

Summer Term 2024

University of Cologne, Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences

Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP)

Chair of International Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology

Liaison Chair Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies

Doctoral and Master Course: Research Designs and Case Study Methods in Comparative Political Economy

ECTS: 6 ECTS (2021 examination regulations) / 9 ECTS (2015 examination regulations)

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Christine Trampusch

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Time:

- 1) **Tuesday, April 9, 4.00-5.30pm** (Room: Seminar Room 3.40 (IBW Building)).
Obligatory Introduction (no course participation possible without attending this session!)
- 2) **Friday, April 26, 9.00am-4.00pm** (Room: Seminar Room 3.40 (IBW Building)): **Basics**
- 3) **Friday, June 14, 9.00am-5.30pm** (Room: Seminar Room 3.40 (IBW Building)): **Methods**
- 4) **Friday, July 12, 9.00am-5.30pm** (Room: Seminar Room 3.40 (IBW Building)): **Mini-Conference**

Course Description: The course teaches good research designs for case studies and we discuss conceptions of causality and strategies of case selection. Case studies are used for theory building and theory tests (in the sense of plausibility probes). On the one hand, there are single case study methods such as analytic narrative and process tracing. On the other hand, case-oriented researchers apply comparative case study methods such as parallel demonstration of theory, the method of contrasting contexts and the methods of agreement and difference. The course also introduces these methods theoretically, methodologically, and practically by prominent case studies in the field of CPE. Students also have the possibility to present their own research designs (for example, the first ideas on their Master Thesis). As the seminar's overarching goal is to enable participants to write their term papers, regular attendance is of utmost importance for the quality of term papers. It is expected that in their term papers students develop a research design to address a particular research question (design for their planned MA-thesis or Ph.D. project or any other empirical research project). All texts are available on the ILIAS-website of the course.

Requirements and evidence of academic achievement:

Participants are expected to hand in a two-page outline of their planned term papers until July 5, 2024, 8am. This outline will be discussed in our mini-conference on research projects on July 12, 2024.

Final grading is based on **individual summaries** (which means a summary and review of the respective paper; see syllabus "summary" to be submitted until Friday, 8am before the respective session) and the **term paper** in which the participants develop a research design for an empirical research project. It is recommended that this research design refers to the planned MA-thesis or Ph.D. project (handed in on September 1, 2024, 8am).

The **final marking** is as follows: **30% individual summary; 70% term paper**. You have to fulfill both assignments as a requirement.

Students are expected to: attend sessions regularly, actively contribute to class discussions, and complete assigned readings according to schedule: "compulsory reading" – all students read; "summary" – only reading by the respective presenter; write a term paper of not more than 10,000 words, own research on literature/data/material is required. All papers will be checked for plagiarism. Term papers have to be written in the English language. Since all reading assignments are in English, this will be the general classroom language as well. Participants therefore must know enough English to be able to participate actively. Perfection is not required – you just need to understand and make yourself understood.

Introduction, mandatory, Tuesday, April 9, 4.00-5.30pm	
04.00 -	Introduction
05.30	<p>Compulsory reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goertz, G. (2017): <i>Multimethod Research, Causal Mechanisms, and Case Studies</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1-5. Flyvbjerg, B. (2006): Five Misunderstandings about Case-Study Research. <i>Qualitative Inquiry</i>, 12(2), 219-45.
Basics, Friday, April 26, 9.00am-4.00pm	
09.00 -	Research Designs & Case Studies I
10.30	<p>Compulsory reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> George, A.L., Bennett, A. (2005): <i>Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences</i>. Cambridge: MIT Press. 73-124 (Chapters 4-6).
10.30 -	Research Design & Case Studies II
12.00	<p>Compulsory reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mahoney, J., Goertz, G. (2006): A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research. <i>Political Analysis</i>, 14(3), 227-49. <p>Students' Summaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Han, K. J./Castater, E. G. (2016): They May not have the Skills, but they have the Desire: Why the Skill Composition of Trade Unions Matters for Wage Inequality. <i>Research in Social Stratification and Mobility</i>, 45, 1-12. <p>Students' Summaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dobbins, M./Busemeyer, M.R. (2015): Socio-Economic Institutions, Organized Interests and Partisan Politics: The Development of Vocational Education in Denmark and Sweden. <i>Socio-Economic Review</i>, 13(2), 259-284.
12.00-1.00 LUNCH ☺	
01.00 -	Causality and Causal Mechanisms
02.30	<p>Compulsory reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goertz, G., Mahoney, J. (2012): <i>A Tale of Two Cultures. Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences</i>. Princeton/Oxford: Princeton University Press. 41-83 (Chapters 3-6). Beach, D., Pedersen, R.B. (2013): <i>Process-Tracing Methods. Foundations and Guidelines</i>. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. 23-44 (Chapter 3). <p>Students' Summaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falleti, T.G., Lynch, J. (2009): Context and Causal Mechanisms in Political Analysis. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i>, 42(9), 1143-66. Ziblatt, D. (2009): Shaping Democratic Practice and the Causes of Electoral Fraud: The Case of nineteenth-century Germany. <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 103(1), 1-21.
02.30 -	Case Selection
04.00	<p>Compulsory reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levy, J.S. (2008): Case Studies: Types, Designs, and Logics of Inference. <i>Conflict Management and Peace Science</i>, 25, 1-18. Beach, D., Pedersen, R. B. (2018): Selecting Appropriate Cases When Tracing Causal Mechanisms. <i>Sociological Methods & Research</i>, 47(4). 837-871. <p>Students' Summaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mahoney, J., Goertz, G. (2004): The Possibility Principle: Choosing Negative Cases in Comparative Research. <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 98(4), 653-69. Geddes, B. (1990): How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics. <i>Comparative Analysis</i>, 2(1), 131-50.

Methods, Friday June 14, 9.00am-5.30pm	
09.00 - 10.30	<p><u>Comparative Method</u> Compulsory reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Savolainen, J. (1994): The Rationality of Drawing Big Conclusions Based on Small Samples: In Defense of Mill's Methods. <i>Social Forces</i>, 72(4), 1217-24. <p>Students' Summaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brookes, M. (2018). Explaining Employer Responses to Transnational Labor Activism: Indonesia and Cambodia Compared. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i>, 51(6), 699-729. Trampusch, C. (2010): Employers, the State, and the Politics of Institutional Change. Vocational Education and Training in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. <i>European Journal of Political Research</i>, 49(4), 545-73.
10.30 - 12.00	<p><u>Parallel Demonstration of Theory & Contrast of Contexts</u> Compulsory reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skocpol, T., Somers, M. (1980): The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry. <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>, 22(2), 174-97. <p>Students' Summaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trampusch, C. (2010): Co-evolution of Skills and Welfare in Coordinated Market Economies? A Comparative Historical Analysis of Denmark, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. <i>European Journal of Industrial Relations</i>, 16(3), 197-220. Trampusch, C., Spies, D. (2014): Agricultural Interests and the Origins of Capitalism: A Parallel Comparative History of Germany, Denmark, New Zealand, and the United States. <i>New Political Economy</i>, 19(6), 918-942.
12.00-1.00 LUNCH ☺	
01.00 - 02.30	<p><u>Analytic Narrative</u> Compulsory reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bates, R.H., Greif, A., Levi, M., Rosenthal, J.L., Weingast, B.R. (eds.) (1998): <i>Analytic Narratives</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 3-22, 231-38. Bates, R.H., Greif, A., Levi, M., Rosenthal, J.L., Weingast, B.R. (2000): Review: The Analytical Narrative Project. <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 94(3), 696-702. Levi, M. (2004): Analytic Narrative Approach to Puzzles and Problems. In: Shapiro, I., Smith, R.M., Masoud, T.E. (eds): <i>Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 201-22. <p>Students' Summaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bates, R.H. (1998): The International Coffee Organization. In: Bates, R.H., Greif, A., Levi, M., Rosenthal, J.L., Weingast, B.R. (eds.): <i>Analytic Narratives</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 194-230. Tsebelis, G. (2016). Lessons from the Greek Crisis. <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 23(1), 25-41.
02.30 - 04.00	<p><u>Process Tracing</u> Compulsory reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trampusch C., Palier B. (2016): Between X and Y: How Process Tracing Contributes to Opening the Black Box of Causality. <i>New Political Economy</i>, 21(5), 437-454. Beach, D., Pedersen, R.B. (2013): <i>Process-Tracing Methods. Foundations and Guidelines</i>. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. 9-44, 120-43 (Chapters 2,3,7). <p>Students' Summaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carstensen, M., Röper, N. (2019): Invasion from Within: Ideas, Power, and the Transmission of Institutional Logics Between Policy Domains. <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 52(9): 1328-1363. Trampusch, C. (2018): Liberal Financial Markets in the Interest of <i>Staatskredite</i> – A Process Tracing Study of the Link between Sovereign Debt Policy and the 1908 Bourse Law Reform in the German Empire. <i>Jahrbuch für Wirtschaftsgeschichte</i>, 59(1), 105-134.
04.00 - 05.30	<p><u>Systematic Process Analysis (SPA)</u> Compulsory reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall, P. (2008): Systematic Process Analysis: When and How to use it. <i>European Political Science</i> 7(3), 304-17. <p>Students' Summaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trampusch, C. (2015). The Financialisation of Sovereign Debt: An Institutional Analysis of the Reforms in German Public Debt Management. <i>German Politics</i> 24(2), 119-136. Trampusch, C. (2014): Why Preferences and Institutions Change: A Systematic Process Analysis of Credit Rating in Germany. <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> 53(2), 328-344.

Mini Conference, Friday, July 12, 9.00am-5.30pm	
09.00 - 10.30	<u>Discussion of Students' Term Paper Outlines</u>
10.30 - 12.30	<u>Discussion of Students' Term Paper Outlines</u>
12.30-1.30 LUNCH ☺	
01.30 - 04.00	<u>Discussion of Students' Term Paper Outlines</u>
04.00 - 05.30	<u>Discussion of Students' Term Paper Outlines</u>

General references on methodological contributions which are recommended for further reading:

- Beach, Derek/Rasmus B. Pedersen (2013): *Process Tracing Methods – Foundations and Guidelines*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Bennett, Andrew/Checkel, Jeffrey (2015): *Process Tracing. From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*. Cambridge University Press.
- Brady, Henry A. (2008): Causation and Explanation in Social Science. In: Box-Steffensmeier et al. (eds.): *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. Oxford: OUP, 217-270.
- Brady, Henry A./David Collier (2004): *Rethinking Social Inquiry. Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Ebbinghaus, B. (2005): When Less is More. Selection Problems in Large-N and Small-N Cross-National Comparisons. *International Sociology*, 20(2), 133-52.
- Eckstein, H. [1975] (1992): Case Study and Theory in Political Science. In: *ibid.: Regarding Politics. Essays on Political Theory, Stability, and Change*. Berkeley/Los Angeles: University of California Press, 117-176.
- George, Alexander L./Andrew Bennett (2005): *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Gerring, John (2007): *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Goertz, Gary (2006): *Social Science Concepts. A User's Guide*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Goertz, Gary (2017): *Multimethod Research, Causal Mechanisms, and Case Studies: An Integrated Approach*. Princeton University Press.
- Haverland, Markus/Joachim Blatter (2012): *Designing Case Studies: Explanatory Approaches in Small-N Research*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Hedström, Peter/Petri Ylikoski (2010): Causal Mechanisms in the Social Sciences. In: *Annual Review of Sociology* 36(1). 49-67.
- Jacobs A. M. (2015) Process Tracing and the Effects of Ideas. In: Bennett A and Checkel J T (eds) *Process Tracing. From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*. Cambridge: CUP, pp. 41-73
- King, Gary/Robert Keohane/Sidney Verba (1994): *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Mahoney, James (2001): Beyond Correlational Analysis: Recent Innovations in Theory and Method. *Sociological Forum* 16 (3): 575-593.
- Mahoney, James/Dietrich Rueschemeyer (2003): *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ragin, Charles (1987): *The Comparative Method: Moving beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Rohlfing, Ingo (2012). *Case studies and Causal Inference: An Integrative Framework*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Seawright, Jason (2016): *Multi-method Social Science: Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Tools*. Cambridge University Press.