Case Selection, Nesting and Mixed-methods (5 ECTS, to be held fall 2019)

The aim of this course is to introduce participants to the core principles of case selection and generalization strategies within both variance-based and case-based approaches. The course starts with the presentation of the core similarities and differences between the two approaches at the ontological level, focusing on the types of causal claims being made and the implications they have for case selection and generalization. The variance-based approach builds on counterfactual causal claims that are best assessed using experimental designs. In contrast, the case-based approach focuses on mechanistic causal claims that are best assessed by tracing their operation within individual cases. Therefore, variance-based approaches can be thought of as a form of ‘top-down’ approach because they provide evidence of mean causal effects of variables across many cases (i.e. within a population or sample thereof), whereas case-based approaches are ‘bottom-up’, taking individual cases as the analytical point of departure.

After exploring the ontological foundations of the two approaches, the course then introduces the state-of-the-art as regards case selection and generalization within the two approaches. For case-based approaches, we discuss the combination of rigorous comparisons that bound populations into relatively homogeneous sets using Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and the strategic selection of positive typical and deviant cases within these sets for in-depth Process-tracing analysis. For variance-based approaches, we discuss different techniques relating to the selection of representative cases, extreme, influential and outliers, along with matching techniques.

In the final session of the course, we discuss the prospects for multi-method research that bridges the two approaches, focusing on recent attempts to build multi-method approaches by Seawright (2016), and Humphrey and Jacobs (2015).

Tentative Schedule:

Day 1 – The foundations of case-based and variance-based approaches

Day 2 – Debating differences

Day 3 – The logic of case-based strategies for case selection and generalization

Day 4 – The logic of variance-based strategies for case selection and generalization

Day 5 – Combining standards across approaches in multi/mixed-methods designs?

Readings (indicative):

Beach, Derek (2019). Multi-Method Research in the Social Sciences: A Review of Recent Frameworks and a Way Forward. *Government and Opposition*, 1-20. doi:10.1017/gov.2018.53

Beach, Derek, and Rasmus Brun Pedersen (2019). *Process-tracing methods*. 2nd edition. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Clarke, B., D. Gillies, Phyllis Illari, Federica Russo, and Jon Williamson (2014). Mechanisms and the Evidence Hierarchy. *Topoi* 33 (2): 339–60.

Collier and Mahoney (1996). Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research. *World Politics*, Vol. 49, pp. 56-91.

Geddes, Barbara (1990). How the cases you choose affect the answers you get: selection bias in comparative politics. *Political Analysis*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 131-150.

Gerring, John, and Jason Seawright (2007). Techniques for Choosing Cases. In *Case Study Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 86–150.

Goertz, Gary, and James Mahoney (2012). *A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Humphreys, Macartan, and Alan Jacobs (2015). Mixing methods: A Bayesian approach. *American Political Science Review* 109(04):653–673.

Khosrowi, Donal (2019). Extrapolation of causal effects – hopes, assumptions, and the extrapolator’s circle. *Journal of Economic Methodology* 26(1): 45-58, DOI: 10.1080/1350178X.2018.1561078

Kuehn, David and Harold Trinkunas (2017). Conditions of Military Contestation in Populist Latin America. *Democratization* 24(5):859–880.

Schneider, Carsten Q., and Ingo Rohlfing (2016). Case Studies Nested in Fuzzy-Set QCA on Sufficiency: Formalizing Case Selection and Causal Inference. *Sociological Methods and Research* 45 (3): 526–68.

Seawright, Jason (2016). *Multi-Method Social Science.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.