



UCD SCHOOL OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POL 41400: Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods

Lecturer

Dr. Aidan Regan

Room:

E-mail:

Office Hours:

Course Timetable

Seminars will be held from 9am-11am on Fridays in Room G317 of the Newman Building.

Description

This course provides an introduction to the variety of qualitative methodologies used in political and social scientific research. The aim of the course is to provide you with the tools to identify the appropriate strategy for your research question; assess the options for data collection; and make use of the relevant analytical technique. It also aims to expand your knowledge of the methods that you will encounter in the course of reading scientific research.

Active participation in class discussion is required throughout the course. Students must read the core readings before coming to class.

Programme

Week 7/ Mar 28th	How to use the new methodology of qualitative research
Week 8/ Apr 4th	How to do process-tracing analysis (a) - historical
Week 9/ Apr 11th	How to do process-tracing analysis (b) - empirical
Week 10/ Apr 18 th	How to use qualitative comparative analysis (QCA)
Week 11/ Apr 25th	How to interview and analyse discursive content
Week 12/ May 2nd	How to write a dissertation, article or prospectus

Assessment

40%	Over the course students must submit one 500-word response paper to the readings for a given session and post that paper on blackboard the night before class. The response papers are fundamental for the holding of a good discussion of the reading materials.
60%	4,000 word essay related to the research method of your MA thesis

Reccomended Book

- Henry E Brady and David Collier (eds) 2004 (or 2010). Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools and Shared Standards. Lahman, MD: Roman and Littlefield.

Week 7 (Mar 28th). How to Use the New Methodology of Qualitative Research

Required:

Mahoney, J. (2010). After KKV: The new methodology of qualitative research. *World Politics*, 62(01), 120-147.

Mahoney, James (2007). Qualitative Methodology and Comparative Politics. *Comparative Political Studies* 40, no. 2: 122–144.

Additional:

James Mahoney & Gary Goertz. (2006). A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research. *Political Analysis* 14, no. 3: 227–249.

Henry E Brady and David Collier (eds) 2004 (or 2010). Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools and Shared Standards. Lahman, MD: Roman and Littlefield.

Week 8 (Apr 4th). How to Do Process-Tracing Analysis (a) – temporal

Required

Hall, P. A. (2008). Systematic process analysis: when and how to use it. *European Political Science*, 7(3), 304-317.

Pierson, Paul (2000). Increasing returns, path dependence and the study of politics. *American Political Science Review*, 94 pp 251-67

Additional

Hall, P. A. (2012). Tracing the progress of process tracing. *European Political Science*, 12(1), 20-30.

Hall, P. A. (2003). Aligning ontology and methodology in comparative research. *Comparative historical analysis in the social sciences*, 374.

Mahoney, J. (2012). The logic of process tracing tests in the social sciences. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 41(4), 570-597.

Week 9 (Apr 11th). How to Do Process-Tracing Analysis (b) - empirical

Required

Bennett, Andrew (2010). Process tracing and causal inference. In Brady, H. E. & Collier, D. (eds.) *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, New York, Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 207-220 (pdf available).

Collier, David (2011). Understanding Process Tracing. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44(4): 823-30.

In-class discussion will be based on these two core readings and on Exercise 11 in the following document: Collier, David. (2011). Teaching Process Tracing: Examples and

Exercises. Online Supplement. In *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

<http://polisci.berkeley.edu/people/faculty/CollierD/Teaching%20Process%20Tracing.pdf>

Please complete Exercise 11 before coming to class.

Additional

Checkel, J. T. 2005. It's the process, stupid! Process tracing in the study of European and international politics, Oslo, University of Oslo. ARENA Working Paper Series 26, http://www.sv.uio.no/arena/english/research/publications/arena-publications/workingpapers/working-papers2005/wp05_26.pdf

Quaglia, Lucia. 2007. The Politics of Financial Services Regulation and Supervision Reform in the European Union. *European Journal of Political Research*, 46, 2, 269-290.

Week 10 (May 18th). How to use Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

Required

Ragin, Charles C (2008). "Qualitative Comparative Analysis Using Fuzzy Sets (fsQCA)."

Ragin, Charles C. *Redesigning Social Inquiry: Fuzzy Sets and Beyond*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2008. **Page numbers to be assigned.**

Avdagic, S. (2010). When are concerted reforms feasible? Explaining the emergence of social pacts in Western Europe. *Comparative political studies*, 43(5), 628-657.

Additional

Rihoux, Benoît, and Gisèle De Meur (2008). "Crisp-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (csQCA)." In *Configurational Comparative Methods: Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Related Techniques*, edited by Benoît Rihoux and Charles C Ragin, 33–68. Applied Social Research Methods Series. London: SAGE.

Lilliefeldt, Emelie. (2012). Party and Gender in Western Europe Revisited A Fuzzy-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Gender-Balanced Parliamentary Parties. *Party Politics* 18, no. 2: 193–214.

Krook, Mona Lena. (2010). Women's Representation in Parliament: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis. *Political Studies* 58, no. 5: 886–908.

Emmenegger, Patrick. (2011). Job Security Regulations in Western Democracies: A Fuzzy Set Analysis. *European Journal of Political Research* 50, no. 3: 336–364.

Schneider, Carsten Q. (2009). *The Consolidation of Democracy: Comparing Europe and Latin America*. Democratization Studies. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon ; New York: Routledge.

Week 11 (Apr 25th). How to Interview and Analyse Discursive Content

Required

Leech, Beth L (2002). Asking Questions: Techniques for Semi-structured Interviews. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 35, no. 04: 665–668.

Yoshiko Herrera & Bear F Braumoeller (2004). Symposium, Discourse and Content Analysis. *Qualitative Methods Newsletter* (spring) pp 15-39.

Williamson, Vanessa, Theda Skocpol, and John Coggin (2011). The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism.” *Perspectives on Politics* 9, no. 01: 25–43.

Additional

Weiss, Robert Stuart. (1994). Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies. New York: Free Press. Chapter 4.

Mandelkern, Ronen, and Michael Shalev (2010). Power and the Ascendance of New Economic Policy Ideas: Lessons from the 1980s Crisis in Israel. *World Politics* 62, no. 03: 459–495.

Week 12 (May 2nd). How to Write a Dissertation, Article or Prospectus

Each student will be expected to outline the method (practical use and problems) of their research project

Required

Bob Hancké (2009). *Intelligent Research Design*. Oxford University Press. Chapters 5 & 6

Gerardo Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft and Method in Comparative Politics*, 2007, pp. 370-371 (James Scott on writing).

Peter A. Hall, “Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 23 (4): 596-598, December 1990.

Additional

Jonathan Kirshner, “Alfred Hitchcock and the Art of Research,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 29 (3): 511-513, September 1996.

Barry Weingast, 2010. “Structuring your Paper (Caltech Rules).” Mimeo, Stanford University. Available at <http://www.stanford.edu/group/polisci/faculty/weingast/CALTECHRUL100427printversion.pdf>.

Przeworski, Adam and Frank Salomon (1995). “The Art of Writing Proposals: Some Candid Suggestions for Applicants to Social Science Research Council Competitions.” Social Science Research Foundation. **Available online.**