

GL3101 INQUIRY AND METHOD

Semester 2, AY 2016-17

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Week: Friday, 10:00-12:00
Tutorial D1: Tuesday, 08:00-10:00
Tutorial E1: Friday, 14:00-16:00

Overview

Why do countries go to war? Does international trade harm the environment? Why do some countries attract more foreign investments than others? How we undertake our research to answer these questions, and other important questions about the world, determines the quality of our answers. This module provides an introduction to the methods of inquiry that are appropriate to the study of global issues. The material introduces fundamental topics in research design and choice of methods that are relevant to both quantitative and qualitative research. This module also provides an introduction to basic data analysis. At the successful completion of the module, students will be able to explain fundamental concepts of social science research methods; articulate principles of statistical analysis; conduct a basic quantitative analysis; critically evaluate the research design aspect of existing scholarly works; and develop their own research design on a topic of their interests.

Requirements and Evaluation

- ★ **Participation (20%):** Students are expected to attend class, read all assigned readings, and contribute to the class discussion. We will utilize a variety set of participation tools in lectures, and active participation is expected in both lectures and tutorials.
- ★ **Book Review Paper (25%):** Students are expected to read one book from the following list and critically review the research design aspect of the book. The paper should not exceed 1,500 words. Students should submit their assignments in hard copy to the professor's mailbox (AS1 - 4th floor) as well as in soft copy to the IVLE by 5pm on February 28 (Tuesday). There will be a penalty for late submission (one half grade for every 24 hours). Assignments submitted after March 3, 5pm will be considered as no submission. For a guideline, please see the IVLE folder *Guideline*.
 - Thomas Janoski. 2010. *The Ironies of Citizenship: Naturalization and Integration in Industrialized Countries*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Read Chapters 1 and 2 as well as two chapters of your choice from Chapters 3-7.)
 - Alexander B. Downes. 2008. *Targeting Civilians in War*. New York: Cornell University Press. (Read the introductory chapter, Chapter 1, and two chapters of your choice from Chapters 3-7).
 - Mark S. Copelovitch. 2010. *The International Monetary Fund in the Global Economy: Banks, Bonds, and Bailouts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Read Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5).
 - Min Ye. 2014. *Diasporas and Foreign Direct Investment in China and India*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (Read Chapters 1 and 2 as well as one empirical section of your choice among Part II, Part III, or Part IV.)
- ★ **Data Analysis (25%):** There will be three data analysis assignments that will require students to analyze some quantitative data using R, which is a free software environment for statistical computing and graphics. Students will learn how to analyze data using R through video clips to be provided (and during lectures and tutorials, if necessary).
- ★ **Final Research Design Paper (30%):** The research design paper should state their own research question; suggest their own argument along with competing arguments; and suggest a research method that will be used to test various arguments and justify their choice of method. The paper should not exceed 2,000 words. The assignment is due by 5pm on April 24.

Course Schedule

Week 1. Overview

- Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. pp. 7-21. (Available at IVLE)
- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1. (E-book Available at the NUS Library)

Week 2. Causality

- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3. pp.75-87; pp.91-95. (E-book Available at the NUS Library)
- Rosato, Sebastian. 2003. "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory." *American Political Science Review* 97(4): 585-602.
- Jones, Benjamin F. and Benjamin A. Olken. 2009. "Hit or Miss? The Effect of Assassinations on Institutions and War." *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 1(2): 55-87.

Tutorial 1. Formulating Research Questions and Hypotheses

- Formulating Research Questions and Hypotheses
Students are required to develop their own research question and causal hypothesis on a topic of their interest before the tutorial. Please submit your research question and hypothesis to IVLE at least 12 hours before the beginning of your tutorial session. If you want to get feedbacks, please upload it at least 24 hours in advance.
- Mini-Presentation
There will be 5-minute mini-presentations where students explain why their research question is academically and practically important and why their posited hypotheses are theoretically plausible. *Students will be divided into two groups. One group will present in the first tutorial, while the other group will present in the second one.*

Week 3. Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement

- Gerring, John. 2010. *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*. 2nd Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press. pp. 112-140; pp. 155-84. (E-book Available at the NUS Library)
- Ravallion, Martin. 2003. "The Debate on Globalization, Poverty and Inequality: Why Measurement Matters." *International Affairs* 79(4): 739-53.

Week 4. Comparative Case Study

- George, Alexander L. and Andrew Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. Chapters 3 and 8. (Available at RBR)
- Chong, Ja Ian. 2010. "How External Intervention Made the Sovereign State." *Security Studies* 19(4): 623-655.
- Pepinsky, Thomas B. 2015. "Trade Competition and American Decolonization." *World Politics* 67(3): 387-422.

Tutorial 2. Formulating Research Questions and Hypotheses (Continued)

- Mini-Presentation

There will be 5-minute mini-presentations where students explain why their research question is academically and practically important and why their posited hypotheses are theoretically plausible.

Week 5. Case Selection

- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 4. (E-book Available at the NUS Library)
- Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics." *Political Analysis*. 2:131-150.
- Collier, David, and James Mahoney. 1996. "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research." *World Politics* 49(1): 56-91.

Week 6. Congruence Method and Process Tracing

- George, Alexander L. and Andrew Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. Chapters 9-10. (Available at RBR)
- Khong, Yuen Foong. 1992. *Analogies at War: Korea, Munich, Dien Bie Phu, and the Vietnam Decisions of 1965*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3.
- Mansfield, Edward D., and Jack Snyder. 2007. *Electing to Fight: Why Emerging Democracies Go to War*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. Chapter 7.

Recess Week

Book Review Assignment Submission Due by 5pm on February 28

Tutorial 3. Data Analysis with R

- *Visualizing Data with R*: It is strongly recommended to download and install both R and R-Studio before the tutorial. R can be downloaded at <http://cran.stat.nus.edu.sg/>; R-Studio can be downloaded at <https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/>. It is also recommended to complete a short, 4 hour online course (Datacamp's Free Introduction to R available at <https://www.datacamp.com/courses/free-introduction-to-r>) in order to grasp the basics and mechanics of this programming language.

Week 7. Introduction to Quantitative Analysis

- Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2013. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research, Second Edition*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 5. pp.109-124. (Available at RBR)
- Peters, Margaret E. 2015. "Open Trade, Closed Borders: Immigration in the Era of Globalization." *World Politics* 67(1): 114-154.
- Pandya, Sonal S., and Rajkumar Venkatesan. 2016. "French Roast: Consumer Response to International Conflict—Evidence from Supermarket Scanner Data." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 98(1): 42-56
- Aklin, Michaël, and Johannes Urpelainen. 2014. "The Global Spread of Environmental Ministries: Domestic-International Interactions." *International Studies Quarterly* 58(4): 764-780.

Week 8. Statistical Inference and Hypothesis Testing

- Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2013. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research, Second Edition*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 6-7. (Available at RBR)

Tutorials 4. Data Analysis in R

- *Data Analysis in R*: We will learn how to statistically describe the data in R.

Week 9. Regression

- Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2013. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research, Second Edition*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 8. pp.171-181. (Available at RBR)

Week 10. Regression II

- Kellstedt, Paul M. and Guy D. Whitten. 2013. *The Fundamentals of Political Science Research, Second Edition*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 8. pp.182-195. (Available at RBR)
- Fish, M. Steven. 2002. "Islam and Authoritarianism." *World Politics* 55(1): 4-37.

Tutorials 5. Regression Analysis in R

- *Regression Analysis in R*: We will learn how to estimate a regression model in R.

Week 11. Natural Experiments

- Thad, Dunning. 2012. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences: A Design-Based Approach*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1. (E-book Available at the NUS Library)
- Hyde, Susan D. 2007. "The Observer Effect in International Politics: Evidence from a Natural Experiment." *World Politics* 60(1): 37-63.
- Lyall, Jason. 2009. "Does Indiscriminate Violence Incite Insurgent Attacks? Evidence from Chechnya." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 53(3): 331-362.
- Parsons, Christopher, and Pierre-Louis Vézina. 2014. "Migrant Networks and Trade: The Vietnamese Boat People as a Natural Experiment." University of Oxford, Department of Economics: Economics Series Working Papers 705.

Week 12. Analysis of Textual Data

- 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): 267-297.
- Allee, Todd, and Andrew Lugg. 2016. "Who Wrote the Rules for the Trans-Pacific Partnership?" *Research & Politics* 3(3):1-9.
- Mitts, Tamar. 2016. "How Terrorism Creates Foreign Fighters: A Study of the Islamic State's Recruitment on Social Media Using Twitter Microdata" *Columbia University Working Paper*

Week 13. Individual Consultation

- There will be a 20-minute mandatory one-on-one individual consultation to discuss each student's research design paper. Students can ask any questions related to their final projects.

Final Research Design Submission Paper Due by 5pm on April 24