



Seminar

Methods of comparison: implications for research and policy evaluation

Summer Semester 2006
Institute for Political Science
Eberhard-Karls University of Tübingen
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Instructor: Dorian R. Woods
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Office hours: Thursday 11.00 - 12.00

Student level: students in Magister program in Hauptstudium
students in Master program VPF: Seminar M 4

Blockseminar times: Friday, 28. April 2006, 11.00 - 13.00
Friday, 19. May 2006, 11.00 - 13.00
Block I Friday, 16. June 2006, 18.00 - 21.30
Saturday, 17. June 2006, 9.00 - 15.00
Block II Friday, 21. July 2006, 18.00 - 21.30
Saturday, 22. July 2006, 9.00 - 17.00

Class Goals

The goal of this class is to understand and apply the comparative method in political science research. Special attention will be applied to the implications of research design on resulting explanations of origin and development of policy reform, but other areas of political inquiry are welcome. In the first block (16. - 17. June) we will concentrate on types of theoretical models of comparison. Here the goal of the seminar is to have a good grasp of:

- Overall types of comparative methodological designs
- General problems and solutions posed in methodical designs
- Approaches and opinions of various authors
- Central theoretical methodological terminology

In the second block (21. - 22. July) we apply theoretical approaches to hands-on research design. Here it is important for students to reflect on research methods applied to a research project of their own. The specific design of projects will be discussed and reviewed for methodological consistencies with special attention to the research question. Outside projects from students are welcome: for example, preparation for a Magister-Arbeit, preparation for an expose for a research project, comparative research preparation for a Hausarbeit, etc.

Requirements for a "Schein"

Important for the class is a thorough readings of texts with regular attendance and active participation in discussions. I also ask that students come to me during my office hours to discuss their presentations and research objectives. A "Schein" will be awarded after the following conditions have been fulfilled:

- 1) A thorough reading of required texts: Mill (1874), Patzelt (2005), Peters (1998), Satori (1991), Skocpol/Somers (1980).
- 2) A summary 2-3 page paper of an additional chosen theoretical text, to be posted on our ILIAS platform by Thursday, June 8th by midnight (25% of grade).
- 3) Preparation and organization of a learning unit for Block I, related to the student's chosen text (25% of grade).
- 4) A summary 2-3 page paper (answering questions to research project) to be to be posted on our ILIAS platform by Thursday, July 13th by midnight (25% of grade).
- 5) Preparation and organization of a learning unit in Block II, related to student's research project (25% of grade).

Required Readings:

Mill, John Stuart (1874): A System of Logic. Rational and Inductive, New York, Chapter VII of Observation and Experiment & Chapter VIII Of the Four Methods of Experimental Inquiry, 272-291.

Patzelt, Werner J. (2005): Wissenschaftstheoretische Grundlagen sozialwissenschaftlichen Vergleichs, in: Kropp, Sabine/Minkenber, Michael (Hrsg.) Vergleichen in der Politikwissenschaft. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 16-54.

Peters, B. Guy (1998): Comparative Politics. Theory and Practice, London chapter 2, 28-57.

Satori, Giovanni (1991): Comparing and Miscomparing, in: Journal of Theoretical Politics 3 (3), 243-257.

Skocpol, Theda/Somers, Margaret (1980): The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry, in: Comparative Studies in Society and History XXII, 174-197.

Additional Readings (to be selected for a summary paper and presentation):

Janoski, Thomas/Hicks, A. (1994): Methodological Innovations in Comparative Political Economy, in Janoski, Tomas/Hicks, A. (Hrsg.) *The Comparative Political Economy of the Welfare State*, Cambridge, 1-17.

King, Gary/ Keohane, Robert O. Verba, Sidney (1994): *Designing Social Inquiry*, Princeton, 3-34.

Lipjhart, Arendt (1971): Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method, in *American Political Science Review*, LXIV (3), 682-693.

Lijphart, Arend (1975): The Comparative-cases Strategy in Comparative Research, in *Comparative Political Studies* 8 (2), 158-177.

Przeworski, Adam/Teune, Henery (1970): The logic of comparative social inquiry, *Malabar*, Chapter 1, 2, 17-46.

Ragin, Charles (1987): *The Comparative Method*, Berkeley, Chapters 1, 3, 4, 1-18, und 34-68.

Ragin, Charles C. und John Sonnett (2005): Between Complexity and Parisimony: Limited Diversity, Counterfactual Cases and Comparative Analysis, in: Kropp, Sabine/Minkenberg, Michael (Hrsg.) *Vergleichen in der Politikwissenschaft*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 180-197.

Schmid, Josef (1997): Zwischen politischer Macht und Nächstenliebe – Zur Topographie von Wohlfahrtsverbänden in westeuropäischen Vergleich, in: Aleuen, U.v./Wessels, B. (Hrsg.) *Vergleich in vergleichender Perspektive. Beiträge zu einem vernachlässigtem Feld*. Berlin, WZB, 83-105.

Skocpol, Theda (1979): *States and Social Revolution. A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China*. Cambridge, Chapter 1, 3-43.

Waldmann, Peter (1992): *Ethnischer Radikalismus. Ursachen und Folgen gewaltsamer Minderheitenkonflikte am Beispiele des Baskenlandes, Nordirlands und Quebecs*, 13-37.

Related Literature (for interest or expanding presentations):

Schmidt, Manfred G. (1997): Vergleichende Policy Forschung. In Berg-Schlosser, Dirk und Ferdinand Müller-Rommel (Hrsg.) *Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft. Ein einführendes Studienhandbuch*, Opladen: Leske und Budrich, 207-221.

Skocpol, Theda (1989): Emerging Agendas and Recurrent Strategies in Historical Sociology, in: Skocpol, Theda (Hrsg.): *Vision and Method in Historical Sociology*, 356-386.

Maurice, Marc (1991): Methodological Aspekte internationaler Vergleiche: Zum Ansatz des gesellschaftlichen Effekts. In: Heidenreich, Martin und Schmidt, Gart (Hrsg.) *International vergleichende Organisationsforschung*, 82-105.

Aarebrot, Frank H. und Pal H. Bakka (1997): Die Vergleichende Methode in der Politikwissenschaft. In Berg-Schlosser, Dirk und Ferdinand Müller-Rommel (Hrsg.) Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft. Ein einführendes Studiumhandbuch, Opladen: Leske und Budrich, 49-66.

Ganghof, Steffen (2005): Kausale Perspektiven in der vergleichenden Politikwissenschaft: X-zentrierte und y-zentrierte Forschungsdesigns. in: Kropp, Sabine/Minkenberg, Michael (Hrsg.): Vergleichen in der Politikwissenschaft. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 76-93.

Jahn, Detlef (2005). Fälle, Fallstricke und die komparative Methode in der vergleichenden Politikwissenschaft. in: Kropp, Sabine/Minkenberg, Michael (Hrsg.): Vergleichen in der Politikwissenschaft. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 55- 75.

Berg-Schlosser und Ferdinand Müller-Rommel (1997): Einführung Entwicklung und Stellenwert der Vergleichenden Politikwissenschaft. In Berg-Schlosser, Dirk und Ferdinand Müller-Rommel (Hrsg.): Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft. Ein einführendes Studienhandbuch, Opladen: Leske und Budrich, 11-22.

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Blockseminar schedule:

Friday, 28. April 2006, 11-13:00
(Room 021)

Introduction

Friday, 19. May 2006, 11-13:00
(Room 021)

Overview of methods and
presentation distribution

[Thursday, 8. June 2006 2-3 page summary paper of article due]

Block I: Theories of Comparison

Presentations on:

Friday, 16. June 2006, 18-21:30
(Room 124)

Ragin (1987)

Saturday, 17. June 2006, 9-15:00
(Room 124)

Janoski/Hicks (1994)

Lipjhart (1971) (1975)

Przeworski/Tuene (1971)

Skocpol/Somers (1980)

Waldmann (1992) or Schmid (1997)

Skocpol (1979)

Ragin/Sonnet (2005)

*[Thursday, 13. July 2006 2-3 page summary paper of research
project due]*

Block II: Comparison in Practice

Friday, 21. July 2006, 18-21:30
(Room 124)

Student research projects

Saturday, 22. July 2006, 9-17:00
(Room 124)

Student research projects