

## Summer Term 2017

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, 12:00 – 13:30 hrs  
Location: Gottfried-Keller-Straße 6, Hörsaal des Forschungsinstituts  
First Course Meeting: 21 April 2017  
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), 163-98.  
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.

Goertz, Gary (2006): *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch. 2-4.

(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.

Laver, Michael (2005). Policy and the Dynamics of Political Competition. *American Political Science Review* 99(2), 263-81.

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), 627-35.

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, 339-56.

Dunning, Thad (2008). Improving Causal Inference: Strengths and Limitations of Natural Experiments. *Political Research Quarterly* 61 (2), 282-93.

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

KKV 34-74 and 208-230.

GEDDES 89-129.

Gerring, John (2007). *The Case Study Method: Principles and Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Ch. 5.

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

(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.

Lieberson, Stanley (1991). Small Ns and Big Conclusions: An Examination of the Reasoning in Comparative Studies Based on a Small Number of Cases. *Social Forces* 70(2), 307-20.

Mahoney, James (1999). Nominal, Ordinal, and Narrative Appraisal in Macrocausal Analysis. *American Journal of Sociology* 104(4),1154-96.

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

GS 127-144.

Schrodt, Philip A. (2006). Beyond the Linear Frequentist Orthodoxy. *Political Analysis* 14(3), 335-9.

Thomson, Robert (2007). Time to Comply: National Responses to Six EU Labour Market Directives Revisited. *West European Politics* 30(5), 987-1008.

Falkner, Gerda (2007). Time to Discuss: Data to Crunch or Problems to Solve? A Rejoinder to Robert Thomson. *West European Politics* 30(5), 1009-21.

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