

210015-1 UE BAK4: Qualitative Methoden der empirischen Sozialforschung (2020S)

Seminar: Qualitative methods for researching international negotiations

Bachelor Politikwissenschaft → BAK4 Methoden (18 ECTS)

Department of Political Science

University of Vienna

Summer Semester 2020

Wednesdays 11.3.2020- 24.6.2020 (no class on 03/25 and 04/01)

09.45 am – 11.15 am

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Office hour: on agreement

Syllabus

How can we study international negotiations and decision making processes? Which tools are available to make sense of what happens in negotiation rooms and to explain why policy-makers act and decide in a certain way? What is the role of political scientists in studying these processes?

Aim

This seminar is an introduction to qualitative research. At the end of the seminar, students will have gained knowledge on a range of qualitative methods and their empirical applications. Students will understand why and how to use qualitative methods for empirical research and critically assess literature in light of the applied methods. They will have developed skills to formulate research questions and hypotheses from their preferred topics and continuously worked on their research designs over the time of the course. The students will have formulated their own research designs by the end of the course and written a paper to answer their research questions. The seminar will also address how to combine different qualitative and quantitative methods.

Course contents

In this seminar, students are introduced to methodological approaches for studying political processes, with a focus on researching international environmental negotiations and decision making processes. This seminar benefits from the ongoing research of the [MARIPOLDATA](#) ERC research project which studies the current UN negotiations on a new international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). The seminar enables students to develop an understanding of how to choose and apply qualitative methods in empirical research to meet their research goals. Course content will be structured into different parts: Research Design, Data Collection and Data Analysis.

Teaching Methods

- reading of academic literature and autonomous research
- development of a research design throughout the course
- presentations of academic literature and own research designs
- discussions in class

Minimum requirements

Prior knowledge of qualitative methods is not required. Course content and academic literature, as well as the student presentations and the final paper will be in English language.

The final paper cannot be replaced by an oral exam. Students need to have more than 49 points in total and hand in all drafts and papers in time to pass the course.

Grading

The final grade will consist of active participation in class (10 Points), presentation of class readings (20 Points), presentation of the final research design (30 Points) and the final research paper (40 Points). The research design of the final research paper will be developed throughout the course. Four (ungraded) drafts have to be submitted: **1st draft due on 22.04.**; **2nd draft 06.05.**; **third draft 20.05.**; **final research design 17.06.**

Final research paper: 3000 words (excluding reference list), **due 30.08.** The research paper may be written in a group and should contain: Research Question, hypotheses, method(s) covered in class, ethical & reflexive considerations, results, reference list.

Course Outline

I. Research Design

11.03. Introduction to Qualitative Methods

Gerring, J. (2017). "Qualitative Methods." Annual Review of Political Science 20.1: 15-36

Additional literature

Pope C, Mays N. (1995). Qualitative research: Reaching the parts other methods cannot reach: An introduction to qualitative methods in health and health services research. BMJ : British Medical Journal.

18.03. Research Design

Wright S., O'Brien B, Nimmon L, Law M, and Mylopoulos M. (2016). Research Design Considerations. Journal of Graduate Medical Education: February 2016, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 97-98.

Booth, W.C., Colomb, G.G., and Williams, J.M. (2008). The craft of research (3. Edition). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 3: From topics to questions. S.36-50., chapter 4: From questions to a problem

Kuckartz, U., & McWhorter, A. (2014). Qualitative text analysis : A guide to methods, practice & using software. Los Angeles :: SAGE. (Chapter 1: Analysing Qualitative Data – But How?)

25.03. No class (*Development of Research Design*)

01.04. No class (*Development of Research Design*)

II. Data Collection

22.04. Ethnography / Participant Observation (*first draft research design due*)

O'Neill, K. and P. M. Haas (2019). "Being There: International Negotiations as Study Sites in Global Environmental Politics." Global Environmental Politics 19(2): 4-13.

Kawulich, B. B. (2005). "Participant Observation as a Data Collection Method." Forum: Qualitative Social Research 6.

Additional Literature

Bourdieu, P. (2003). "Participant objectivation." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 9(2): 281-294.

Geertz, C. (1972). *Deep play: Notes on the Balinese cockfight*. Culture and Politics, Springer: 175-201.

Hancock, B. H. (2009). "Following Loïc Wacquant into the field." *Qualitative sociology* 32(1): 93-99.

29.04. Ethics in research

Bourdieu, P. and L. J. Wacquant (1992). *An invitation to reflexive sociology*, University of Chicago press.

Lewis, D. (1973). *Anthropology and Colonialism*. *Current Anthropology*, 14(5), 581-602.
Retrieved from www.jstor.org/stable/2741037

Traianou, A. (2012). *Ethics in qualitative research : controversies and contexts* (1. publ.. ed.). Los Angeles, Calif. [u.a.]: SAGE.

Additional literature

Knott, Eleanor (2018) *Beyond the field: ethics after fieldwork in politically dynamic contexts*.

06.05. Interviews: Sample, Interview Guide and Techniques (*second draft research design due*)

Hochschild, J. L. (2009). *Conducting Intensive Interviews and Elite Interviews*. Workshop on Interdisciplinary Standards for Systematic Qualitative Research.

Leech, B. (2002). "Asking Questions: Techniques for Semistructured Interviews." *Political Science and Politics* 35(4): 665-668.

Additional literature

Aberbach, J. D. and B. A. Rockman (2002). "Conducting and Coding Elite Interviews." *Political Science and Politics* 35(4): 673-676.

Leavy, P. (2011). *Oral History : Understanding Qualitative Research*. Oxford University Press.

13.05. Data collection to study international negotiations in practice

Campbell, L. M., et al. (2014). "Studying global environmental meetings to understand global environmental governance: Collaborative event ethnography at the tenth conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity." *Global Environmental Politics* 14(3): 1-20.

The MARIPOLDATA Approach

III. Data Analysis

20.05. Data analysis methods (*third draft research design due*)

Abbot, A. (2004), *Methods of Discovery. Heuristics for the Social Sciences*, Introduction, Norton

Teddlie, C., & Tashakkori, A. (2009). Foundations of mixed methods research: Integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches in the social and behavioral sciences: Sage.

Additional literature

Abbot, A. (2004), Methods of Discovery. Heuristics for the Social Sciences, Debates, Norton

Keele, L. (2015). "The statistics of causal inference: A view from political methodology." Political Analysis 23(3): 313-335.

27.05. Comparative Case Studies

Goodin, R., & Gerring, J. (2011). The Case Study: What it is and What it Does. In The Oxford Handbook of Political Science. : Oxford University Press. Retrieved 4 Mar. 2020, from <https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199604456.001.0001/oxfordhb-b-9780199604456-e-051>.

Kaarbo, J., & Beasley, R. (1999). A Practical Guide to the Comparative Case Study Method in Political Psychology. Political Psychology, 20(2), 369-391. Retrieved March 4, 2020, from www.jstor.org/stable/3792081

Additional literature

Harrison, H.; Birks, M.; Franklin, R. & Mills, J. (2017). Case Study Research: Foundations and Methodological Orientations [34 paragraphs]. Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research, 18(1), Art. 19, <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0114-fqs1701195>.

10.06. Document / Text Analysis

Bowen, Glenn A., (2009). 'Document Analysis as a Qualitative Research Method', Qualitative Research Journal, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 27-40. DOI 10.3316/QRJ0902027. This is a peer-reviewed article.

Kuckartz, U., & McWhertor, A. (2014). Qualitative text analysis : A guide to methods, practice & using software. Los Angeles :: SAGE. (Chapter 2: The Building Blocks of Systematic Qualitative Text Analysis)

Additional literature

Marvasti, Amir B. (2019). Qualitative Content Analysis: A Novice's Perspective [30 paragraphs]. Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research, 20(3), Art. 32, <http://dx.doi.org/10.17169/fqs-20.3.3387>.

17.06. Introduction to Social Network Analysis (final draft research design due)

Hafner-burton, E. M., et al. (2009). "Network Analysis for International Relations." Int Org 63: 592.

Neal, Z., Borgatti, S., Everett, M., & Johnson, J. (2015). Analyzing social networks. In S. Borgatti, M. Everett, J. Johnson, & Z. Neal (Eds.), (Vol. 39, pp. 222).

Zachary, W. W. (1977). An Information Flow Model for Conflict and Fission in Small Groups. *Journal of Anthropological Research*, 33(4), 452-473. Retrieved from www.jstor.org/stable/3629752

Additional literature

Hafner-Burton, E. M., & Montgomery, A. H. (2006). Power Positions: International Organizations, Social Networks, and Conflict. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 50, 27. doi:10.1177/0022002705281669

Kim, R. E. (2019). Is Global Governance Fragmented, Polycentric, or Complex? The State of the Art of the Network Approach. *International Studies Review*. doi:10.1093/isr/viz052

Paterson, M. (2019). "Using Negotiation Sites for Richer Collection of Network Data." 19(2): 81-92.

24.06. Conclusion / Presentations/ Q&A