

Introduction to Research

Master in Political Science
Academic year 2012-13, first semester
10 ECTS

Supervisor

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Professors

Eva Anduiza, Mike Jensen, other professors and researchers of the department.

Invited professors: Aina Gallego (Stanford University), Mónica Méndez (CIS), Laura Morales (University of Leicester)

Course objectives

The purpose of this module is to provide students with the methodological tools that are required for designing research projects in political science. The module is intended to help students successfully defend their Master Thesis and develop research proposals for PhD applications.

The module overviews the different phases of research, analyzes their potential problems and discusses solutions discussed in the literature. Within the module department professors and researchers present their current and past research projects, with an emphasis in linking relevant research questions to adequate research strategies.

Contents and bibliography (* compulsory reading before the session)

Lectures

What is scientific knowledge? What is an academic paper? Quoting, plagiarism and tools to organize your references.

Bailey, S. 2003. *Academic writing: a practical guide for students*. London: Routledge

Katzer, J. et al. 1998, *Evaluating Information. A Guide for Users of Social Science Research*, Boston: MacGraw Hill, ch 1.

*King, G., R. O. Keohane and S. Verba 1999, *Designing Social Enquiry*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, ch 1.

Zinsser, W. 2005, *On Writing Well*, New York: Collins

*[The basics of APA Style Tutorial](#) .

More APA resources available at <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/index.aspx>

Interesting tips:

http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/Teaching_and_Learning.htm

The ideal research proposal:

<http://www.eui.eu/Documents/DepartmentsCentres/SPS/Profiles/Schmitter/IdealResearchProposal.pdf>

***Library tour

How to define a research problem, a theoretical framework and your hypotheses.

*Hancké, B. 2009, *Intelligent research design: a guide for beginning researchers in the social sciences* Oxford : Oxford University Press, ch 1

*Katzer, J. 1998, *Evaluating Information. A Guide for Users of Social Science Research*, Boston: MacGraw Hill, ch 8.

Isernia, P. 2001, *Introduzione alla ricerca politica e sociale*, Bologna: Il Mulino, ch 2.

Examples of research proposals: Look at phd dissertations by Aina Gallego, Guillem Rico, Jordi Muñoz, Laia Jorba.

***Assignment 1

***RIP 1

Conceptualization and operationalization.

*Katzer, J. 1998, *Evaluating Information. A Guide for Users of Social Science Research*, Boston: MacGraw Hill, ch 9.

*Pollock, P. 2009 *The essentials of political analysis*, Washington: CQ Press, 3rd ed, ch 1.

*Kahn, K. F. & P.J. Kenney 1999, "Do Negative Campaigns Mobilize or Suppress Turnout? Clarifying the Relationship between Negativity and Participation", *American Political Science Review* 93(4), 877-889.

Mair, P. 2008, "Concepts and concept formation" Della Porta, D. and M. Keating (eds.), *Approaches and methodologies in the social sciences*, Cambridge: CUP

Putnam, R. D., R. Leonardi, R. Y. Nanetti, and F. Pavoncello. 1983, "Explaining Institutional Success: The Case of Italian Regional Government", *American Political Science Review* 77(1): 55-74.

Lijphart, A. 1969, "Consociational democracy", *World Politics* 21:2

Muñoz, J. 2008, From national catholicism to democratic patriotism, PhD dissertation UPF, ch 5 (and 4), <http://tdx.cat/bitstream/handle/10803/7242/tim.pdf?sequence=1>

***** Assigment 2**

*****RIP 2**

Conceptualization and measurement through surveys.

King, G., C.J.L. Murray, J. A. Salomon, and A. Tandon. 2004. "Enhancing the Validity and Cross-Cultural Comparability of Measurement in Survey Research." *American Political Science Review* 98(1): 191-207.

Saris, W. and I. Gallhofer, 2007 *Design, evaluation and analysis of questionnaires for survey research*, Wiley

Inglehart, R. and P. Abramson 1999, "Measuring postmaterialism", *American Political Science Review* 93(3) 665-677.

Research design for hypothesis testing

*Katzner, J. et al. 1998, *Evaluating Information. A Guide for Users of Social Science Research*, Boston: MacGraw Hill, ch 12 and 14.

*King, G., R. O. Keohane and S. Verba 1999, *Designing Social Enquiry*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, ch 5.

Isernia, P. 2001, *Introduzione alla ricerca politica e sociale*, Bologna: Il Mulino, ch 5.

Lago, I. 2008, *La lógica de la explicación en las ciencias sociales*, Madrid: Alianza

Hierro, M.J. 2012, *Change in National Identification: A study of the Catalan case*, PhD dissertation UAM

*** Assigment 3

*** RIP 3

Comparative research designs (Laura Morales)

Lijphart, A. 1971, "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *American Political Science Review* 65(3): 682-93.

Geddes, B. 1990, "How the cases you choose affect the answers you get. Selection bias in comparative politics", *Political Analysis* 3, 131-151

Ragin, C. C. 1987. "Case Oriented Comparative Methods" *The Comparative Method*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 34-52.

Case studies (Mike Jensen)

*Gerring, J. 2004, "What is a Case Study and what is it good for" *American Political Science Review*, 98: 2. An easier version can be found in the Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics (edited by C. Boix and S. Stokes)

Eckstein, H. 1992. "Case Study and Theory in Political Science" in *Regarding Politics: Essays on Political Theory, Stability, and Change*. Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press, p. 117-176 with emphasis on p. 152-176.

Experimental research designs (Aina Gallego)

*Angrish, J. and J.S. Pishke, 2009, *Mostly harmless econometrics*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, ch 1 & 2.

Drukman, J. 2011, *The Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Anduiza, E., A.Gallego, & J. Muñoz, forthcoming in 2014, "Turning a blind eye: experimental evidence of partisan bias in attitudes towards corruption", *Comparative Political Studies*

Evaluation

Research in practice seminars (RIP)

In these seminars researchers and professors of the department will present their past or current research projects, including thesis and competitive research projects. Different aspects of the research process, regarding problem definition, theoretical

framework, research design, will be discussed. Some of these sessions will be in Spanish.

Schedule

	15-17.30h	17.30-20.00h
8 October	Academic paper	Library 18h consergeria de la biblioteca (planta 0)
15 October	Research Question and Theoretical Framework	RIP 1 Guillem Rico <i>The political making of carisma</i>
22 October	Research Question and Theoretical Framework	RIP 2 Eva Ostergaard <i>Emigration, external citizenship and political parties in Spain, Italy and Romania</i>
29 October	Concepts Assignment 1 due	RIP 3 Jordi Muñoz <i>From national catholicism to democratic patriotism</i>
5 November	Concepts	Discussion ass 1 TFM
9 ó 12 November	Operationalization with surveys	Operationalization with surveys
19 November	Research design Assignment 2 due	RIP 4 M.J. Hierro <i>Change in National Identification: A study of the Catalan case</i>
26 November	Research design	Discussion ass 2
3 December	No class (to be confirmed) Assignment 3 due	
TO BE CONFIRMED	Comparative research (LM)	Comparative research (LM)
10 December	Case studies (MJ)	Discussion ass 3
28 January	Experiments (AG)	Experiments (AG)
4 February (TO BE CONFIRMED)	Exam	

Basic Bibliography

Anduiza, E. M. Méndez e I. Crespo 2009, *Metodología de la Ciencia Política*, Madrid: CIS

Della Porta, Dontallea y Michael Keating 2008, *Approaches and methodologies in the social sciences*, Cambridge: CUP

Hay, Collin 2002, *Political Analysis: A critical introduction*, Houndmills: Palgrave

Isernia, Pierángelo 2001, *Introduzione alla Ríceca Política e Sociale*, Bologna: Il Mulino.

Johnson, J. and R. 1995 *Joslyn Political Science Research Methods*, Washington: CQ Press, 3rd ed.

Katzer, J. 1998, *Evaluating Information. A Guide for Users of Social Science Research*, Boston: MacGraw Hill

King, G., R. O. Keohane and S. Verba 1999, *Designing Social Enquiry*, Princeton: Princeton University Press

Manheim, Jarol B. y Richard C. Rich 1988, *Análisis Político Empírico*, Madrid: Alianza.

Pollock, P. 2009 *The essentials of political analysis*, Washington: CQ Press, 3rd ed.

Sartori, Giovanni 1995, *La Política. Lógica y Método de las Ciencias Sociales*, México: Fondo de Cultura Económica.

Evaluation

To be graded students must have **attended at least 80% of all sessions** with punctuality. Grading will be based in the following elements:

- Participation in class discussions 20%
- Exam 50%
- Written assignments 30%