

## Methods of Inquiry and Research Design

**Political Science 4702**

**Columbia University**

**Fall 2017**

**Tuesdays 2:10-4:00p**

Page Fortna  
212-854-0021  
[vpf4@columbia.edu](mailto:vpf4@columbia.edu)

Office Hours:  
Mondays 11a-12p and Tuesdays 4:10-5p  
1329 IAB

### Course Description

This course will cover research methods and research design in Political Science. We will focus on concrete and practical issues of conducting research: picking a topic, generating hypotheses, case selection, measurement issues, designing and conducting experiments, interviews, field work, archival research, coding data and working with data sets, combining quantitative and qualitative methods, etc.

The course is designed for several audiences in Political Science, including:

- PhD students
- MAO students undertaking a major research project
- Advanced undergrads writing or contemplating an honors thesis, or another major research project

Requirements vary by students' degree program, as shown below.

Many of the readings and examples are drawn from the subfields of International Relations and Comparative Politics, but students in all subfields are welcome.

### Requirements, Due Dates, and Grading

#### **Course Requirements, by degree program:**

	PhD	MAO option 1	MAO option 2	Undergraduate option 1	Undergraduate option 2
Participation	Required of all students (20%)				
Research Question	Required of all students (ungraded)				
Short Papers/ Exercises	4 (10% each)	4 (10% each)	6 (10% each)	2 (20% each)	3 (20% each)
Final Paper	Diss. Prospectus or Research Design Chapter (25%)	Practice Prospectus (25%)	Research Design (20%)	Honors Thesis Prospectus (25%)	Research Design (20%)
Presentation	Required (15%)	Required (15%)	NA	Required (15%)	NA

### I. Class Participation

- Come to class prepared to discuss critically the week's reading, as well as each others' short papers, where applicable
- Discussion of concept measurement assignment on Sept 19.

### II. Statement of Research Question

- Brief (1/2-1 page) statement of the research question and hypothesis/es that will be your focus for other assignments, including the final paper. Statement should answer the "so what?" question, should state one or more specific, falsifiable hypotheses, and should briefly note the research methods you plan to use and the types of evidence needed to test your hypothesis. May be turned in any time before Oct 1.

### III. Short papers/exercises:

Throughout the semester, there are options for short papers and hands-on exercises. Each student may choose a subset of these, depending on their particular interests and research needs.

Short papers **posted as PDFs to CourseWorks by 5pm the Sunday** before the relevant class.

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Write-up of concepts & measurement exercise (undergrads only) | Sept 17        |
| 2. Replicate statistical results                                 | Sept 24        |
| 3. Case study research design 'book review'                      | Oct 8          |
| 4. Conduct an interview  | Oct 22         |
| 5. Design an experiment  | Oct 29         |
| 6. Design a survey   | Nov 12         |
| 7. Conduct a survey  | Nov 12         |
| 8. Archival research   | Nov 19         |
| 9. Teaching module (PhD students only)*                          | variable dates |
| 10. Discussant for presentations (MAO & PhD students only)       | Nov 28 & Dec 5 |

\* Teaching module: Sign up for a class session in which there is reading required of PhD students only. Come to class prepared to explain that reading's important arguments/concepts to the rest of the class.

NB: some of these assignments require legwork in advance; **plan accordingly**.

### III. Final Research Design Paper. Due December 19 (5pm)

*PhD students:*

- Dissertation prospectus that meets departmental guidelines for content, length, and form.
- Or, if you have already successfully defended a prospectus, your dissertation's research design chapter/section.

*MAO students:*

- option 1: a practice dissertation prospectus that meets departmental guidelines for content, length, and form, OR
- option 2: a short (approx 5pp) description of the research design for a seminar paper.

*Undergraduates:*

- option 1: a honors thesis prospectus OR
- option 2: a short (approx 5pp) description of the research design for a seminar paper.

IV. Presentation of final paper in class. (November 28 & December 5)

**Policy on Late Assignments**

- One-third of a grade will be deducted for every day an assignment is late.
- Assignments will not be accepted more than one week late.
- No extensions or incompletes except in cases of documented family/medical emergency.

**Course Materials**

The following books are available for purchase at Book Culture Bookstore and are on reserve at Lehman (number of chapters assigned in [brackets]):

- Gerring, John. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. 2nd edition. (Cambridge University Press 2012). [12]
- Van Evera, Stephen. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. (Cornell University Press, 1997). [5 undergrad; 7 grad]
- George, Alexander L. and Andrew Bennett. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. (MIT Press, 2005). [8]
- Klotz, Audie and Cecilia Lynch. *Strategies for Research in Constructivist International Relations* (M.E. Sharpe, 2007). [all]
- Diana Kapiszewski, Lauren M. MacLean, and Benjamin Lelan Read, *Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles, Strategies for Social Inquiry* (Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2015).
- Trachtenberg, Marc *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method*. (Princeton University Press, 2006). [3+appendix+1 to skim]
- Mosley, Layna, ed., *Interview Research in Political Science* (Cornell 2013). [8+3 to skim]
- Beach, Derek and Rasmus Brun Pedersen *Process-Tracing Methods: Foundations and Guidelines* (U Michigan Press, 2013). [required for grad students only 3, skim rest]

Recommended:

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. (Princeton University Press, 1995).

Brady, Henry E. and David Collier, eds. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2010).

Thad Dunning, *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences: A Design-Based Approach, Strategies for Social Inquiry* (Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

## **Academic Integrity**

This course endorses the faculty statement on academic integrity, found here:

<https://www.college.columbia.edu/faculty/resourcesforinstructors/academicintegrity/statement> and reprinted here:

### **Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity**

The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity.

Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars' work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgment of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited.

In practical terms, this means that, as students, you must be responsible for the full citations of others' ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent.

Any breach of this intellectual responsibility is a breach of faith with the rest of our academic community. It undermines our shared intellectual culture, and it cannot be tolerated. Students failing to meet these responsibilities should anticipate being asked to leave Columbia.

## **Electronic Devices in the Classroom**

Recent research suggests that students using electronic devices & laptops in the classroom retain information at a lower rate than those who do not.<sup>1</sup> There is also research showing that taking notes by hand leads to a higher rate of comprehension than taking notes on a device.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand, many of us (myself included) increasingly use devices to read and mark up scholarly work.

My expectation is that you use laptops or electronic devices only as an e-readers, or (occasionally) to look up something directly relevant to class, and that you will take notes by hand (unless you have a compelling reason to do otherwise, in which case please let me know). You are grown-ups, and your education at Columbia is precious to you (I hope), so I will (mostly) leave responsible use of electronics to the honor system. If the use of electronics becomes a problem (distracting others, dampening the level of participation and engagement), I reserve the right to revise this policy. I will sometimes "cold call" on students, especially if I suspect someone is distracted by his/her electronics. I will also sometimes ask for "lids down" during discussion – so please bring old-fashioned writing implements (paper & pen) to class.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/09/25/why-a-leading-professor-of-new-media-just-banned-technology-use-in-class/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Readings not available from Book Culture are posted on CourseWorks or are available through E-Journals [www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/ejournals/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/ejournals/)

Note: Some readings are required for graduate students (PhD and MAO) only; these are recommended for undergraduates.

### **Week 1. September 5      Introduction**

- Keohane, Robert O. "Political Science as a Vocation" *PS: Political Science & Politics* 42:2 (April 2009) pp.359-363.

Recommended:

Graduate students – the following are strongly recommended if you haven't already read them:

Karl Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*.

Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*.

Lakatos, Imre. "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programs" in *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Lakatos and Musgrave, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1970.

Gabriel Almond and Stephen Genco. "Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of World Politics." *World Politics* July 1977. (29:4).

## Week 2. September 12

## Finding a Topic and General Research Design

- Gerring, John. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Chapters 1-4, pp.1-103.
- Van Evera, Stephen. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*.
  - Intro and Chapter 1, pp. 1-48 [all students]
  - Chapters 3-4, pp. 89-116 [grad students, recommended for undergrads]
  - Appendix: pp.123-128 [undergrads]
- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. (Princeton University Press, 1995). Chapter 1, pp.1-33 and Chapter 3, pp. 75-91 only. [graduate students only]
- Gustafsson, Karl, and Linus Hagström. 2017. "What Is the Point? Teaching Graduate Students How to Construct Political Science Research Puzzles." *European Political Science*. (September 8, 2017).
- Sample dissertation proposals (in CourseWorks)  
(We will diagram the theories in these proposals, à la Van Evera, in class)

### Recommended:

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. (Princeton University Press, 1995).

Mahoney, James. "After KKV: The New Methodology of Qualitative Research." *World Politics* January 2010 (62:1), pp.120-147.(EJ)

Rueschemeyer, Dietrich *Usable Theory* (Princeton University Press, 2009) Chapter 1 "Analytic Tools for Social and Political Research" pp. 1-26. (R)

McKeown, Timothy. "Case Studies and the Statistical Worldview: Review of King, Keohane, and Verba's *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*." *International Organization* 53:1 (Winter 1999): 161-90.

Collier, David and Brady, Henry E. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010). (B)

*Political Analysis* March 2006 Symposium on *Rethinking Social Inquiry*, especially articles by Schrodt, Shively, and Beck.

Locke, Lawrence *Proposals that Work: A Guide for Planning Dissertations and Grant Proposals* (Sage 2007).

Robson, Colin. *Real World Research: A Resource for Social Scientists and Practitioner-Researchers*. (Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 1993).

Bleich, Erik "Immigration and Integration Studies in Western Europe and the US" *World Politics* 60:3 (April 2008), (excerpt pp.512-519 on 4 types of scholarship).

**Week 3. September 19**

**Conceptualization and Measurement**

**Discussion Assignment:**

- **Required of all students** as an oral exercise, graded as part of class participation.
- **Optional for undergrads:** write up the conceptualization/measurement exercise (3-5pp) Choose a political concept of interest to you (e.g., terrorism, democracy, interdependence, civil war, war outcomes, statehood, etc.) that is measured in several ways in the discipline, at least one of which is quantitative. Examine two or three of the ways it is conceived of, measured and coded, noting differences and potential problems, as well as (if relevant) pros and cons of quantitative vs. qualitative measures. Provide examples of some specific cases for which the different measurements make a difference. Come to class prepared to discuss and explain to rest of class.

Note: if you choose a concept for which the recommended reading list contains an article on this exercise – e.g., democracy (Munck & Verkuilen), civil war (Sambanis), or the state (Bremer & Ghosn) – your assignment should discuss but move beyond the article.

- Gerring, John. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Chapters 5-7, pp.105-193.
- Adcock, Robert and Collier, David. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *American Political Science Review* 95:3 (September 2001), pp. 529-46. (focus on last ~5 pages)
- Major data sets and sources in Political Science – look through a few codebooks to familiarize yourself with some of the biggies, and any of particular interest to your research. [Undergraduates should look at at least 1-2; graduate students should look at at least 3-4] For example (feel free to add others to this list):
  - Polity IV Project: <http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscrdata.html>
  - CIRI Human Rights Data <http://www.humanrightsdata.com/>
  - Political Terror Scale <http://www.politicalterror scale.org/>
  - Correlates of War: [www.correlatesofwar.org/](http://www.correlatesofwar.org/)
  - PRIO-Uppsala Armed Conflict: <http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/datasets/>
  - Cross-National Time Series data <http://www.databanksinternational.com/> (available through <http://www.databanksinternational.com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/Columbia/>)
  - Global Terrorism Database <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>
  - Poole-Rosenthal Nominate scores <http://pooleandrosenthal.com/>
  - Public opinion data (US & international) <http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/>
  - Spaeth Supreme Court Database <http://supremecourtdatabase.org/>

A useful source that links to some of these and many other data sets is:

[www.paulhensel.org/data.html](http://www.paulhensel.org/data.html)

Recommended:

Munck, Gerardo L. and Jay Verkuilen "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy." *Comparative Political Studies* 35:1 (February 2002), pp. 5-34.

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

Bennett, D. Scott, and Allan Stam. 2000. "EUGene: A Conceptual Manual." *International Interactions* 26, pp. 179-204.

Sambanis, Nicholas "What is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48:6 (December 2004), pp. 814-858.

Bremer, Stuart A. and Faten Ghosn. "Defining States: Reconsiderations and Recommendations." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 20:1 (Spring 2003), pp.21-41.

Sartori, Giovanni "Concept Misinformation in Political Science" *APSR* 64:4 (Dec 1970), pp 1033-1053.

Collier, David, and James E. Mahon, "Conceptual 'Stretching' Revisited: Alternative Views of Categories in Comparative Analysis," *American Political Science Review* 87:4 (December 1993), pp. 845-55.



**Week 4. September 26**

**Working with Data: Multi-Method Designs, Coding, Replication, etc.**

**Assignment Option:** Replicate and verify someone else's (published) quantitative results (3-5pp). Note: this means more than just getting their data and do-file to see if you get the same output. It means playing with their specification to see how robust the results are (e.g., to dropping or adding controls, including interaction terms, using different models, etc.), and making sure you can replicate their main results without using their do-file.

- Tarrow, Sidney "Bridging the Quantitative-Qualitative Divide" in Brady & Collier, eds., *Rethinking Social Inquiry*, Chapter 6, pp. 101-110.
- Lieberman, Evan S. "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research" *American Political Science Review* 99:3 (August 2005): pp. 435-52.
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie and James Ron "Seeing Double: Human Rights Impact Through Qualitative and Quantitative Eyes" *World Politics* 61:2 (August 2009), pp. 360-401.
- Davenport, Christian and Will Moore. "Conflict Consortium Data Standards & Practices for Observational Data." 2014 ([www.conflictconsortium.com](http://www.conflictconsortium.com)). [undergrads can skim]
- King, Gary "Replication, Replication" Replication Symposium in *PS: Political Science and Politics* 28:3 (September 1995), pp. 444-452.
- Symposium on "Openness in Political Science: Data Access and Research Transparency," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 47:1 (January 2014) pieces by Lupia & Elman, Elman & Kapiszewski, and Moravcsik. pp. 19-53.
- Zongker, Doug "Chicken Chicken Chicken: Chicken Chicken" *Annals of Improbable Research* 12 (September-October 2006), pp. 16-21  
(see also [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL\\_-1d9OSdk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yL_-1d9OSdk))
- [Grad students only:
  - Achen, Christopher H. "Let's Put Garbage-Can Regressions and Garbage-Can Probits Where They Belong." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 22:4 (Winter 2005), pp. 327-340.
  - Braumoeller, Bear F. "Hypothesis Testing and Multiplicative Interaction Terms." *International Organization* 58:4 (Fall 2004), pp. 807-820.
- Grad students: See also recommended sources below on specific quant issues/solutions (for future reference)

Recommended:

Rueschemeyer, Dietrich "Different Methods, Contradictory Results? Research on Development and Democracy" *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 32:1-2 (January 1991), pp.9-38.

Herrnson “Replication, Verification, Secondary Analysis and Data Collection in Political Science” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 28:3 (September 1995), pp. 452-455.

Symposium on Data Collection and Collaboration. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 43:1 (January 2010).

King, Gary and Zeng, Langche. “When Can History Be Our Guide? The Pitfalls of Counterfactual Inference” *International Studies Quarterly* 51:1 (March 2007), 183-210.

Schrodt, Philip A. “Of Dinosaurs and Barbecue Sauce: A Comment on King and Zeng.” *International Studies Quarterly* 51:1 (March 2007), 211-215.

Kalyvas, Stathis “Promises and Pitfalls of an Emerging Research Program: The Microdynamics of Civil War” in Kalyvas, Stathis N., Ian Shapiro, and Tarek Masoud *Order, Conflict, and Violence* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), pp. 397-421.

Some useful sources on dealing with specific quantitative issues:

Clarify: Gary King, Michael Tomz, and Jason Wittenberg. “Making the Most of Statistical Analyses: Improving Interpretation and Presentation,” *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (April, 2000): 341-355

ReLogit: King, Gary and Zeng Langche “Explaining Rare Events in International Relations” *International Organization* 55:3 (Summer 2001), 693-715.

Amelia: Gary King, James Honaker, Anne Joseph and Kenneth Scheve. “Analyzing Incomplete Political Science Data.” *American Political Science Review* 95:1 (March 2001), 49-69.

See Gary King’s website, particularly the section on software, for additional information:  
<http://gking.harvard.edu/stats.shtml>

## Week 5. October 3. Case Studies. What are the options?

**Assignment:** Last date to turn in research question is Oct 1.

- Van Evera *Guide to Methods* Chapter 2, pp.49-88.
- George, Alexander L. and Bennett, Andrew. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. (MIT Press, 2005), Chapters 1, 3-6, 8-10.
- Gerring, John. "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For?" *American Political Science Review*. 98:2 (May 2004), pp. 341-54. [grad students only]
- Beach, Derek and Rasmus Brun Pedersen *Process-Tracing Methods: Foundations and Guidelines* (U Michigan Press, 2013) Chapters 1-2, & 7 [grad students skim the rest]
- Checkel, Jeffrey "Process Tracing" in in Audie Klotz & Deepa Prakash *Qualitative Methods in International Relations: a Pluralist Guide* (Palgrave 2008), pp. 114-127.
- Slater, Dan. "Revolutions, Crackdowns, and Quiescence: Communal Elites and Democratic Mobilization in Southeast Asia." *American Journal of Sociology* 115:1 (July 2009), pp. 203-254.
- Chwieroth, Jeffrey M. "How do Crises Lead to Change? Liberalizing Capital Controls in the Early Years of New Order Indonesia." *World Politics* 62:3 (July 2010), pp.496-527.

### Recommended:

Bennett, Andrew "Process Tracing and Causal Inference." In Brady & Collier, eds. *Rethinking Social Inquiry*. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2010), pp.207-219.

Eckstein, Harry. "Case Study and Theory in Political Science." in Greenstein, Fred I. and Polsby, Nelson W., eds. *Handbook of Political Science: Strategies of Inquiry*. Vol. 7 (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1975?).

Ragin, Charles. *Redesigning Social Inquiry: Fuzzy Sets and Beyond*. (Chicago, University of Chicago Press: 2008).

Levy, Jack S. "Qualitative Methods in International Relations." in Brecher, Michael and Harvey, Frank P., eds. *Millennial Reflections on International Studies* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002).

Capoccia, Giovanni and R. Daniel Kelemen "The Study of Critical Junctures." *World Politics*. 59:3 (April 2007).

Mahoney, James and Goertz, Gary. "The Possibility Principle: Choosing Negative Cases in Comparative Research." *American Political Science Review* 98:4 (November 2004), pp. 653-69. (EJ)

Goertz, Gary and Jack Levy. "Casual Explanation, Necessary Conditions and Case Studies" in Goertz & Levy, eds. *Explaining War and Peace: Case Studies and Necessary Condition Counterfactuals* (Routledge, 2007), pp. 9-45.

## Week 6. October 10. Case Studies Continued (Pitfalls) and Field Work

**Assignment Option:** Write a 600 word (or fewer) review of a book or article on a topic of interest to you that employs at least one in-depth case study. The review should focus in particular on the research design and the case study method(s) used.

### Guest Speaker: Dipali Mukhopadhyay

- Collier David, and Mahoney, James. "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research." *World Politics* 49:1 (1996), pp. 56-81.
- Fearon, James "Selection Effects and Deterrence." *International Interactions* 28:1 (January - March 2000), pp. 5-29.
- Fearon, James. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science." *World Politics* 43:2 (January 1991), pp. 169-95.
- Diana Kapiszewski, Lauren M. MacLean, and Benjamin Lelan Read, *Field Research in Political Science: Practices and Principles, Strategies for Social Inquiry* (Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2015). Chapters 1, 3, 4, & part of 5 (pp.1-33 & 82-178).
- Malejacq, Romain, & Mukhopadhyay, Dipali (2016). "The 'Tribal Politics' of Field Research: A Reflection on Power and Partiality in 21st-Century Warzones." *Perspectives on Politics*, 14:4, pp. 1011-1028.

### Recommended:

Geddes, Barbara. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis* 2 (1990), pp. 131-150.

Symposium on "Field Work in Political Science: Encountering Challenges and Crafting Solutions" *PS: Political Science* 47:2 (April 2014), pp.391-417.

Barrett, Christopher B. and Jeffrey W. Cason *Overseas Research: A Practical Guide*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010. (read before doing any actual overseas fieldwork)

**Guest appearance: Séverine Autesserre**

- Klotz, Audie and Cecilia Lynch. *Strategies for Research in Constructivist International Relations* (M.E. Sharpe, 2007). (111pp).
- Kapiszewski et al. Chapter 7. (pp.234-265).
- Dessler, David and Owen, John. "Constructivism and the Problem of Explanation." *Perspectives on Politics* 3:3 (September 2005), pp597-610. [graduate students only]
- Fearon, James and Alexander Wendt, "Rationalism v. Constructivism: a Skeptical View." in Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth Simons, eds., *Handbook of International Relations* (Sage Publications, 2002). [graduate students only]
- Wedeen, Lisa. "Reflections on Ethnographic Work in Political Science." *Annual Review of Political Science* 13 (2010), pp.255-272.
- Autesserre, Séverine. "An Ethnographic Approach" Appendix to *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention* (Cambridge, 2014), pp.275-288.
- Gusterson, Hugh "Ethnographic Research" in Audie Klotz & Deepa Prakash *Qualitative Methods in International Relations: a Pluralist Guide* (Palgrave 2008), pp. 93-113.
- Kinsella, Helen "Discourses of Difference: Combatants, Civilians, and Compliance with the Laws of War." *Review of International Studies* 31 (2005): 163-185.
- [grad students: if you've never read this, skim it, esp. on winks vs. twitches: Geertz, Clifford "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture" *The Interpretation of Cultures* (Basic Books, 1973), pp.3-30. [recommended for undergrads].

Recommended:

Schatz, Edward. 2009. *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (good info on "why/why not to use ethnographic methods" as well as practical info on "how to do it")

Bourgois, P. 2003. "In search of respect: Selling crack in El Barrio" (Vol. 10). Cambridge University Press. [What to read when you have no idea what writing an ethnographic study looks like]

Kratochwil, Friedrich and Ruggie, John Gerard. "International Organization: A State of the Art on an Art of the State." *International Organization*, 40:4 (Autumn 1986), 753-75.

Lin, Ann Chih. "Bridging Positivist and Interpretivist Approaches to Qualitative Methods." *Policy Studies Journal* 26:1 (Spring 1998), 162-80.

Davis, James. *Terms of Inquiry: On the Theory and Practice of Political Science*. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005).

Keene, Edward "A Case Study of the Construction of International Hierarchy: British Treaty-Making Against the Slave Trade in the Early Nineteenth Century" *International Organization* 61:2 (Spring 2007), pp.311-339.

Kinsella, Helen. *The Image Before the Weapon: A Critical History of the Distinction between Combatant and Civilian* (Cornell University Press, 2011).

Kinsella, Helen. "Securing the Civilian: Sex and Gender in the Laws of War." In *Power and Global Governance*, eds. Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall. (Cambridge University Press, 2005) pp. 249-272.

Vidich, Arthur J. "Participant Observation and the Collection and Interpretation of Data." *American Journal of Sociology* 60:4 (January 1955), 354-60.

Aspinall, Edward. "The Construction of Grievance: Natural Resources and Identity in a Separatist Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51:6 (December 2007), pp.950-972.

## Week 8. October 24 Interviewing, Ethics, and the IRB

### Assignment:

Conduct an interview with a political actor and write up results of the interview (3-5 pp.)

### Guest Appearance: Stephanie Schwartz

- Van Evera, *Guide to Methods*, Chapter 6, pp. 117-121
- Mosley, Layna, ed., *Interview Research in Political Science* (Cornell 2013). Intro and Chapters 1-4, 6-9, skim 10-12, look at sample materials in appendix.
- Kapiszewski et al. Chapter 6. (pp.190-233).
- Wood, Elizabeth Jean. "The Ethical Challenges of Field Research in Conflict Zones" *Qualitative Sociology* 29:3 (2006), pp.307-341.
- Fujii, Lee Ann. 2010. "Shades of Truth and Lies: Interpreting Testimonies of War and Violence." *Journal of Peace Research*. Vol. 47 (2) pp. 231-241.
- H. Russell Bernard. 2006. *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, 4th edition, pp. 210-317; 365-389. Altamira Press.
- McMurtrie, Beth. 2014. "Secrets From Belfast." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 26.

### Recommended:

Tansey, Oisín. "Process Tracing and Elite Interviewing: A Case for Non-Probability Sampling" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 40:4 (October 2007), pp.765-772.

Leech, Beth L. ed. Symposium on "Interview Methods in Political Science" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 35:4 (December 2002), pp. 663-688.

Bratton, Michael and Liatto-Katundu, Beatrice. "A Focus Group Assessment of Political Attitudes in Zambia." *African Affairs* 93: 373 (October 1994), 535-63.

Williams, Christine L. and Heikes, E. Joel. "The Importance of Researcher's Gender in the In-Depth Interview: Evidence from Two Case Studies of Male Nurses." *Gender & Society* 7:2 (June 1993), 280-91.

Devereux, Stephen and John Hoddinott, eds. *Fieldwork in Developing Countries* Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1992.



Burgess, Robert G. *In the Field: An Introduction to Field Research* London: George Allen & Unwin, 1984.

Glaser, James M. "The Challenge of Campaign-Watching: Seven Lessons of Participant-Observation Research." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 29:3 (September 1996), 533-37.

Goduka, Ivy. "Ethics and Politics of Field Research in South Africa." *Social Problems* 37:3 (August 1990), 329-40.

APSA Collaboration Report, available at: [http://www.apsanet.org/content\\_43659.cfm](http://www.apsanet.org/content_43659.cfm) (on issues of co-authorship and credit).

Carapico, Sheila. "No Easy Answers: The Ethics of Field Research in the Arab World." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39:3 (July 2006), pp. 429-432. (EJ)

Romano, David. "Conducting Research in the Middle East's Conflict Zones." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39:3 (July 2006), pp. 439-442. (EJ)

Belmont Report, available at: <http://ohsr.od.nih.gov/guidelines/belmont.html>

Hauck, Robert J-P, ed. Symposium on "Protecting Human Research Participants, IRBs, and Political Science Redux," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 41:3 (July 2008), esp. pieces by Seligson, Yanow & Schwartz-Shea, and Levine & Skedsvold, pp.475-494, 501-505.

Helper, Susan. "Economists and Field Research: 'You Can Observe A Lot Just By Watching.'" *Industrial Technology and Productivity* 90:2 (May 2000), pp. 228-32.

Saiyigh, Rosemary. "Resources, Researchers and Power: Recording 'Real Life' in Wadi Zeineh." *Middle East Report* 173 (November-December 1991), pp. 23-25.

Malcolm, Janet *The Journalist and the Murderer* (Vintage, 1990).

## Week 9. October 31

## Causal Inference & Experiments

**Assignment:** Design an experiment for your research question. If your topic (like many) is not easily amenable to experimentation consider whether any pieces of your argument could be studied with experiments, and the obstacles (feasibility & ethically) with fuller experimentation. (3-5pp)

### Guest appearance: Macartan Humphreys

- Gerring, John. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. Chapters 8-12, pp.197-358.
- McDermott, Rose. "The Ten Commandments of Experiments: *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 46:3 (July 2013), pp.605-610.
- Kapiszewski et al. Chapter 9. (pp.299-330).
- Dunning, Thad. 2008. "Improving Causal Inference: Strengths and Limitations of Natural Experiments." *Political Research Quarterly* 61(2): 282–93.
- Berinsky, A. J., G. A. Huber, and G. S. Lenz. "Evaluating Online Labor Markets for Experimental Research: Amazon.Com's Mechanical Turk." *Political Analysis* 20 (2012), pp. 351-68. [grad (& undergrads using MTurk for assignment or thesis) only]

Undergrads should read 1 of the following, grad students should read all 3:

- Hyde, Susan D. 2007. "The Observer Effect in International Politics: Evidence from a Natural Experiment." *World Politics* 60(1): 37–63.
- McCauley, John F. "The Political Mobilization of Ethnic and Religious Identities in Africa" *American Political Science Review* 108:4 (November 2014), pp.801-816.
- Beath, Andrew, Fotini Christia, and Ruben Enikolopov. 2013. "Empowering Women through Development Aid: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Afghanistan." *American Political Science Review* 107(3): 540–57.

### Recommended:

Dunning, Thad. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences: A Design-Based Approach* (Cambridge UP, 2012).

Teele, Dawn Langan. *Field Experiments and their Critics: Essays on the Uses and Abuses of Experimentation in the Social Sciences*. (Yale University Press, 2014). Esp. Intro, Chapter 1 (Gerber, Green & Kaplan), Chapter 2 (Stokes), Chapter 3 (Barrett & Carter), Chapter 7 (Gelman), Chapter 8 (Imai, King & Stuart)& Chapter 9 (Shapiro).

Imai, Kosuke, Luke Keele, Dustin Tingley, and Teppei Yamamoto “Unpacking the Black Box of Causality: Learning about Causal Mechanisms from Experimental and Observational Studies” *American Political Science Review* 105:4 (November 2011), pp.765-789.

Green, Donald P. and Gerber, Alan S. “Reclaiming the Experimental Tradition in Political Science.” in Katznelson, Ira and Milner, Helen V., eds. *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*. (WW Norton, 2002), pp. 805-832. (R)

McDermott, Rose. “Experimental Methods in Political Science.” *Annual Review of Political Science*. 5(2002), pp. 31-61. (EJ)

Dunning, Thad. “Design-Based Inference: Beyond the Pitfalls of Regression Analysis?” in Brady & Collier, eds. *Rethinking Social Inquiry* Chapter 14, pp. 273-311. (R)

Hyde, Susan “The Future of Field Experiments in International Relations” *Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science* 628 (March 2010), pp. 72-84. (EJ)

Olken, Benjamin. “Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia” *Journal of Political Economy* 115:2 (April 2007), pp. 200-249. (EJ)

Humphreys, Macartan and Jeremy Weinstein. “Field Experiments and the Political Economy of Development” *American Review of Political Science* 12 (2009), pp.367-378.

Hudson, Natalie Florea, and Michael J. Butler “The State of Experimental Research in IR: An Analytic Survey” *International Studies Review* 12:2 (June 2010), pp.165-192.

Sekhon & Titiunik “When Natural Experiments are Neither Natural nor Experiments” *American Political Science Review* 106:1 (February 2012), pp.35-57.

**Week 10. No Class – Columbia Election Day Holiday**

## Week 11. Nov 14. Surveys

**Assignment:** Write a survey design, including discussion of population sampling strategy. (3-5 pp plus questionnaire as an appendix)

**Assignment x2:** Conduct your survey as a pilot. Write up what you found substantively, and what you learned by doing the survey (what worked, what to do differently next time, etc.)

### Guest Appearance: Dan Corstange

- Pearce, Lisa D. “Integrating Survey and Ethnographic Methods for Systematic Anomalous Case Analysis.” *Sociological Methodology* 32 (2002), pp. 103-32. [grad students only]
- Kapiszewski et al. Chapter 8, pp.266-298.
- Keeter, Scott. “Survey Research.” in Daniel Druckman, *Doing Research: Methods of Inquiry for Conflict Analysis*. (Sage Publications, 2005), pp. 123-162.
- Corstange, Daniel. 2012. “Vote Trafficking in Lebanon.” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 44(3): 483–505.
- Corstange, Daniel. 2016. “Anti-American Behavior in the Middle East: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Lebanon.” *The Journal of Politics* 78(1): 311–25.

### Recommended:

Payne, Stanley Le Baron *The Art of Asking Questions* (Princeton 1951).

Converse, Jean M. & Stanley Presser *Survey Questions: Handcrafting the Standardized Questionnaire* (Sage 1986)

Sriram, Chandra Lekha et al. eds. *Surviving Field Research: Working in Violent and Difficult Situations* (Routledge 2009)

Cohen, Nissim and Tamar Arieli “Field Research in Conflict Environments: Methodological Challenges and Snowball Sampling.” *Journal of Peace Research* 48:4 (July 2011), pp.423-436.

## Week 12. November 21

## Archival Research

### Assignment:

Visit an archive to research a specific question and write up results. (3-5pp)

### Guest appearance: Nikhar Gaikwad

- Kapiszewski, Chapter 5, pp. [178-189]
- Thies, Cameron G. “A Pragmatic Guide to Qualitative Historical Analysis in the Study of International Relations.” *International Studies Perspectives* 3 (2002), 351-72.
- Heck, Barbara, Preston, Elizabeth, and Svec, Bill, “A Survival Guide to Archival Research” *AHA Perspectives on History* December 2004. (1p.)
- Frisch, et al. *Doing Archival Research in Political Science* (Cambria Press 2012). Chapters 1, 4, and 11. (avail on courseworks or as e-book: <http://www.cambriapress.com/cambriapress.cfm?template=25&bid=498&CFID=61735468&CFTOKEN=61620181> )
- Trachtenberg, Marc. *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006), read chapters 1-2, skim 4, read 5 and appendix 2.
- Greenstein, Fred and Richard Immerman. “What did Eisenhower tell Kennedy about Indochina? The Politics of Misperception.” *Journal of American History* 79:2 (September 1992), pp.568-587.
- Tim Büthe, “Taking Temporality Seriously: Modeling History and the Use of Narratives as Evidence,” *American Political Science Review* 96:3 (September 2002), pp. 481–93.
- Robert D. Woodberry, “The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy,” *American Political Science Review* 106: 2 (May 2012), pp. 244–74.

### Recommended:

Articles by James McAllister and Jonathan Caverly debating use of documents in archives to understand US strategy in Vietnam: *International Security* 35:3 (Winter 2010/11).

Lustick, Ian S. “History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias.” *American Political Science Review* 90:3 (September 1996). Pp. 605-618.

H-Diplo debate: “Democracy, Deception, and Entry into War.” May 17, 2013.  
<http://issforum.org/roundtables/5-4-democracy-deception-war>.

Debate (including material in appendices):

- Cusack, Thomas R., Torben Iversen, and David Soskice. 2007. "Economic Interests and the Origins of Electoral Systems." *American Political Science Review* 101 (3): 373-391.
- Kreuzer, Marcus. 2010. "Historical Knowledge and Quantitative Analysis: The Case of the Origins of Proportional Representation." *American Political Science Review* 104 (2): 369-392.
- Cusack, Thomas R., Torben Iversen, and David Soskice. 2010. "Co-evolution and Political Representation: The Choice of Electoral Systems." *American Political Science Review* 104 (2): 393-403.

Gary King and Will Lowe. "An Automated Information Extraction Tool For International Conflict Data with Performance as Good as Human Coders: A Rare Events Evaluation Design." *International Organization* 57:3 (July, 2003), pp. 617-642.

**Weeks 13-14**

**Class Presentations**

**November 28**

Presentations TBA

**December 5**

Presentations TBA

**Final Paper is due Tuesday, December 19 by 5pm.**