

Comparative Case Study Research Design

1st Term, Academic Year 2023-2024

Instructors: Ellen Immergut & Waltraud Schelkle

Credits: 10

Dates, Rooms, and Times:

17 Nov 2023, 9:00-12:00, 13:00-15:00, Seminar Room 2 (Badia Fiesolana):

1 Dec 2023, 9:00-12:00, 13:00-15:00, Emeroteca (Badia Fiesolana)

Overview

This workshop provides an overview of comparative case study research design. We cover most similar systems design, most different system design, QCA-based design (but not QCA analysis) using truth tables and tables of case universes, problems and limitations of comparative analysis, the mixed design, dynamic designs, and pitfalls in attributing causation.

Requirements

Requirements for credits: attendance, active participation, 3 write ups of lab exercises, 1 pre-analysis proposal, 1 presentation of own design ideas.

Programme (indicative, will be more fluid):

Nov 17th Seminar Room 2

- 9-10: Lab session 1 The Basic Logic (Waltraud Schelkle)
Logic of comparative analysis, problems and limitations of comparative analysis, mixed designs, pitfalls in attributing causation
- 10-11: Lab exercise 1
Why did EU Member states react to the refugee crisis in the way they did?
How can this be turned into an MSSD? Into an MDSD?
Write up due by end of day
- 11-12: Lab session 2 Implementing comparative research (Ellen Immergut)
Counterfactuals, causality, selection on independent and dependent variables, truncated variance, truth tables, universes of cases, dynamic design

- 12-13: Lunch break
- 13-14: Lab Exercise 2
Truth Table and Universe of cases for Pierson, Welfare State Retrenchment
Write up due by end of day
- 14-15: Lab session 3 Dealing with messy comparisons
Lab exercise 3: Small group discussion of possible solutions to notorious problems
Write up due by end of day

Dec 1: Emeroteca

- 9-12: Researchers' Presentations
- 12-13: Lunch
- 13-15: Researchers' Presentations and Conclusions

Readings:

Bob Hancké (2009). *Intelligent Research Design: A Guide for Beginning Researchers in the Social Sciences*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, chapter 1, pp. 10-34.

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

Paul Pierson (1994). *Dismantling the Welfare State? Reagan, Thatcher, and the Politics of Retrenchment*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 2, pp. 27-50.