

**METHODS I**  
**Research Design and Data Collection**

**Core Seminar**

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**Fall Semester 2017**

*Wed 10-12 (IFW C 33), Tutorial: Mon 12-14 (IFW E 42)6*

**Textbooks**

*Required*

1. Toshkov, Dimiter 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Goertz, Gary 2006: *Social Science Concepts. A User's Guide*. Princeton University Press

*Recommended*

3. Goertz, Garry, and James Mahoney. 2012. *A Tale of Two Cultures*. Princeton University Press
4. Gschwend, Thomas and Frank Schimmelfennig (eds.) 2011: *Research Design in Political Science. How to Practice What They Preach*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
5. Gerber, Alan S., and Donald P. Green. 2012. *Field Experiments: Design, Analysis, and Interpretation*. New York: Norton.

**PART I      Research Design**

**20 September 2017**

**1. Science, Research Design, and Research Questions**

Popper, Karl 1963: *Conjectures and Refutations. The Growth of Scientific Knowledge*. London, Chapter 1: "Science: Conjectures and Refutations", 43-86.

Toshkov 2016, ch. 2.

*Recommended*

Gschwend and Schimmelfennig 2011, chs. 1, 2 and 12.

**27 September 2017**

**2. Theory, concepts, and measurement**

Goertz 2006: 27-127.

Toshkov 2016, chs. 3-4.

*Recommended*

Goertz and Mahoney 2012, Section III

**4 October 2017**

**3. Causality, explanation and research design**

Little, Daniel 1991: *Varieties of Social Explanation. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Science*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1-29.

Toshkov 2016, ch. 6

*Recommended*

Goertz and Mahoney 2012, Section I

**PART II Case-oriented Research**

**11 October 2017**

**4. Within-Case Analysis: Congruence and Process-Tracing**

Beach, Derek and Rasmus Brun Pedersen. 2013. *Process-Tracing Methods. Foundations and Guidelines*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1-94.

Collier, David 2011: Understanding Process Tracing, *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44(4): 823-830.

*Recommended*

Goertz and Mahoney 2012, Section II

**18 October 2017**

**5. Comparative Analysis**

Gerring, John 2007: *Case Study Research. Principles and Practices*. Cambridge University Press 2007, 151-171.

Goertz 2006, 159-210.

**25 October 2017**

**6. QCA**

Schneider, Carsten Q. and Wagemann, Claudius. 2012. *Set-theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chs. 3-5.

**1 November 2017**

**7. Mixed-Methods Research**

Lieberman, Evan S. 2005. Nested analysis as a mixed-methods strategy for comparative research. *American Political Science Review* 99(3): 435-452.

**8 November 2017:**

**\*\*\* READING WEEK, NO CLASS \*\*\***

**PART III Variable-oriented Research**

**15 November 2017**

**8. Lab and Field Experiments**

*Required*

Toshkov 2016, ch. 7

Gerber, Alan S. and Donald P. Green. 2012. *Field Experiments. Design, Analysis, and Interpretation*. London: W.W. Norton, ch. 1.

*Recommended*

Field, Andy and Graham Hole. 2003. *How to Design and Report Experiments*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 54-105.

*No Tutorial on 20 November 2017*

**22 November 2017**

**9. Quasi-Experiments**

*Required*

Toshkov 2016, ch. 8, pp. 200-226

Stock, James H. and Mark W. Watson. 2011. *Introduction to Econometrics*. London: Pearson, ch. 13.

Healy, Andrew and Neil Malhotra. 2013. Childhood Socialization and Political Attitudes: Evidence from a Natural Experiment. *The Journal of Politics* 75(4): 1023-1037.

Find and read an interesting piece of experimental research.

*Group presentation*

Groups of 3-5.

We will form groups in class and you can start preparing.

- 1) In your group, decide which experimental article you want to focus on.
- 2) Identify key design choices
- 3) Evaluate the article in terms of internal and external validity
- 4) Prepare a short presentation of your conclusions
- 5) Present your conclusions in the tutorial on Monday 27 November.

*Recommended*

Shadish, William R., Thomas D. Cook, and Donald T. Campbell. 2002. *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*. Boston / New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, pp. 33-102.

**29 November 2017**

## **10. Non-Experimental large-N Designs**

*Required*

Toshkov 2016, ch. 8, pp. 227-257

Shmueli, Galit. 2010. To Explain or to Predict? *Statistical Science* 25(3): 289-310.

## **PART IV Data Collection and Computational Approaches to Social Science**

**6 December 2017**

## **11. Interviews and Surveys**

*Required*

Johnson, Janet B., and H. T. Reynolds. 2012. "Survey Research and Interviewing" *Political Science Research Methods*. 7th ed. Los Angeles: Sage, pp. 306-353

Berry, Jeffrey M. 2002. Validity and Reliability Issues in Elite Interviewing. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 35(4): 679-682.

*Recommended*

Arthur, Sue, Martin Mitchell, Jane Lewis, and Carol McNaughton Nicholls. 2014. "Designing Fieldwork." In *Qualitative Research Practice*, ed. J. Ritchie, J. Lewis, C. McNaughton Nicholls and R. Ormston. Los Angeles: Sage, 147-76.

Krosnick, Jon A., and Stanley Presser. 2010. "Question and Questionnaire Design." In *Handbook of Survey Research*, ed. P. V. Marsden and J. D. Wright. Bingley: Emerald Group Publishing, 263-313.

Mosley, Layna, ed. 2013. *Interview Research in Political Science*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

**13 December 2017**

**12. Computational Social Sciences I: The promises of big data and simulation-based techniques**

*Required*

Carsey, Thomas M. and Jeffrey J. Harden. 2013. *Monte Carlo Simulation and Resampling Methods for Social Science*. London: Sage. Ch. 7. (Skim through Ch. 1 as well)

Izenman, Alan J. 2008. *Modern Multivariate Statistical Techniques. Regression, Classification, and Manifold Learning*. New York: Springer. Ch. 1.

Chang, Ray M., Robert J. Kauffman, and YoungOk Kwon. 2014. Understanding the paradigm shift to computational social science in the presence of big data. *Decision Support Systems* 63: 67-80. (Skim through, focus on sections 2 & 3)

*Recommended*

Watts, Duncan J. 2007. A twenty-first century science. *Nature* 445(1): 489.

**20 December 2017**

**13. Computational Social Sciences II: Text analysis**

*Required*

Grimmer, Justin, and Brandon M. Stewart. 2013. "Text as Data: The Promise and Pitfalls of Automatic Content Analysis Methods for Political Texts." *Political Analysis* 21(3): 267-97. (Skim through)

Klüver, Heike. 2009. Measuring Interest Group Influence Using Quantitative Text Analysis. *European Union Politics* 10(4): 535-49.

Mohr, John, and Petko Bogdanov. 2013. Introduction—Topic Models: What They Are and Why They Matter. *Poetics* 41(6): 545-69.

**Final exam:** Friday, 9 February 2018 (9.30 – 11.00), room to be announced

**Requirements**

- 1) Regular participation in seminar and tutorial
- 2) Group presentations in tutorials
- 3) All required readings
- 4) Research design paper (10 November 2017; 40 percent)
- 5) Written exam (9 February 2018; 60 percent)