

## INS 611

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS METHODOLOGY II

Spring 2009

Professor: Laura Gomez-Mera  
Office Hours: tba

Class: W 9.30 AM -12 PM  
Place: FB 126

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#### Aims and Objectives

This course introduces graduate students to issues of research design and research methods in International Relations (IR) and Political Science. The course will focus on two main methodological approaches: qualitative case studies and quantitative analysis. Apart from examining the principles guiding the choice of methods (and the trade-offs involved in that choice), the course will investigate how these methods have been applied to the study of three major sub-fields of international relations: international political economy, security studies, and international environmental regimes. It also aims to provide the students with basic knowledge on how to apply these methods to their own research.

We will begin with a discussion of philosophy of science and epistemological issues. The first part of the course will also introduce students to the social scientific research method and the main elements in the social research process. The second part will focus on qualitative approaches, and particularly on the case-study method. The topics that will be covered include: different types of case study research designs, the relationship between theory and case studies, as well as the comparative method and small-n designs. We will also discuss issues in within-case analysis, focusing particularly on process-tracing. The third and final part of the course will cover statistical analysis, formal modeling and multi-method strategies. Students will be introduced to the SPSS statistical software.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify and distinguish among the different methods used in IR scholarly work.
- Understand and critique the research design and methodological choices and approaches used by this work.
- Identify a research question on a topic of their interest and prepare a research design paper/proposal, explaining how they plan to address it.

#### Requirements

Final grades will reflect written work as well as participation and performance in seminar discussions:

- (1) **Homework assignments (30%).**
- (2) **Midterm paper (30%):** Due on March 25. Guidelines to be distributed.

- (3) **Final research design paper (30%):** Due on May 9. Guidelines to be distributed.
- (4) **Class participation (10%):** Active and (very important) **meaningful** class participation is of critical importance. Your participation grade will take into account the quality of your contribution to discussions.

## Readings

Seminar readings will consist of a combination of books and numerous journal articles and book chapters. Required books may be purchased at the bookstore. Students are expected to complete all required readings (identified with a \*) before each class. In addition, a list of recommended readings is provided for each topic.

### Required:

Gary King, Sidney Verba, Robert O. Keohane, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research* (Princeton University Press, 1994). (KKV)

Detlef F. Sprinz and Yael Wollinsky-Nahmias (eds.), *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2004). (Sprinz & Wollinsky)

Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2004). (George & Bennett)

Phillip Pollock, *The Essentials of Political Analysis*, 3rd Edition (Washington DC: CQ Press, 2008) +

Phillip Pollock, *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis 2e- Package* (Washington DC: CQ Press, 2008)

### Recommended:

Henry E. Brady and David Collier, David (Eds.), *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2004). (Brady & Collier).

Barbara Geddes, *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2007).

John Gerring, *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

Audie Klotz and Cecelia Lynch, *Strategies for Research in Constructivist International Relations* (London: M. E. Sharpe, 2007).

### Other useful sources:

P. Hall, "Helpful Hints for Writing Dissertations in Comparative Politics" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 23: 4 (1990).

B. Most, "Getting Started on Political Research," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 23:4 (1990).

Przeworski A. and F. Salomon, "The Art of Writing Proposals: Some Candid Suggestions for Applicants to Social Science Research Council Competitions", online at:  
[http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/art\\_of\\_writing\\_proposals.page](http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/art_of_writing_proposals.page).

## Journals

Students should be familiar with the following journals: *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Organization*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Security Studies*, *International Security*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *World Politics*, *Review of International Political Economy*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*.

## Outline

### I - INTRODUCTION

#### 1. Jan. 21 Introduction

Overview of the course. Discussion of objectives, syllabus and assignments.

#### 2. Jan. 28 Philosophy of Science and Epistemological Issues

Ontological and epistemological debates in political science and IR. The importance of research methods. The relationship between methods and theory in IR.

\*N. Woods, *Explaining International Relations Since 1945* (Oxford - New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), Ch. 1-3.

\*C. Wight, "Philosophy of Science and International Relations," in W. Carlsnaes et. al. (eds.), *Handbook of International Relations* (New York: Sage, 2002).

\*M. Hollis and S. Smith, *Explaining and Understanding International Relations* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990), Ch. 1, 3 & 4.

\*D. Marsh and G. Stoker (eds.), *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (New York: Palgrave, 2002). Intro & Ch. 1.

A. Bennett, A. Barth and K. Rutherford, "Do we preach what we practice? A Survey of Methods in Political Science Journals and Curricula," *P.S.: Political Science and Politics*, 36: 3 (July 2003).

P. Schwartz-Shea, "Is this the curriculum we want? Doctoral Requirements and Offerings in Methods and Methodology," *P.S.: Political Science and Politics*, 36: 3 (July 2003).

B. Cohen, "The Transatlantic Divide: Why are American and British IPE so Different?" *Review of International Political Economy*, 14: 2 (2007). And Responses in RIPE (2008) (blackboard)

#### 3. Feb. 4 The Social Science Research Process

The scientific method. Theory construction and theory testing. Elements in the research process: research question, hypotheses, concepts and variables. Research design and methodological choices in social science research.

\*Sprinz & Wollinsky, Ch. 1.

\*KKV, Ch. 1, 2.

\*B. Geddes, *Paradigms and Sand Castles*, Ch. 1, 2.

- \*J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier, "Political Science Methodology," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).
- \*H. Brady, "Causation and Explanation in Social Science," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

J. Mahoney and G. Goertz, "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research," *Political Analysis*, 14 (2006).

Brady & Collier, Ch. 1-2 & 9-11.

T. McKeown, "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).

*Examples:*

A. Moravcsik, *The Choice for Europe* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998).

S. Peterson, *Crisis Bargaining and the State* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1998).

L. Martin, *Coercive Cooperation* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992).

## **PART II – QUALITATIVE METHODS**

### **4. Feb. 11                      The Case Study Method: Introduction**

Different types of case studies. Case studies and theory development. Advantages and limitations of case studies. Designing case study research and carrying out case studies.

\* George & Bennett, Ch. 1-6.

\* Sprinz & Wollinsky, Ch. 2, 3, 5.

\*B. Geddes, *Paradigms and Sand Castles*, Ch. 4, 5, 6.

\*D. Freedman, "On Types of Scientific Enquiry: The Role of Qualitative Reasoning," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

J. Mahoney, "Qualitative Methodology and Comparative Politics," *Comparative Political Studies*, 40: 2 (February 2007).

A. Bennett & C. Elman, "Qualitative Methods: The View From the Subfields," *Comparative Political Studies*, 40: 2 (February 2007).

A. Bennett & C. Elman, "Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9 (2006).

J. Gerring, *Case Study Research*, Ch. 1-5.

B. Rihoux, "Case Oriented Configurational Research: Qualitative Comparative Analysis, Fuzzy Sets, and Related Techniques," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

*Examples:*

J. Odell, *U.S. International Monetary Policy: Markets, Power, and Ideas as Sources of Change* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982).

S. Peterson, *Crisis Bargaining and the State* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1998).

V. Murillo, *Labor Unions, Partisan Coalitions and Market Reform in Latin America* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

R. Keohane, *After Hegemony: Co-operation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984).

### **5. Feb. 18 NO CLASS: ISA CONFERENCE**

## 6. Feb. 25                      Comparative Case Studies

The comparative method. Advantages and disadvantages of small-N comparisons. The problem of selection bias.

\*George & Bennett, Ch. 3, 8.

\*J. Gerring, "Case Selection for Case Study Analysis: Qualitative and Quantitative Techniques," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

\*J. Mahoney and P. Larkin Terrie, "Comparative Historical Analysis in Contemporary Political Science," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

\*B. Geddes, "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics," *Political Analysis*, 2: 1 (1990).

KKV, Ch. 4

C. Lees, "We Are All Comparativists Now: Why and How Single-Country Scholarship Must Adapt and Incorporate the Comparative Politics Approach," *Comparative Political Studies*, 39: 9 (2006).

J. Savolainen, "The Rationality of Drawing Big Conclusions Based on Small Samples: In Defense of Mill's Methods," *Social Forces*, 72: 4 (1994).

A. Lijphart, "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method," *American Political Science Review* 65, (1971).

*Examples:*

L. Diamond, *The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies Throughout the World* (Times Books, 2008).

R. Leng, *Bargaining and Learning in Recurring Crises: The Soviet-American, Egyptian-Israeli, and Indo-Pakistani Rivalries* (Ann Arbor: UM Press, 2000).

P. Evans, H Jacobson and R. Putnam (eds.), *Double-Edged Diplomacy: International Bargaining and Domestic Politics* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993).

P. Katzenstein, *Small States in World Markets: Industrial Policy in Europe* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985).

**Homework #1 (due on March 4): Schutt, Ch. 12: Web Exercises (1); SPSS Exercises (1) & (2).**

## 7. March 4                      Within-Case Analysis

Process tracing, congruence testing and counterfactual analysis. Advantages and disadvantages of examining single cases for the purposes of theory building and theory testing. Concept development and conceptual innovation. Combination of within case analysis and cross-case analysis.

\* George and Bennett, Ch. 8-11.

\* Sprinz & Wollinsky, Ch. 4.

\* Gerring, *Case Study Research: Principles and Practice*, Ch. 7

\*J. Levy, "Counterfactuals and Case Studies," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

A. Bennet, "Process Tracing: A Bayesian Perspective," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

J. Checkel, "Tracing Causal Mechanisms," *International Studies Review*, 8: 2 (June 2006).

A. Bennett and C. Elman, "Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield," *Comparative Political Studies*, 40: 2 (2007).

Brady & Collier, Ch. 8, 9, 13.

*Examples:*

- A. Bennett, *Condemned to Repetition? The Rise, Fall, and Reprise of Soviet-Russian Military Interventionism 1973-1996* (MIT University Press, 1999) (Combines crosscase comparisons with within-case process tracing).
- J. Checkel, "Norms, Institutions and National Identity in Contemporary Europe," *International Studies Quarterly*, 43: 1 (1999). (Process tracing analysis of norm diffusion in Germany).
- M. Shafer, *Deadly Paradigms: The Failure of US Counterinsurgency Policy* (Princeton: PUP, 1998).

## **8. March 11                      Data Collection: Interviewing, Observation and Fieldwork**

Data collection for qualitative research. Participant and non-participant observation. Interviewing elites and other non-state actors. The planning and organization of fieldwork. Ethical issues.

- \*B. Rathbun, "Interviewing and Qualitative Field Methods: Pragmatism and Practicalities," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).
- \*J. Aberbach and Rockman, "Conducting and Coding Elite Interviews," *Political Science and Politics*, 35 (2002).
- \*Fenno, R. Jr., "Observation, Context, and Sequence in the Study of Politics," *American Political Science Review*, 80: 1 (1986).
- \*Becker, T. and P. Meyers, "Empathy and Bravado: Interviewing Reluctant Bureaucrats," *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 38:4 (Winter 1974-1975).
- J. Mearsheimer and S. Walt, "The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy," KSG Working Paper (March 2006). Available at: [http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP06-011/\\$File/rwp\\_06\\_011\\_walt.pdf](http://ksgnotes1.harvard.edu/Research/wpaper.nsf/rwp/RWP06-011/$File/rwp_06_011_walt.pdf).
- D. Drezner, "Methodological Confusion: How indictments of The Israel Lobby Expose Political Science's Flaws," *Chronicle of Higher Education* (22 Feb. 2008). Available at: <http://chronicle.com/weekly/v54/i24/24b00501.htm>.
- S. Werning Rivera, P. Kozyreva, and E. Sarovskii, "Interviewing Political Elites: Lessons from Russia," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35 (December 2002).

## **PART III – QUANTITATIVE METHODS**

### **9. March 25                      Introduction to Quantitative Methods**

Advantages and potential drawbacks of using quantitative analysis in social science research. The logic of statistical inference. Overview of main quantitative research programs in IR and IPE.

- \*Sprinz & Wollinsky, Ch. 6-9.
- \*Pollock, Ch. 1.
- \*P. Hedstrom, "Studying Mechanisms to Strengthen Causal Inferences in Quantitative Research," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).
- \*C. Franklyn, "Quantitative Methodology," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).
- G. King, M. Tomz and J. Wittenberg, "Making the Most of Statistical Analysis. Improving Interpretation and Presentation," *American Journal of Political Science*, 44: 2 (2000).

M. Walsh and M. Bahnisch, "The Politics of Political Theorizing in the New Millennium," Presented at the Annual Meeting of the APSA, Washington D.C., 2000.

### *Midterm Paper Due Today*

#### **10. April 1                      Conceptualization, Operationalization and Measurement**

Operationalization and measurement of main concepts in IR, IPE and CP: power, democracy, conflict, peace, policy reform, globalization, economic integration, institutional independence, etc. Multi-item indexes. Types of variables. Levels of measurement.

- \*G. Goertz, "Concepts, Theories and Numbers: A Checklist for Constructing, Evaluating and Using Concepts or Quantitative Measures," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).
- \*S. Jackman, "Measurement," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).
- \*Y. Haftel and A. Thompson, "The Independence of International Organization," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 50: 2 (April 2006)
- \*J. Chwieroth, "Testing and Measuring the Role of Ideas: The Case of Neoliberalism in the IMF," *ISQ*, 51: 1 (2007).
  
- D. Collier, J. LaPorte and J. Seawright, "Typologies: Forming Concepts and Creating Categorical Variables," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).
- Smith, J. "The Politics of Dispute Settlement Design: Explaining legalism in regional trade pacts," *International Organization*, 54 (2000).
- J. Pevehouse, "Trade and Conflict: Does Measurement make a Difference?" in E. Mansfield and B. Pollins (eds.), *Economic Interdependence and International Conflict* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003).
- E. Mansfield, "The Concentration of Capabilities and the Onset of War," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 36 (1992).

#### **Homework #2 (due on April 8):**

**Q: Are important concepts in social research always defined clearly? Are they defined consistently? Search the literature for 4 research articles that focus on "globalization," "power," "development" or "democracy." Is the concept defined clearly in each article? How similar are the definitions? Write up what you have found in a short report (1-2 pages).**

#### **11. April 8                      Data Collection and Univariate Data Analysis**

Descriptive statistics. Frequency distributions for discrete and continuous variables. Measures of central tendency. Measures of dispersion. Introduction to SPSS. Data collection and data sources. Sampling and inference.

- \*Pollock, Ch. 3 & 5.
- \*S. Hook, "Domestic Obstacles to International Affairs: Presidential Appointees in the Administration of George W. Bush," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 36: 1 (Jan., 2003), pp. 23-29.

*Indexes:*

Globalization (AT Kearney, Foreign Policy)



B. Pollins, "Conflict, Cooperation, and Commerce: The Effect of International Political Interactions on Bilateral Trade Flows," *American Journal of Political Science*, 33 (1989).

**Homework #5 (due on April 29): Pollock B, Ch. 8 [All exercises in chapter].**

#### **14. April 29                      Formal Modeling & Combining Methods**

The use of formal mathematical models to study international relations. Models as a guide to description, deduction, and testing. Advantages and disadvantages of multi-method work.

\*Sprinz & Wollinsky, Ch. 10-15.

\*J. Fearon and D. Laitin, "Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

\*D. Collier and E. Elman, "Qualitative and Multimethod Research: Organizations, Publications and Reflections on Integration," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. Brady and D. Collier (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: OUP, 2008).

\*J. Levy, "Qualitative Methods and Cross-Method Dialogue in Political Science," *Comparative Political Studies*, 40: 2 (February 2007).

*Examples:*

##### **Formal modeling, statistical analysis and case-study method:**

D. Drezner, *The Sanctions Paradox: Economic Statecraft and International Relations* (Cambridge: CUP, 1999).

L. Martin, *Coercive Cooperation*.

L. Martin, "Interests, Power and Multilateralism," *IO*, 46: 4 (1992).

##### **Statistical analysis and case studies:**

B. Simmons, *Who Adjusts? Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policy during the Interwar Years* (Princeton: Princeton University Press: 1994).