research designs, different options and the relative advantages and disadvantages of various research methods (content analysis, process tracing, QCA, statistics). Knowledge about research designs will prepare students for their research work (course papers, final theses etc.) at the university. It will also help refine them as critical and organized thinkers more generally. Understanding of research designs will help students evaluate phenomena in IR and question common assumptions about international politics from various perspectives.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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Upon completion of this seminar, students will be able to:

- Distinguish different “epistemological” (how we understand the world) perspectives on how political science and empirical research in International Relations works.
- Develop and review the quality of different research questions.
- Apply theories in empirical research designs.
- Select the appropriate measurements for their concepts.
- Understand the importance of case selection and sampling (i.e., what is being researched).
- Select appropriate research designs for different research questions in the field of IR.
- Critically review research done by others.
- Distinguish correlation from causality.
- Explain strengths and weaknesses of various research designs and their underlying principles.
- Develop and implement a research design for their own research question.

## PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

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### Language requirements:

The language of instruction is English.

### Active and regular participation:

For ungraded course credit, reading of the core literature and oral participation are expected. Among the seminar’s additional work to be done by each student is an individual or group presentation as well as the submission of written works that serve to deepen the concepts and research techniques learned. These assignments include, for example, answering questions and completing tasks in the Moodle course. Students who wish to receive credit for the seminar should complete these assignments and miss no more than two sessions.

**Presentation and handout:** Please start preparing your presentation early on and provide a 1–2-page handout to be uploaded to the appropriate Moodle folder by Wednesday before the session. Presentations deal with the additional literature and should be a maximum of 10 minutes.

### **Summative Assignment:**

The final examination includes the preparation of a term paper (length according to the study regulations) in which students implement their individual research design developed during the course of the seminar. Please upload your term paper as a pdf file (file name: ResDesign2021\_NameFirstName) in the designated Moodle folder **by 31.03.2022**. A print version is not required.

Please note that the acceptance of your final examination is only possible with a valid PULS registration. If you wish to submit a term paper, please **register for the module examination on PULS by 15.03.2022**.

### **Degree Programs and ECTS:**

- MA Politikwissenschaft (Studienordnung 2016): aktive Mitarbeit (Referat, Aufgaben in Moodle als Prüfungsnebenleistung) und Abgabe einer Hausarbeit (15-20 Seiten) (6 LP)
- MA Verwaltungswissenschaften (Studienordnung 2016): aktive Mitarbeit (Referat, Aufgaben in Moodle als Prüfungsnebenleistung) und Abgabe einer Hausarbeit (15-20 Seiten) (6 LP)
- MA Soziologie (Studienordnung 2020): aktive Mitarbeit (Referat, Aufgaben in Moodle als Prüfungsnebenleistung) und Abgabe einer Hausarbeit (15-20 Seiten) (6 LP)
- MA Soziologie (Studienordnung 2014): aktive Mitarbeit (Referat, Aufgaben in Moodle als Prüfungsnebenleistung) und Abgabe einer Hausarbeit (15-20 Seiten) (6 LP)
- ME Lehramt Politische Bildung (Studienordnung 2021): aktive Mitarbeit (Referat, Aufgaben in Moodle als Prüfungsnebenleistung) und Abgabe einer Hausarbeit (15-20 Seiten) (6 LP)
- MS Wirtschaftsinformatik (Studienordnung 2017): aktive Mitarbeit (Referat, Aufgaben in Moodle als Prüfungsnebenleistung) und Abgabe einer Hausarbeit (15-20 Seiten) (6 LP)
- MA International Relations (Hausarbeit oder Essay)
- Erasmus/International Students (Master level only; up to 6 ECTS)

Please note that this course is recommended for Erasmus students at Master level only!

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## **ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### **General Information:**

The standards for scientific work set by the Chair for International Relations must be adhered to, regardless of the content, otherwise the examination will be graded as “failed”. You can refer to the relevant literature on scientific work or find information about this on the chair’s website: [https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin/projects/intorg/STUDIUM\\_UND\\_LEHRE/Merkblatt\\_Richtig\\_zitieren.pdf](https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin/projects/intorg/STUDIUM_UND_LEHRE/Merkblatt_Richtig_zitieren.pdf)

In addition, the University of Potsdam offers writing advice and presentation coaching. These offers can be used during the semester as well as during the term breaks and can be used as support for writing seminar papers or preparing a presentation. Further information can be found under the following links: <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/zessko/selbstlernen/schreibberatung.html> <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/zessko/selbstlernen/vortragscoaching.html>

### **Course Organization:**

The individual sessions will take place on **Thursday, 2 – 4 pm** (contact time). Sessions 6, 8, and 10 are designed according to the inverted classroom model, which means that you will learn about the different empirical methods in a self-study at home and apply your acquired knowledge in the following session.

Each seminar session has to be prepared by reading the provided **core literature** (not only cross-reading!) and watching additional videos provided in the Moodle course. The active (group)working methods in each session aim at the active participation and commitment of all participants. This is intended to provide an alternative to (often tedious) session routines, which consist of a long presentation and leave (too) little room for discussion. Therefore, this seminar is not suitable as a “Belegveranstaltung”. **Questions** about preparation and literature can be asked at any time in the Moodle forum and will be answered either there or in the next session. All course materials will be made available in the Moodle course.

#### **Moodle:**

The course uses the learning platform Moodle for didactic purposes as well as for internal communication. All students must register for the course in Moodle. You can access Moodle with your university email account and the corresponding password. After logging in, search for this course using the course title, and register for our seminar. This will give you access to the seminar schedule, required reading, and other important information for the seminar progress. You must be enrolled there by **14.11.2021**. After that date, the enrollment option for the course will be deactivated.

#### **PULS:**

Depending on your degree’s requirements, you must sign up for the course in PULS in order to be awarded credit points (<https://puls.uni-potsdam.de>). All regularly enrolled students of the University of Potsdam must be registered for the seminar via the PULS system. Registration for the course in PULS is open within the designated deadlines and not possible after the deadline, so please make sure to register in due time. Alternative registrations are not possible. The chair has NO influence on the registration and deregistration or similar functions in PULS. If you have problems with the PULS system, please contact [puls-team@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:puls-team@uni-potsdam.de).

#### **Office Hours:**

I am offering regular office hours in this semester to discuss in-depth questions about course content or your seminar performance, or of course for any other questions and concerns. Office hours will be held on Wednesday from 11.00 – 12.00 in my office or via Zoom and you can sign up for an appointment on Moodle.

#### **Erasmus Students:**

The University of Potsdam offers support to all Erasmus students for questions and problems regarding individual study planning (and thus also regarding possible examination credits) and individual problem counseling. If you have any questions, please contact either Ms. Johanna Lehmstedt (Faculty of Economics) or Mr. Egor Bobrov (Faculty of Social Sciences).

**General Literature Recommendations:**

A political science program thrives on the engagement with literature. Beyond the preparation of the individual sessions, I therefore strongly recommend engaging with further literature on research design and empirical methods in self-study. In the following you will find a short, but by no means complete bibliography of important introductory books for independent study.

**Research Design:**

Creswell, John W. 2018. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Los Angeles: SAGE.

Della Porta, Donatella & Keating, Michael (eds.). 2008. *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralist Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Howard, Christopher. 2017. *Thinking Like a Political Scientist: A Practical Guide to Research Methods*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

King, Gary, Keohane, Robert O. & Verba, Sidney. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Panke, Diana. 2018. *Research Design and Method Selection: Makin good Choices in the Social Sciences*. Los Angeles: SAGE.

Toshkov, Dimiter. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Research Methods:**

Beach, Derek & Pedersen, Rasmus Brun. 2013. *Process-Tracing Methods: Foundations and Guidelines*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Flick, Uwe (ed.).2014. *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*. Los Angeles: SAGE.

Lamont, Christopher K. & Boduszynski, Mieczyslaw P. 2020. *Research Methods in Politics and International Relations*. Los Angeles: SAGE.

Rich, Richard, Brians, Craig Leonard, Manheim, Jarol B. & Willnat, Lars. 2018. *Empirical Political Analysis: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods*. 9th Edition. Routledge.

Schneider, Carsten Q. & Wagemann, Claudius. 2012. *Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences: A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Schreier, Margrit. 2012. *Qualitative Content Analysis in Practice*. Los Angeles: SAGE.

Sprinz, Detlef F. & Wolinsky-Nahmias, Yael (eds.) 2004. *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press



## SYLLABUS

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### Research Design in International Relations

Winter Term 2021/2022

#### Overview

##### PART I: THE BASICS

1. 28.10.21 Introduction: steps in IR research
2. 04.11.21 What is a good research question?
3. 11.11.21 How to use theory?
4. 18.11.21 How to measure: concepts and operationalization
5. 25.11.21 How to collect data: case selection and sampling

##### PART II: SPECIFIC RESEARCH DESIGNS

6. 02.12.21 Case Study Designs I: Qualitative methods (Content Analysis, Process Tracing)
7. 09.12.21 Case Study Designs II: Application (R2P, Statebuilding)
8. 16.12.21 Comparative Designs I: Qualitative Comparative Analysis  
*Christmas Break*
9. 06.01.22 Comparative Designs II: Application (Ethnic Conflict, Humanitarian Interventions)
10. 13.01.22 Large-N Designs I: Statistics
11. 20.01.22 Large-N Designs II: Application (Peacekeeping, Power-Sharing)
12. 27.01.22 Mixed methods: the best of both worlds?

##### PART III: PRESENTING YOUR RESEARCH

13. 03.02.22 Communicating Research
14. 10.02.22 *No session (prepare your research design poster)*
15. 17.02.22 Research Workshop: Presenting your ideas

**31.03.2022      Deadline final term paper**

## PART I: THE BASICS

### Session 1: 28.10.2021

#### Introduction: Steps in IR research

This session introduces the students to the topic of the course, explains its structure and its objectives. Student tasks for particular weeks will be disseminated and organizational questions will be discussed.

#### Further reading:

Alan Bryman. 2016. *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 6-14 & p. 41-44.

Donatella Della Porta & Michael Keating. 2008. "How many approaches in the social sciences? An epistemological introduction". In: Donatella Della Porta & Michael Keating (eds.). *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 19-39.

Jennifer Raff. 2016. *How to read and understand a scientific paper: a guide for non-scientists*. LSE Impact Blog. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2016/05/09/how-to-read-and-understand-a-scientific-paper-a-guide-for-non-scientists/>

**Assignment:** Register yourself on PULS and for the Moodle course.

### Session 2: 04.11.2021

#### What is a good research question?

After this session, you will be able to:

- Explain criteria for good research questions
- Evaluate research questions pursued in published academic research
- Use strategies to identify "good" research questions

#### Literature:

Diana Panke. 2018. *Research Design and Method Selection: Making good Choices in the Social Sciences*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 33-68.

Dimitar Toshkov. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 44-55.

#### Further reading:

Alan Bryman. 2016. *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 73-88.

John W. Creswell. 2018. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 133-146.

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane & Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, p. 12-19.

**Assignment** (to be completed before the session):

- After reading the literature for this session, please answer all the questions in the quiz on Moodle.
- Formulate a research question for your own project that you believe meets the criteria of good research questions.

**Session 3: 11.11.2021****How to use theory?**

After this session, you will be able to:

- Understand how theories are used in research processes
- Explain the difference between micro, meso and macro theories
- Understand the concept of middle-range theories
- Formulate testable hypotheses based on theories

Literature:

Dimitar Toshkov. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 56-82.

Dahlia K. Remler & Gregg G. Van Ryzin. 2011. *Research Methods in Practice: Strategies for Description and Causation*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 25-30.

Student Presentations:

- (1) How do theories of international relations explain war and its prevention?
- (2) How do theories of international relations explain peace operations?
- (3) Rationalism vs. Constructivism

Further reading:

Emanuel Adler. 2013. "Constructivism in International Relations: Sources, Contributions, and Debates". In: Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse & Beth A. Simmons (eds.). *Handbook of International Relations*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 95-118.

Karen A. Mingst, Heather E. McKibben & Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. 2018. *Essentials of International Relations*. Eighth Edition. New York: Norton, chapters 3 and 6.

Philip Cunliffe. 2020. "Realism". In: Kseniya Oksamytina & John Karlsrud (eds.). *United Nations Peace Operations and International Relations Theory*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, p. 31-47.

Carla Montelone & Kseniya Oksamytina. 2020. "Liberal Institutionalism". In: Kseniya Oksamytina & John Karlsrud (eds.). *United Nations Peace Operations and International Relations Theory*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, p. 48-69.

Marion Laurence & Emily Paddon Rhoads. 2020. "Constructivism". In: Kseniya Oksamytina & John Karlsrud (eds.). *United Nations Peace Operations and International Relations Theory*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, p. 111-128.

James Fearon & Alexander Wendt. 2002. "Rationalism vs. Constructivism: a Skeptical View". In: Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse & Beth A. Simmons (eds.): *Handbook of International Relations*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 52-72.

David Dessler & John Owen. 2005. "Constructivism and the Problem of Explanation", *Perspectives on Politics*, 3(3), p. 597-610.

**Assignment (to be completed before the session):**

- Name three functions of theory in a scientific research project.
- Name three criteria that distinguish a good theory.

**Session 4: 18.11.2021****How to measure: concepts and operationalization**

After this session, you will be able to:

- Explain the characteristics of scientific concepts and their role in the research process
- Distinguish good from bad concepts
- Explain what operationalization means
- Explain what indicators are

Literature:

Dimitter Toshkov. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 83-106.

Student Presentations:

- (1) How can we conceptualize and operationalize “gender equality”?
- (2) How can we conceptualize and operationalize “democracy”?
- (3) Problems in measuring concepts: Validity and reliability

Further reading:

Christopher Howard. 2017. *Thinking Like a Political Scientist: A Practical Guide to Research Methods*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, p. 36-63.

Paul M. Kellstedt & Guy D. Whitten. 2018. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 104-123.

**Assignment (to be completed before the session):**

- What is still unclear? Please formulate a question you have after reading the required literature and post it in the forum.
- Comment on the question of a fellow student.

**Session 5: 25.11.2021****How to collect data: case selection and sampling**

After this session, you will be able to:

- Explain what cases, populations, and variables are
- Explain what a sampling frame is
- Explain what external validity is
- Identify suitable data and case selection procedures in qualitative and quantitative research
- Discuss various forms of selection bias

Literature:

Diana Panke. 2018. *Research Design and Method Selection: Making good Choices in the Social Sciences*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 143-191.

Dimitter Toshkov. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 109-119.

Student Presentations:

- (1) Strategies of case selection in qualitative research
- (2) Selection bias in qualitative research

Further reading:

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane & Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, p. 128-149.

Jason Seawright & John Gerring. 2008. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options", *Political Research Quarterly*, 61(2), p. 294-308.

Barbara Geddes. 1990. "How the Cases you Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics", *Political Analysis*, 2(1), p. 131-150.

David Collier & James Mahoney. 1996. "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research", *World Politics*, 49(1), p. 56-91.

Christopher Howard. 2017. *Thinking Like a Political Scientist: A Practical Guide to Research Methods*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, p. 117-142.

**Assignment** (to be completed before the session):

- Anna is a researcher working with trade union members in Germany. She has calculated the required number of cases (390 members). Thus, she must now decide which sampling technique to use. What would you recommend and why?

**PART II: SPECIFIC RESEARCH DESIGNS****Session 6: 02.12.2021****Case Study Designs I: Qualitative methods (Content Analysis, Process Tracing)****Self-study session (no class)**

After this session, you will be able to:

- Explain what a case study is
- Understand the tools to apply a case study methodology
- Explain Qualitative Content Analysis
- Explain Process Tracing

Literature:

Dimitar Toshkov. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 285-309.

Margrit Schreier. 2014. „Qualitative Content Analysis“. In: Uwe Flick (ed.). *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 170-183.

Derek Beach. 2017. "Process Tracing Methods in Social Science", Oxford Research Encyclopedias of Politics: Qualitative Political Methodology.

Student Video Presentations:

- How to develop themes, codes and coding frameworks
- Historical Analysis

- Ethnography
- Critical Junctures and Path Dependence
- Interviewing

#### Further reading:

John Gerring. 2011. "The Case Study: What It Is and What It Does". In: Robert E. Goodin (ed.). *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 1133-1165.

Margrit Schreier. 2012. *Qualitative Content Analysis in Practice*. Los Angeles: SAGE, ch. 1, 4, 7, 11.

Derek Beach & Rasmus Brun Pedersen. 2019. *Process-Tracing Methods: Foundations and Guidelines*. Second Edition. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, chapters 1, 8.

Cameron G. Thies. 2002. "A Pragmatic Guide to Qualitative Historical Analysis in the Study of International Relations", *International Studies Perspectives*, 3(X), p. 351-372.

James Mahoney. 2009. "The Logic of Historical Explanation in the Social Sciences", *Comparative Political Studies*, 42(1), p. 114-146.

Ian Lustick. 1996. "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias", *American Political Science Review*, 90(3), p. 605-618.

Lisa Wedeen. 2010. "Reflections on Ethnographic Work in Political Science", *Annual Review of Political Science*, 13, p. 255-272.

Lorraine Bayard de Volo & Edward Schatz. 2004. „From the Inside Out: Ethnographic Methods in Political Research”, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 37(2), p. 267-271.

Giovanni Capoccia & Daniel Keleman. 2007. „The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism”, *World Politics*, 59(X), p. 341-369.

Hillel David Soifer. 2012. "The Causal Logic of Critical Junctures", *Comparative Political Studies*, 45(12), p. 1572-1597.

B. Leech (ed.). 2002. Symposium on "Interview Methods in Political Science", *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35(4), p. 663-688.

Layna Mosley. 2013. *Interview Research in Political Science*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, p. 1-28.

Arie M. Kakowicz. 2004. "Case Study Methods in International Security Studies". In: Detlef F. Sprinz & Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias (eds.). *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, p. 107-127.

Jacob I. Ricks & Amy H. Liu. 2018. "Process-Tracing Research Designs: A Practical Guide", *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 51(4), p. 842-846.

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane & Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, p. 208-230.

#### **Assignment:**

Outline an idea for a case study based on your own research topic or one of the topics below. Formulate a rough research question and hypothesis. Propose a case study design by identifying your unit, observations, variables and potential data sources. Discuss the advantage and disadvantage of your study relative to other methods.

- Your own research topic
- Social media
- Brexit
- Corona Deniers
- Black Lives Matter

## Session 7: 09.12.2021

### Case Study Designs II: Application (R2P, Statebuilding)

After this session, you will be able to:

- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of case studies
- Evaluate the application of these methods in published academic research
- Apply content analysis or process tracing to your own research
- Use the appropriate software

#### Literature:

Brast, Benjamin. 2015. "The Regional Dimension of Statebuilding Interventions", *International Peacekeeping*, 22(1), p. 81-99.

Tom Pierre Najem, Walter C. Soderlund, E. Donald Briggs & Sarah Cipkar. 2016. "Was R2P a viable option for Syria? Opinion content in the *Globe and Mail* and the *National Post*, 2011-2013", *International Journal*, 71(3), p. 433-449.

#### Student Presentations:

- (1) Applied content analysis: Critical review of the research design in Najem et al. (2016)
- (2) Applied process tracing: Critical review of the research design in Brast (2015)

#### Further reading:

Nina Tannenwald. 1999. "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use", *International Organization*, 53(3), p. 433-468. (PT example)

Yf Reykers. 2018. "Holding Accountable UN-Authorized Enforcement Operations: Tracing Accountability Mechanisms", *International Peacekeeping*, 25(4), p. 528-553. (PT example)

Seth Ashley. 2015. "Making the case for war: A comparative analysis of CNN and BBC coverage of Colin Powell's presentation to the United Nations Security Council", *Media, War & Conflict*, 8(1), p. 120-140. (content analysis)

Nadine Puechguirbal. 2010. "Discourse on Gender, Patriarchy and Resolution 1325: A Textual Analysis of UN Documents", *International Peacekeeping*, 17(2), p. 172-187. (content analysis)

## Session 8: 16.12.2021

### Comparative Designs I: Qualitative Comparative Analysis

#### [Self-study session \(no class\)](#)

After this session, you will be able to:

- Understand the difference between large-N, small-N, and case studies
- Explain different strategies in selecting cases in small-N comparative designs
- Explain Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Boolean minimization
- Explain the difference between crisp-set QCA and fuzzy-set QCA

#### Literature:

Dimitter Toshkov. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 258-284.

Adrian Dusa. 2020. "Set theoretic methods". In: Luigi Curini & Robert J. Franzese (eds.). *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 1097-1116.

Dirk Berg-Schlosser, Gisèle De Meur, Benoît Rihoux & Charles C. Ragin. 2009. "Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) as an Approach". In: Benoît Rihoux & Charles C. Ragin (eds.) *Configurational Comparative Methods: Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Related Techniques*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 1-18.

Charles C. Ragin. 2009. "Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) Using Fuzzy Sets (fsQCA)". In: Benoît Rihoux & Charles C. Ragin (eds.) *Configurational Comparative Methods: Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Related Techniques*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 87-121.

Student Video Presentations:

- Set membership and calibration: The difference between crisp sets and fuzzy sets
- Standards of good practice in QCA
- Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis

Further reading:

Klaus Brummer. 2020. "Comparative Analyses of Foreign Policy". In: Luigi Curini & Robert J. Franzese (eds.). *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 1148-1166.

Dan Slater & Ziblatt, Daniel. 2013. "The Enduring Indispensability of the Controlled Comparison", *Comparative Political Studies*, 46(10), p. 1301-1327.

Carsten Q. Schneider & Claudius Wagemann. 2012. *Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences: A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapters 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 11.

Carsten Q. Schneider & Claudius Wagemann. 2010. „Standards of Good Practice in Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Fuzzy-Sets”, *Comparative Sociology*, 9(3), p. 397-418.

Benoît Rihoux. 2006. "Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Related Systematic Comparative Methods: Recent Advances and Remaining Challenges for Social Science Research", *International Sociology*, 21(5), p. 679-706.

**Assignment:**

Outline an idea for a small-N comparative study based on your own research topic or one of the topics below. Formulate a rough research question and hypothesis. Propose a comparative design by identifying your cases, variables/conditions and potential data sources. Discuss the advantage and disadvantage of your study relative to other methods.

- Your own research topic
- Social media
- Brexit
- Corona Deniers
- Black Lives Matter

*Christmas Break*

## Session 9: 06.01.2022

### Comparative Designs II: Application (ethnic conflict, humanitarian interventions)

After this session, you will be able to:

- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of small-N research designs
- Evaluate the application of QCA in published academic research
- Apply QCA to your own research
- Use the appropriate software

#### Literature:

Corinne Bara. 2014. "Incentives and opportunities: A complexity-oriented explanation of violent ethnic conflict", *Journal of Peace Research*, 51(6), p. 696-710.

Martin Binder. 2015. "Paths to intervention: What explains the UN's selective response to humanitarian crises?", *Journal of Peace Research*, 52(6), p. 712-726.

#### Student Presentations:

- (1) Applied QCA: Critical review of the research design in Bara (2014)
- (2) Applied QCA: Critical review of the research design in Binder (2015)

#### Further reading:

Giuditta Fontana, Markus B. Siewert & Christalla Yakinthou. 2021. "Managing War-to-Peace Transitions after Intra-State Conflicts: Configurations of Successful Peace Processes", *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, 15(1), p. 25-47.

Mariam Salehi & Timothy Williams. 2016. "Beyond Peace vs. Justice: Assessing Transitional Justice's Impact on Enduring Peace using Qualitative Comparative Analysis", *Transitional Justice Review*, 1(4), p. 96-123.

Kseniya Oksamytyna & Magnus Lundgren. 2021. "Decorating the 'Christmas Tree': The UN Security Council and the Secretariat's Recommendations on Peacekeeping Mandates", *Global Governance*, 27(2), p. 226-250.

## Session 10: 13.01.2022

### Large-N Designs: Statistics

#### [Self-study session \(no class\)](#)

After this session, you will be able to:

- Understand the steps involved in designing a large-N study
- Explain sampling approaches and generalizability
- Explain the difference between cross-sectional and time-series designs

#### Literature:

Dimiter Toshkov. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 200-257.

Janet B. Johnson, H.T. Reynolds & Jason D. Mycoff. 2020. *Political Science Research Methods*. 9th edition. London: CQ Press, p. 527-593.

**Student Video Presentations:**

- Pitfalls in quantitative studies
- Experimental designs
- Duration Analysis
- Internal vs. external validity

**Further reading:**

Bear F. Braumoeller & Anne E. Sartori. 2004. "The Promises and Perils of Statistics in International Relations". In: Detlef F. Sprinz & Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias (eds.). *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, p. 129-151.

Kentaro Fukumoto. 2020. "Duration Analysis". In: Luigi Curini & Robert J. Franzese (eds.). *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*. Los Angeles: SAGE, p. 659-678.

Charles Wheelan. 2013. *Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data*. New York: Norton, p. 185-211.

Paul Huth & Todd Allee. 2004. "Research Design in Testing Theories of International Conflict". In: Detlef F. Sprinz & Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias (eds.). *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, p. 193-225.

Gary King. 1995. "Replication, Replication", *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 28(3), p. 444-452.

Christopher H. Achen. 2005. "Let's Put Garbage-Can Regressions and Garbage-Can Probits Where They Belong", *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 22(4), p. 327-340.

Gary King & Langche Zeng. 2001. "Explaining Rare Events in International Relations", *International Organization*, 55(3), p. 693-715.

Rose McDermott. 2002. "Experimental Methods in Political Science", *Annual Review of Political Science*, 5, p. 31-61.

Paul M. Kellstedt & Guy D. Whitten. 2018. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 77-91.

**Assignment:**

Design a large-N study based on your own research topic or for one of the topics below. Formulate a rough research question and hypothesis. Propose a large-N design by identifying your cases, variables and potential data sources. Discuss the advantage and disadvantage of your study relative to other methods.

- Your own research topic
- Hate speech on social media
- Using public transport without a permit
- Democracy and attitudes towards the death penalty
- Education and TV consumption

**Session 11: 20.01.2022****Large-N Designs: Application (Peacekeeping, Power-Sharing)**

After this session, you will be able to:

- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of large-N research designs
- Evaluate the application of statistics in published academic research

- Apply statistics to your own research

Literature:

Virginia P. Fortna. 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War", *International Studies Quarterly*, 48(2), p. 269-292.

Nils-Christian Bormann, Lars-Erik Cederman, Scott Gates, Benjamin A.T Graham, Simon Hug, Kaare W. Strøm & Julian Wucherpfennig. 2019. "Power Sharing: Institutions, Behavior, and Peace", *American Journal of Political Science*, 63(1), p. 84-100.

Student Presentations:

- (1) Applied regression: Critical review of the research design in Fortna (2004)
- (2) Applied regression: Critical review of the research design in Bormann et al. (2019)

Further reading:

Michael W. Doyle & Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis", *American Political Science Review*, 94(4), p. 779-801.

Meghan DeTommaso, Mario Schulz & Steve B. Lem. 2017. "Choices of Justice: Effects of Civil War Termination on Postconflict Justice Mechanisms Implemented by the State", *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, 11(2), p. 218-238.

Dursun Peksen. 2011. "Economic Sanctions and Human Security: The Public Health Effect of Economic Sanctions", *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 7(3), p. 237-251.

**Session 12: 27.01.2022**

**Mixed methods: the best of both worlds?**

After this session, you will be able to:

- Explain the concept of mixed methods research
- Explain ways of incorporating qualitative and quantitative approaches into a combined design
- Evaluate the application of mixed methods designs in published academic research
- Apply mixed methods approaches to your own research questions

Literature:

Dimitar Toshkov. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 310-327.

Student Presentations:

- Lieberman's nested analysis approach
- Applied mixed methods: Critical review of the research design in Gizelis et al. (2017)

Further reading:

Theodora-Ismene Gizelis, Sabrina Karim, Gudrun Østby & Hendrik Urdal. 2017. "Maternal Health Care in the Time of Ebola: A Mixed-Method Exploration of the Impact of the Epidemic on Delivery Services in Monrovia", *World Development*, 98, p. 169-178.

Michael Bamberger, Vijayendra Rao & Michael Woolcock. 2010. *Using Mixed Methods in Monitoring and Evaluation: Experiences from International Development*. Washington, DC: The World Bank.

Evan S. Lieberman. 2005. "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research", *American Political Science Review*, 99(3), p. 435-452.

Joseph A. Maxwell. 2010. "Using Numbers in Qualitative Research", *Qualitative Inquiry*, 16(6), p. 475-482.

Elizabeth G. Creamer. 2018. *An Introduction to Fully Integrated Mixed Methods Research*. London: SAGE, p. 144-167.

Jana Krause, Werner Krause & Piia Bränfors. 2018. "Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace", *International Interactions*, 44(6), p. 985-1016.

**Assignment** (to be completed before the session):

- After reading the literature for this session, please answer all the questions in the quiz on Moodle.
- What are the benefits and downsides of mixed method research?
- Discuss one challenge that a convincing mixed method study must overcome.

**PART III: PRESENTING YOUR RESEARCH****Session 13: 03.02.2022****Communicating Research**

After this session, you will be able to:

- Explain the difference between qualitative and quantitative research designs.
- Understand the "cycle of political research".
- Structure your research paper in line with your argument.
- Communicate the results of your research process in the correct style.

**Literature:**

Alan Bryman. 2016. *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 661-687.

Dimitter Toshkov. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, p. 328-335.

Philippe Schmitter. 2008. "The Design of Social and Political Research". In: Donatella Della Porta & Michael Keating (eds.). *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralist Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 263-295.

**Student Presentations:**

- (1) Contrasting quantitative and qualitative research
- (2) Counterfactual thinking

**Further reading:**

James Mahoney & Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research", *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 4(2), p. 144-167.

Jack S. Levy. 2007. "Qualitative methods and cross-method dialogue in political science", *Comparative Political Studies*, 40(2), p. 196-214.

Margarete Sandelowski. 1998. "Writing a Good Read: Strategies for Re-Presenting Qualitative Data", *Research in Nursing & Health*, 21(4), p. 375-382.

James Fearon. 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science", *World Politics*, 43(2), p. 169-195.

Gary King & Zeng Langche. 2007. "When can History be Our Guide? The Pitfalls of Counterfactual Inference", *International Studies Quarterly*, 51(1), p. 183-210.

Philip A. Schrodt. 2007. "Of Dinosaurs and Barbecue Sauce: A Comment on King and Zeng", *International Studies Quarterly*, 51(1), p. 211-215.

**Assignment:**

- Choose one of the three case descriptions and discuss which type of project design you would recommend in his/her case and why?

**Session 14: 10.02.2022**

**No session!**

Please use the time to prepare your research design poster.

Please upload your **research design poster** until 15.02.2022.

**Session 15: 17.02.2022**

**Research Workshop: Presenting your ideas**

We will close this seminar with a final research design workshop in which you present your ideas for your research project in the form of a poster and receive feedback from the group.

**31.03.2022**

Deadline for the submission of your final term paper. Please upload your paper as a pdf file (file name: ResDesign2021\_NameFirstName) to the designated folder in Moodle. A print version is not required.