

Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies
School of International Studies, JNU

Course	: Ph.D.
Course Title	: Research Methodology
Course Type	: Compulsory Course
Course Teacher	: Dr Rajan Kumar
Instruction Method	: Lectures/ Seminar
Credits	: Four
Semester	: Winter Semester
Contact Hours	: 4 per week

Course Objectives

This is an introductory course on research methods. Keeping in mind the interdisciplinary nature of the Social Sciences and the background of the students in this School, this course introduces you to the basic methods used in history, political science, sociology and economics. This course is designed to introduce a student to theory, philosophy and research methods in social science. It combines qualitative as well as quantitative research designs in a comparative framework. In the qualitative section, it discusses historical and case study methods. In the quantitative section, it introduces statistical methods of analysis. It deals with probability, hypothesis testing, confidence interval, linear and multiple regressions. A prior knowledge of statistics or statistical software is not essential as it begins from the basics of statistical methods. This course will compare the merits and lacunae of various methods and at the end each participant will be required to submit a 10 page term paper on research design adopting any single or a combination of methods.

Learning Outcomes

- With this course a student would learn about various methods used in social sciences
- A student will learn qualitative and quantitative methods
- A student will learn how to write a research paper
- Focus would on practical aspects of conducting research in IR
- A student will also learn about survey method
- A student will learn about SPSS/STATA Software

Evaluation Methods

Research Paper/Presentation/Tests (Mid-term test 20 %, Research Paper 15 %, Final test-50%, Class Participation & Précis Writing 15 %)

COURSE TITLE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction to Research

- *Understanding research*
- *Foundations of social science research*
- *Relationship between ontology, epistemology and methodology*

Philosophy of Science and Social Science

- *Science and Scientific Method*
- *Paradigm Change*
- *Logical Positivism, interpretivism and critical social science*
(*Perspectives of philosophers such as Immanuel Kant, Bertrand Russell, Karl Popper, Thomas Kuhn, Imre Lakatos and Paul Feyerabend*)
- *Debate on Objectivity vs. subjectivity, facts and interpretation and hermeneutics*
- *Theory? Construction of Theory? Integration of Theory and Data*
- *Indian traditions of historical and social inquiries*

1. Kuhn, Thomas (1970), *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, University of Chicago Press
2. Popper, Karl (1959), *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, New York (Chapter on Falsification)
3. Lakatos, Imre (1970), "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes" in I. Lakatos and R. Musgrave, eds., *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge, 1970
4. Foucault, Michael (1969), *The Archaeology of Knowledge*, Published by Routledge, 1972
5. Imre Lakatos, 'Criticism and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes', *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, New Series*, vol. 69 (1968 - 1969), pp. 149-186.
6. Paul Feyerabend, *Against Method* (London: Verso, 1975), pp. vii-19.
7. Michael Coppedge, "Theory Building and Hypothesis Testing: Large-vs. Small-N Research on Democraticization", Paper presented at MPSA, 2002

Approaches in International Relations

- *Theoretical Approach*
- *Large-N vs Small-N Debate*

- *Theoretical vs. Case Study vs. Area Study Approach*
 - *Qualitative vs Quantitative Debate*
1. King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba, (1994), *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Princeton, (Ch 1-3)
 2. Geertz, Clifford (1973), “Thick Description: Towards an Interpretive Theory of Culture”, (NY: Basic Books), Chapter 1
 3. Srivastava, Vinay, (2005) *Methodology and Fieldwork*, OUP
 4. Waltz, Kenneth (1978) *Theory of International Politics*, Addison-Wesley Publication Co., 1978
 5. Wendt, Alexander (1999). *Social Theory of International Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
 6. Martin Hollis and Steve Smith, *Explaining and Understanding International Relations* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990).
 7. Janet Buttolph Johnson, Richard A. Joslyn and H.T. Reynolds (2007), *Political Science Research Methods*, Washington D.C.: CQ Press.
 8. Stephen Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, 1997

Qualitative Methods

- *Historical Methods of Inquiry: History? Historiography? Process-tracing?*
 - *Case study research*
 - *Comparative Case Study Method*
 - *Discourse analysis*
1. Carr, E. H. (1967) *What is History*, Vintage
 2. Bloc, Marc (1964), *Historian’s Craft*, Vintage
 3. Collingwood (1994), *The Idea of History: With Lectures 1926-1928*, OUP,
 4. Srivastava, Vinay, (2005) *Methodology and Fieldwork*, OUP, Chap. 1-4.
 5. George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT, 2005.
 6. Robert Yin, *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*, (New Delhi: Sage Publication, 2003), Chapters 1 and 2, pp.1-56.

Quantitative Method

- *Statistical techniques*
- *Descriptive statistics*
- *Inferential statistics*
- *Quantitative sampling*
- *Measures of central tendency*
- *Measures of dispersion*
- *Correlation*
- *Regression*

- *Hypothesis testing*
 - *Use of software packages (SPSS/STATA)*
1. Wonnacot and Wonnacot (1990), *Introductory Statistics*, Wiley, New York.
 2. Agresti, A. and Barbara Finlay (1999), *Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences*, Third Edition, Prentice Hall
 3. Gujarati, D.N. and Porter, D.C. (2009) *Basic Econometrics*. 5th Edition, McGraw Hill Inc., New York.

Mixed Methods

- *Rationale, purpose and types*
 - *Triangulation/ hybrid*
 - *Critique*
1. Rob Timans, Paul Wouters and Johan Heibron, 'Mixed methods research: what it is and what it could be', *Theory and Society*, April 2019, vol.48, issue 2, pp. 193-216.
 2. John W. Creswell (2014), *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*, London: Sage Publications.
 3. R. Burke Johnson, Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie and Lisa A. Turner, 'Toward a Definition of Mixed Method Research', *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 1, April 2007, pp. 112-133.

Survey Method

- *Sampling*
 - *Questionnaire Preparation*
 - *Interview, focus group discussion*
1. Wolf, Cristof, Joye, Dominique and Smith, Tom W., et.al. *The SAGE Handbook of Survey Methodology* Publisher: Sage UK

Research Design

- *Formulating research questions*
 - *Constructing hypotheses*
 - *Review of the literature*
 - *Academic writing*
 - *Data: collection, analysis and interpretation*
 - *Primary and secondary data*
 - *Research ethics and plagiarism*
 - *Preparation of a synopsis*
1. King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba, (1994), *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Princeton, (Ch 1-3)
 2. Adam Pzeworski and Frank Salomon (1995), 'On the Art of Writing Proposals', New York: Social Science Research Council.
 3. Teresa Johnson, 'Writing for International Security: A Contributor's Guide', *International Security*, <https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/writing-international-security-contributors-guide>

The Comparative Approach and Methodology

- *J. S. Mill's 'method of agreement' and 'method of difference'*
 - *Comparative Approaches of Weber, Durkheim and Marx's*
1. Sica, Alan (ed.) (2006), *Comparative Methods in the Social Sciences*, SAGE Benchmarks in Social Research Methods Series
 2. Atul Kohli, et al, "The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics: A Symposium", *World Politics*, 48, October 1995
 3. Charles C. Ragin, *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies*, (Ch. 3-5)
 4. John P. Frendreis, "Explanation of Variation and Detection of Co-Variation: The Purpose and Logic of Comparative Analysis", *Comparative Political Studies*, 16, 2, July 1983
 5. David D. Latin, "Comparative Politics: The State of the Subdiscipline", Paper presented at American Political Science Association, 2000

FURTHER READINGS

Partha Nath Mukherji (ed.), *Methodology in Social Research: Dilemmas and Perspectives* (New Delhi/Thousand Oaks/London: Sage, 2000).

Yuri Balashov and Alex Rosenberg (eds.) *Philosophy of Science: Contemporary Readings* (London and New York: Routledge, 2002).

Rajeev Bhargava, *Individualism in Social Science: Forms and Limits of a Methodology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).

Christian List and Kai Spiekermann, 'Methodological Individualism and Holism in Political Science: A Reconciliation', *American Political Science Review*, 107 (4), pp. 629-643.

David Freedman, Robert Pisani and Roger Purves (2009), *Statistics*, New Delhi: Viva Books.

Alan Bryman, 'Integrating quantitative and qualitative research: how is it done?', *Qualitative Research*, 6 (1), 2006, pp. 97-113.

Dina A. Zinnes, 'Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher: Presidential Address', *International Studies Quarterly*, 24 (3), September 1980, pp. 315-342.

Alexander Bird (2006), *Philosophy of Science*, London: Routledge.

Alan Bryman (2016), *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
David Byrne (2002), *Interpreting Quantitative Data*, London: Sage Publications.

Norman K. Denzin, and Yvonna S. Lincoln, (eds.) (2011). *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*, London: Sage Publications.

William J. Goode, and Paul K. Hatt (1952), *Methods in Social Research*, New York: McGraw-Hill.

Christopher K. Lamont (2021), *Research Methods in International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Andrew Bennet, 'Case Study Methods: Design, Use, and Comparative Advantages', in Detlef F. Sprinz and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias (eds.) *Models, Numbers, And Cases Methods for Studying International Relations* (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2004), pp. 27-65.

John Gerring, 'What is a Case Study and What is it Good for?' *American Political Science Review*, Vol.98, No.2, May 2004, pp.341-354

Gerardo L. Munck, 'Tools for Qualitative Research' in Henry E. Brady and David Collier ed. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2004), pp.105-122.

Charles C. Ragin (2008), *Redesigning Social Inquiry: Fuzzy Sets and Beyond*, Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

Chava Frankfort-Nachmias and David Nachmias (1996), *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*, New York: St. Martin's Press.