

## Summer Term 2013

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, 17:45 – 19:15 hrs on 19 April, 3 May, 16 May, 7 June, 21 June, 5 July  
AND

compact seminar on Sat, 6 July, 9.00 – 18:00 hrs

Location: Gottfried-Keller-Straße 6, Hörsaal des Forschungsinstituts (compact seminar: HF-Gebäude Frangenheimstr. 4, seminar room 124).

First Course Meeting: 19 April 2013

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:

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. Miller, John H. and Scott E. Page (2007). *Complex Adaptive Systems. An Introduction to Computational Models of Social Life*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, chapter 2 (9-31). Axelrod, Robert M. (1997). *The Complexity of Cooperation: Agent-based Models of Competition and Cooperation*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1-9. Laver, Michael and Ernest Sergenti (2012). *Party Competition: An Agent-based Model*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 5-9.

(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) Presentation and Discussion of Research Projects