Summer Term 2016

Prof. Dr. André Kaiser

Research Logic and Research Design in Comparative Social Research

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

Time: Fri, 12:00 – 13:30 hrs
Location: Gottfried-Keller-Straße 6, Hörsaal des Forschungsinstituts
First Course Meeting: 22 April 2016
Office Hour: Tues, 11:30 – 12:30 hrs
Registration: Please register with KLIPS.

This course provides essential knowledge of research design problems and solutions in comparative social research. I take illustrations mainly from my own research in comparative politics. The course 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. Students are expected to present their own research projects in class as well as to draft a paper of about 5 to 10 pages (MA students)/10 to 15 pages (PhD students) in length.

General References:


Course Schedule:

(1) Introduction and Overview

GS 21-38.
GEDDES 1-88.

(2) Identification of a Research Question

(3) Description and Causality

KKV 3-33 and 75-114.

(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.

(6) Designs: Experiments and Quasi Experiments


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

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

(8) Designs: Analytic Narratives


(9) Designs: Small N Studies

KKV 115-149.
GEDDES 131-173.


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

GS 127-144.

(11) Presentation and Discussion of Research Projects