

Advanced Topics in Qualitative Methods: Historical Research

PSC 804-M001
Fall 2018
M, 3:45-6:30
Maxwell Hall 309A
Instructor: Steven White
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Course Description

This class covers a range of theoretical and practical issues related to conducting qualitative historical research in political science. Topics will include differences between historical research in political science and political history; historiography and selection bias when working with secondary sources; and planning and conducting archival research. We will also examine major theoretical concepts in historical research, including path dependence, critical junctures, and other forms of institutional change, as well as best practices for case selection and process tracing. Other topics will include using historical research as part of a mixed methods approach; points of tension and overlap with quantitative historical work; and debates about what transparency should look like for qualitative researchers.

Course Readings

These four books are available for purchase in the university bookstore:

- Derek Beach and Rasmus Brun Pedersen, *Process-Tracing Methods: Foundations and Guidelines*, (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2013).
- Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005).
- Jason Seawright, *Multi-Method Social Science: Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Tools*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016).
- Marc Trachtenberg, *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006).

Most of the other readings (including academic journal articles, chapters from edited collections, and books) are available online via the library website. There are a few exceptions, which I have scanned and placed on Blackboard (denoted as such in the reading list).

Assessment Criteria

Participation: 35%

Archive memorandum: 10%

Article critique: 10%

Book review essay: 10%

Final paper: 35%

This is a discussion-oriented seminar, so regular attendance and engaged participation are required. Participation also includes occasional “mini-presentations” (for example, a brief discussion of similarities and differences between a political science article and a history article on a subject of your choice on September 17), as well as an informal presentation on the mixed methods book that you choose to read and review on November 26.

Students are also responsible for a final written assignment, with some flexibility on the form that this takes. Examples might include a draft dissertation proposal or funding application, an article-length paper or chapter draft, etc. We will discuss this further in class. Along with a written document, the final class session will be set aside for each of you to workshop your research projects (whatever form they might take at this stage).

Final papers are due December 14.

There are also three smaller pieces of writing due:

- On October 8: a memorandum describing your trip to the archives of the Onondaga County Public Library
- On October 29: a peer review-style critique of an assigned article
- On November 26: a review of a mixed methods book of your choice

Academic Integrity

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about University policy. The University policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. The presumptive penalty for a first offense by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of Academic Integrity Policy. The standard sanction for a first offense by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>.

Accommodations

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible. More information can be found online at <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/>

Religious Observances

SU's religious observances policy is available at http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm.

Syracuse University recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the right of students, faculty, and staff to observe the holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance—provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. Students have access to an online notification form through MySlice that they can use to notify their instructors.

Schedule

August 27: Introduction

September 3: No class (Labor Day)

September 10: Approaches to historical work in political science

Required

Orfeo Fioretos, Tulia G. Falleti, and Adam Sheingate, "Historical Institutionalism in Political Science," in *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism*, eds. Orfeo Fioretos, Tulia G. Falleti, and Adam Sheingate, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Kathleen Thelen and James Mahoney, "Comparative-Historical Analysis in Contemporary Political Science," in James Mahoney and Kathleen Thelen, eds., *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015), 3-36. [provided via Blackboard]

James Mahoney, Erin Kimball, and Kendra L. Koivu, "The Logic of Historical Explanation in the Social Sciences," *Comparative Political Studies* 42(1), 2009, 114-146

Daniel J. Galvin, "Qualitative Methods and American Political Development," in *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Development*, eds. Richard Valelly, Suzanne Mettler, and Robert Lieberman, (New York: Oxford University Press).

Selections from Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman, eds., *Bridges and Boundaries: Historians, Political Scientists, and the Study of International Relations* [Blackboard]

Richard R. John, "American Political Development and Political History," in *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Development*.

Julian Zelizer, "What Political Science Can Learn from the New Political History," *Annual Review of Political Science* 13, 2010, 25-36.

Recommended (i.e., we won't talk about these, but they might be of interest if you want to learn more)

The rest of James Mahoney and Kathleen Thelen, eds., *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis*

For an influential earlier collection along similar lines: James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

The rest of Orfeo Fioretos, Tulia G. Falleti, and Adam Sheingate, *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism*

If you're interested in American political development specifically, take a look at the rest of *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Development*

Orfeo Fioretos, "Historical Institutionalism in International Relations," *International Organization* 65 (2), 2011, 367-399.

Giovanni Capoccia and Daniel Ziblatt, "The Historical Turn in Democratization Studies: A New Research Agenda for Europe and Beyond," *Comparative Political Studies* 43 (8/9), 2010, 938-968.

Theda Skocpol and Paul Pierson, "Historical Institutionalism in Contemporary Political Science," in Ira Katznelson and Helen Milner, eds., *Political Science: State of the Discipline*, (New York: W. W. Norton, 2002), 693-721.

September 17: More on the differences between historical political science and political history

Required

Selections from Margaret Susan Thompson, *The Spider Web: Congress and Lobbying in the Age of Grant* [Blackboard]

- Professor Thompson will be a guest speaker for the first part of class

Also read:

- One article by a political scientist on a topic of your choice
- One article by a historian on the same topic

For class:

- Prepare a 5-minute overview about similarities/differences between the articles you chose

Recommended

John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004).

Anna Cichopek-Gajraj, "At the Intersection of Political Science and Social History," *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 36(1), 2018, 214-219.

- See also the rest of the forum on Evgeny Finkel's book in this issue of *Shofar*

David Armitage, "The Fifty Years' Rift: Intellectual History and International Relations," *Modern Intellectual History* 1(1), 2004, 97-109.

Julian Zelizer, "History and Political Science: Together Again?," *Journal of Policy History* 16(2), 2004, 126-136.

Keir A. Lieber, "The New History of World War I and What It Means for International Relations Theory," *International Security* 32(2), 2007, 155-191.

Fritz Stern, ed., *The Varieties of History*

September 24: Secondary sources, newspaper coverage, and archival research

Required

Ian S. Lustick, "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias," *American Political Science Review* 90(3), 1996, 605-618

Daniel J. Myers and Beth S. Caniglia, "All the Rioting That's Fit to Print: Selection Effects in National Newspaper Coverage of Civil Disorders, 1968-1969," *American Sociological Review* 69(4), 2004, 519-43.

Cameron G. Thies, "A Pragmatic Guide to Qualitative Historical Analysis in the Study of International Relations," *International Studies Perspectives* 3, 2002, 351-372.

Tim Büthe, "Taking Temporality Seriously: Modeling History and the Use of Narratives as Evidence," *American Political Science Review* 96(3), 2002, 481-493.

Marc Trachtenberg, *The Craft of International History*, pp. 1-50.

October 1: Archival research, continued

Required

Marc Trachtenberg, *The Craft of International History*, pp. 51-197.

- Skim Appendix II: "Working with Primary Sources" for what might be of interest

Michael R. Hill, *Archival Strategies and Techniques*, pp. 1-68. [available via library website]

Guest speaker (end of class): Rachel McMaster, Ph.D. candidate

Recommended

@RAKarl [Twitter thread](#) on archival research, as well as YouTube videos:

- [Research Methods for Historians. Part 1: Secondary Sources + Best Practices](#)
- [Research Methods for Historians. Part 2: Digitizing + Organizing Archival Sources](#)

Ann Laura Stoler "Colonial Archives and the Arts of Governance," *Archival Science* 2, 2002, 87-109.

John D. Milligan, "The Treatment of an Historical Source," *History and Theory* 18(2), 1979, 177-196

Vernon K. Dibble, "Four Types of Inference from Documents to Events," *History and Theory* 3(2), 1963, 203-221.

Fred I. Greenstein and Richard H. Immerman, "What Did Eisenhower Tell Kennedy about Indochina? The Politics of Misperception," *Journal of American History* 79(2), 1992, 568-587.

Christopher Darnton, "Archives and Inference Documentary Evidence in Case Study Research and the Debate over U.S. Entry into World War II," *International Security* 42(3), 2018/18

Ashley Farmer, "Archiving While Black," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 22, 2018.

Marisa J. Fuentes, *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015).

Marisa J. Fuentes, "Power and Historical Figuring: Rachael Pringle Polgreen's Troubled Archive," *Gender & History* 22(3), 2010, 564-584.

Hyman Mariampolski and Dana C. Hughes, "The Use of Personal Documents in Historical Sociology," *The American Sociologist* 13(2), 1978, 104-113.

Hope M. Harrison, "Inside the SED Archives: A Researcher's Diary," 1992.

Robert H. Lieshot, Mathieu L. L. Segers, and Anna M. van der Vleuten, "De Gaulle, Moravcsik and The Choice for Europe: Soft Sources, Weak Evidence." *Journal of Cold War Studies* 6(4), 2004, 89–139.

Andrew Moravcsik, "Did Power Politics Cause European Integration? Realist Theory Meets Qualitative Methods," *Security Studies*, 22(4), 2013, 773-790.

October 8: Theoretical concepts in historical research

Required

Paul Pierson, *Politics in Time: History, Institutions, and Social Analysis*, pp. 17-102; 133-166.

Giovanni Capoccia, "Critical Junctures," in *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism*.

Dan Slater and Erica Simmons, "Informative Regress: Critical Antecedents in Comparative Politics," *Comparative Political Studies* 43(7), 2010, 886-917.

Anna Grzymala-Busse, "Time Will Tell? Temporality and the Analysis of Causal Mechanisms and Processes," *Comparative Political Studies* 44(9), 2011, 1267-1297.

Tulia G. Falleti and Julia F. Lynch, "Context and Causal Mechanisms in Political Analysis," *Comparative Political Studies* 42(9), 1143-1166.

Recommended

Hillel David Soifer, "The Causal Logic of Critical Junctures," *Comparative Political Studies* 45(12), 2012, 1572-1597

Collier, David and Gerardo L. Munck, eds. (2017). "Symposium on Critical Junctures and Historical Legacies." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 15(1) : 1-47.

David Collier and Gerardo L. Munck, "Critical Junctures Project," <http://www.critical-juncture.net>

Capoccia, Giovanni, and R. Daniel Kelemen. 2007. "The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism." *World Politics* 59(3): 341-369.

James Mahoney, "Path Dependence in Historical Sociology," *Theory and Society* 29, 2000, 507-548.

B. Guy Peters, Jon Pierre, and Desmond S. King, "The Politics of Path Dependency: Political Conflict in Historical Institutionalism," *Journal of Politics* 67(4), 2005, 1275-1300.

Scott E. Page, "Path Dependence," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 1, 2006, 87-115.

Thomas Rizen and Lora Anne Viola, "Putting Path Dependence in its Place: Toward a Taxonomy of Institutional Change," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 27(2), 2015, 301-323.

Michael Bernhard, "Chronic Instability and the Limits of Path Dependence," *Perspectives on Politics* 13(4), 2015, 976-991.

October 15: Case studies

Required

Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Science*.

Jason Seawright and John Gerring, "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options," *Political Research Quarterly* 61(2), 2008, 294-308.

James Mahoney and Gary Goertz, "The Possibility Principle: Choosing Negative Cases in Comparative Research," *American Political Science Review* 98(4), 2004, 653-669.

Michael Armato and Neal Caren. 2002. "Mobilizing the Single-Case Study: Doug McAdam's Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970." *Qualitative Sociology* 25(1):93-103.

Recommended

If you're planning to do case study research, you should be generally familiar with the relevant arguments from King, Keohane, and Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*, as well as disagreements with their framework found in sources like Brady and Collier, eds., *Rethinking Social Inquiry*. See also W. Phillips Shively, "Case Selection: Insights from "Rethinking Social Inquiry," *Political Analysis* 14(3), 2006, 344-347.

The most common alternative to George and Bennett is John Gerring, *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*, which might be of interest as well.

For shorter treatments by Gerring, see:

- John Gerring, "What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good for?," *American Political Science Review* 98 (2), 2004.
- John Gerring, "The Case Study: What it is and What it Does," *Oxford Handbook of Political Science*, 2011

Edwin Amenta, "Making the Most of An Historical Case Study: Configuration, Sequencing, and Casing and the U.S. Old-Age Pension Movement," in David Byrne and Charles C. Ragin, eds., *The SAGE Handbook of Case-Based Methods*, (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2009)

Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman, "Complex Causal Relations and Case Study Methods: The Example of Path Dependence," *Political Analysis* 14, 2006, 250-267.

James Mahoney and Rodrigo Barrenechea, "The Logic of Counterfactual Analysis in Case-Study Explanation," *British Journal of Sociology*, 2017.

October 22: Process tracing methodology

Required

Derek Beach and Rasmus Brun Pedersen, *Process-Tracing Methods: Foundations and Guidelines*

David Waldner, "What Makes Process Tracing Good?," in Andrew Bennett and Jeffrey T. Checkel, eds., *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014). [Blackboard]

Christine Trampusch and Bruno Palier, "Between X and Y: How Process Tracing Contributes to Opening the Black Box of Causality," *New Political Economy* 21(5), 2016, 437-454.

Colin Hay, "Process Tracing: A Laudable Aim or a High-Tariff Methodology?," *New Political Economy* 21(5), 2016, 500-504.

Recommended

Andrew Bennett and Jeffrey T. Checkel, eds., *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), especially introductory chapter for overview.

James Mahoney, "The Logic of Process Tracing Tests in the Social Sciences," *Sociological Methods & Research* 41(4), 2012, 570-597

Tulia G. Falleti, "Process Tracing of Extensive and Intensive Processes," *New Political Economy* 21(5), 2016, 455-462.

- See also the rest of this special issue of *New Political Economy* on the topic of process tracing

David Collier, "Understanding Process Tracing," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44(4), 2011, 823-830.

Ingo Rohlfing, "Comparative Hypothesis Testing Via Process Tracing," *Sociological Methods & Research* 43(4), 2014, 606-642.

Adrian Kay and Phillip Baker, "What Can Causal Process Tracing Offer to Policy Studies? A Review of the Literature," *Policy Studies Journal* 43(1), 2015

"Process Tracing: A Symposium," *Security Studies* 24(2), 2015, 199-250.

David Waldner, "Process Tracing and Causal Mechanisms," in *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Social Science*.

Jacob I. Ricks and Amy H. Liu, "Process-Tracing Research Designs: A Practical Guide," *PS: Political Science & Politics*, Forthcoming.

October 29: Examples of qualitative historical research

Required

Readings for this week TBD

November 5: Tensions/overlap between quantitative and qualitative approaches to historical research

Required

APSR debate on the origins of proportional representation:

- Marcus Kreuzer, “Historical Knowledge and Quantitative Analysis: The Case of the Origins of Proportional Representation,” *American Political Science Review* 104(2), 2010, 369-392.
- Thomas Cusack, Torben Iversen, and David Soskice, “Coevolution of Capitalism and Political Representation: The Choice of Electoral Systems,” *American Political Science Review* 104(2), 2010, 393-403.
- Carles Boix, “Electoral Markets, Party Strategies, and Proportional Representation,” *American Political Science Review* 104(2), 2010, 404-413.

Selections from *Studies in APD* special issue on DW-NOMINATE and historical context:

- David Bateman and John Lapinski, “Ideal Points and American Political Development: Beyond DW-NOMINATE,” *Studies in American Political Development* 30(2), 2016, 147-171.
- Frances E. Lee, “Patronage, Logrolls, and 'Polarization': Congressional Parties of the Gilded Age, 1876–1896,” *Studies in American Political Development* 30(2), 2016, 116-127.
- Richard Bense, “Lost in Translation: An Epistemological Exploration of the Relation between Historical Analysis and the NOMINATE Algorithm,” *Studies in American Political Development* 30(2), 2016, 185-201.

Alberto Simpser, Dan Slater, and Jason Wittenberg, “Dead But Not Gone: Contemporary Legacies of Communism, Imperialism, and Authoritarianism,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 21, 2018, 419-439.

Ajay Verghese, “Colonialism, Landlords, and Public Goods Provision in India: A Controlled Comparative Analysis,” *Journal of Development Studies*, 2018.

Trevon D. Logan, “A Time (Not) Apart: A Lesson in Economic History from Cotton Picking Books,” *Review of Black Political Economy* 42(4), 2015, 301-322

Recommended

Evan S. Lieberman, “Bridging the Qualitative-Quantitative Divide: Best Practices in the Development of Historically Oriented Replication Databases,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 13, 2010, 37-59.

November 12: Mixed methods/multi-method research

Required

Jason Seawright, *Multi-Method Social Science: Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Tools*

Evan Lieberman, “Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research,” *American Political Science Review* 99(3), 2005, 435-452.

Amel Ahmed and Rudra Sil, “When Multi-Method Research Subverts Methodological Pluralism—or, Why We Still Need Single-Method Research,” *Perspectives on Politics* 10(4), 2012, 935-953.

Recommended

Gary Goertz, *Multimethod Research, Causal Mechanisms, and Case Studies: An Integrated Approach*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017).

“Symposium on Qualitative and Multimethod Research,” *Security Studies* 25(1), 2016, 1-49.

Marco Luis Small, “How to Conduct a Mixed Methods Study: Recent Trends in a Rapidly Growing Literature,” *Annual Review of Sociology* 37, 2011, 57-86.

November 19: No class (Thanksgiving break)

November 26: Examples of mixed methods research (and a little on the recent transparency debate)

Mixed methods research in practice:

- Multi-method research is especially conducive to book-length manuscripts, so to explore what mixed methods work looks like in practice, each member of the class will select one book in advance, write a review, and prepare an informal presentation on how the author(s) used a mixed methods strategy to answer their research questions: Was it effective? What were the strengths of the approach? Any weaknesses? How might the results have been different had the author(s) only relied on a single method?

We will spend most of our class session discussing the mixed methods books that people read, but we'll also discuss what transparency looks like in qualitative historical research.

Here are a few short readings on transparency:

Required

- Andrew Moravcsik, “Active Citation: A Precondition for Replicable Qualitative Research,” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 43(1), 2010, 29-35.

- Jack Snyder, “Active Citation: In Search of Smoking Guns or Meaningful Context?,” *Security Studies* 23(4), 2014, 708-714.
- Marc Trachtenberg, “Transparency in Practice: Using Written Sources,” *Qualitative & Multi-Method Research*, 2015, 13-17.
- Nikhar Gaikwad, Veronica Herrera, and Robert Mickey, “Research with Text-Based Sources: Draft Report of QTD Working Group II.1”

Recommended

“Research Transparency in Security Studies: A Symposium,” *Security Studies* 23(4), 2014, 657-714.

Sean Yom, “From Methodology to Practice: Inductive Iteration in Comparative Research,” *Comparative Political Studies* 48(5), 2015, 616-644.

December 3: Presentations