

POLS 507
Research Design and Data Collection
Fall 2012

Professor:

Micheal W. Giles
Social Science #320
Telephone: 727-6565
Electronic Mail: mgiles@emory.edu

Books:

King, Keohane and Verba, Designing Social Inquiry (K²V)
Anthony O'Hear, An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science
Edward Carmines and Richard Zeller, Reliability and Validity Assessment.

Several articles are assigned for reading as indicated below. Copies of some of the articles/chapters are on electronic reserve. Most of the articles from the APSR, AJPS, JOP, etc. are available on-line. They can be assessed through the Emory Library web site. Open EUCLID and click on the 'ejournals' tab.

Class Assignments/Participation:

Students are expected to read the assigned materials and come to the seminar prepared to discuss the materials. Additionally seminar members may be asked to prepare and present written summaries of selected articles and chapters.

Papers:

Students will prepare two papers: (1) Explication of a concept and (2) A research design. Each paper will be no more than 3000 words total in length. Crisp thinking and writing (and they do tend to co-vary) are the attributes to be maximized not length. Make the papers readable, i.e. double-spaced with reasonable font size and margin widths. Papers should be in PDF format and distributed electronically to all seminar members (including the professor) by the specified due date/time.

(1) Explication of a Concept: Select a concept in your subfield and review the various ways in which the concept has been defined. Your paper should answer the following questions: What are the dimensions of the concept? What is the structure among the dimensions? What is the positive pole? What is the negative pole? What is the sufficiency condition? Your paper should also discuss the measurement of the concept: (a) does it track the dimensions of the concept (b) does it track the structure of the conceptualization is it consistent with the 'poles'? Due October 31st@12:00 p.m (High Noon).

(2) Research Design: Each student will develop a research design on a topic of interest to them. The research design may be written specifically for this course or you may combine this requirement with a paper requirement in another course (obviously the more efficient strategy if available!). The research design may also involve and be built around the concept explicated in the concept paper. A research design is most easily thought of as encompassing everything that is included in a journal article involving empirical research except the actual analysis of the data. There will be a statement of the problem/question, a discussion of the relevant literature, proposed hypotheses, discussion of concepts and their measurement, and the proposed structure of inference (e.g. experiment, survey....). Due December 5th@12:00 p.m (High Noon).

Grading:

Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of: 1) seminar discussions of weekly readings (10%); 2) the two papers (60%); and 3) a final examination (30%). The final examination will be comprehensive, closed note and in class.

Topical Outline

September 10: Review of Philosophy of Science

O'Hear. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science. chapters 1-6

September 17: Conceptualizing/Defining Concepts

Brown. 2010. How I Killed Pluto and Why it Had it Coming. Pp.182-190 [trailing paragraph from 189] (eReserve)

Gerring, 2001. Social Science Methodology Chapter 3 (eReserve)

Gary Goertz, Social Science Concepts, Chapter 2 "Structuring and Theorizing Concepts" (eReserve)

September 24: Operationalizing/Measuring Concepts

David Collier and James E. Mahon. 1993. "Conceptual 'Stretching' Revisited Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis." American Political Science Review, pp. 845-855.

David Collier and Steven Levitsky. 1997. Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research. World Politics. 49.3

David Collier, Jody LaPorte and Jason Seawright. 2012. "Putting Typologies to Work: Concept Formation, Measurement, and Analytic Rigor." Political Research Quarterly 65(1): 217-232.

October 1: Operationalizing/Measuring Concepts

K²V Chapter 5, section 5.1 only.

Carmines and Zeller, Reliability and Validity Assessment.

Robert Adcock & David Collier. 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research," American Political Science Review. pp. 529-546.

October 8: History/Evolution of the Discipline

Perestroika:

Perestroika, "On Globalization of the APSA and APSR: A Political Science Manifesto" (eReserve)

Gregory Kasza, "Perestroika: For an Ecumenical Science of Politics," 2001 PS 34:597-600

Mr. Pravda, "Some Thoughts on Perestroika and Political Science," H-Polmeth web site, July 12, 2002. (e/Reserve)

David A. Lake. 2011. "Why 'isms' Are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress." International Studies Quarterly.55:1-16 (read only "Epistemology Section" pp.1-2 and 10-16

Lawrence Mead. 2010. "Scholasticism in Political Science." Perspectives on Politics. 8 (2):453-464.

Bernard Grofman, 1997. "Seven Durable Axes of Cleavage in Political Science." Pp. 73-86. In Kristen Renwick Monroe, ed. Contemporary Empirical Political Theory. Berkeley: University of California Press. (eReserve)

October 22: The Telos of Political Science I

Disciplinary Meta-Goals: Science and Politics

K²V. Chapter 1. especially section 1.1 3-33

Almond and Genco, "Clouds, Clocks and the Study of Politics." World Politics, 1976-77. p. 489-522.

Interpretation

Little, Varieties of Social Explanation. Chapter 4 (Interpretivism) (eReserve)

Description

K²V. Chapter 2. 34-74 (Skim)

Evaluation

(TBA)

October 29: The Telos of Political Science II

Explanation/Causation/Prediction

K²V. Chapter 3. 75-99

Little, Varieties of Social Explanation. Chapters 2 (Causal Analysis) 13-29. (eReserve)

The Qual-Quant Divide

Mahoney, James 2008. "Toward a Unified Theory of Causality." Comparative Political Studies. 41: (4/5): 412-436.

Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research" Political Analysis. 14 (Summer). Pp. 227-249.

Jack Levy. 2007. "Qualitative Methods and Cross-Method Dialogue in Political Science." Comparative Political Studies 2007 40;196-214

November 5: Theory & Theorizing

K²V Chapter 3.5

Lave & March, An Introduction to Models in the Social Sciences. Chapters 1, 2, & 3 (eReserve)

Kahneman. 2011. Thinking Fast and Thinking Slow, Chpt. 25 Bernoulli's Errors and Chpt 26 Prospect Theory. (eReserve)

David A. Lake. 2011. "Why 'isms' Are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress." International Studies Quarterly. 55: 1-16 (read only "Theory: Academic Sects" Section pp. 1-10.)

George and Bennett, Case Studies and Theory Development, Chapter II "Integrating Comparative and Within-Case Analysis: Typological Theory" pp.233-251. (eReserve)

November 12: Structures for Inference I

K²V Chapter 5

Shadish, Cook and Campbell, Quasi-Experimentation. Chapter 2 & 3, (eReserve) READ ONLY THE SECTIONS ON 'INTERNAL' AND 'EXTERNAL' VALIDITY

Experiments and Quasi-Experiments (more here)

Rose McDermott, 2002. "Experimental Methodology in Political Science." Political Analysis. Vol. 10:4 (Autumn).

Benjamin Olken. 2010 "Direct Democracy and Local Public Goods: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia" American Political Science Review vol 104 May pp 243-267.

Rune Slothuus and Claes H. de Vreese 2010 "Political Parties, Motivated Reasoning and Issue Framing." Journal of Politics. Vol. 72; July pp 630-645.

November 19: Structures of Inference II

Case Study Designs

K²V Chapters 6.1.1

Little, Varieties of Social Explanation. Chapters 2 (Causal Analysis) 29-31. (eReserve)

Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett. 2004. Case Studies and Theory Development in Social Science. Chapter 1 "Case Studies and Theory Development" pp. 3-34.

John Gerring. 2007. Case Study Research Principles and Practice. Chapter 5. "Techniques for Choosing Cases."

Within Case Designs

Congruence

Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett. 2004. Case Studies and Theory Development in Social Science. Chapter 9 "The Congruence Method" (eReserve)

Process tracing

Andrew Bennett. "Process Tracing and Causal Inference" in Henry Brady and David Collier. 2010 Rethinking Social Inquiry, 2nd edition. Chapter 10. (eReserve)

Nathaniel Beck. 2010. "Causal Process 'Observation': Oxymoron or (Fine) Old Wine." Political Analysis 18:499-505.

David Collier, Henry Brady & Jason Seawright. 2010. "Outdated Views of Qualitative Methods: Time to Move On." Political Analysis. 18: 506-513.

Counterfactuals

James D. Fearon, 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science," World Politics. 43: 169-95.

November 26: Research Design-Structures of Inference III

Cross-case Designs

K²V Chapters 4.1, 4.2, 4.4 & 4.5

Little, Varieties of Social Explanation. Chapters 2 (Causal Analysis) 31-38. (eReserve)

J.S. Mills, System of Logic, Ch 8 "On the Four Methods of Experimental Inquiry." (eReserve)

Mahoney & Goertz, 2004. "The Possibility Principle: Choosing Negative Cases in Comparative Research," American Political Science Review 98 (November): 653-669.

Example: Jeffrey Staton 2004. Judicial Policy Implementation in Mexico City and Merida. Comparative Politics. 37 (1, October) 41-60.

Selection Bias

K²V Chapters 4.3

David Collier and James Mahoney, "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research." World Politics. 49.1 (1996) p. 56-91.

Ian Lustick. 1996. "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Records and the Problem of Selection Bias" American Political Science Review. 90 (3): 605-612.

December 3: Mixed-Methods

Sidney Tarrow “Bridging the Quantitative-Qualitative Divide” in Henry Brady and David Collier. 2010 Rethinking Social Inquiry, 2nd edition. Chpt 6.
Evan Lieberman,. 2005. “Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research.” American Political Science Review. 93(3): 435-452.
Ariel Ahram. (forthcoming). “Concepts and Measurement in Multimethod Research.” Political Research Quarterly.
<http://prq.sagepub.com/content/early/2011/11/06/1065912911427453>

December 10: Ethics in Social Science Research

Readings (TBA)

FINAL: TBA