



Process Tracing and Advanced Qualitative Methods: A Bayesian Approach

Workshop, 3rd term 2014-2015

Organized by **Pepper Culpepper**

with **Alan Jacobs (EUI Fernand Braudel Fellow/University of British Columbia)** and **Richard Maher (EUI - GGP)**

Please register with Martina Selmi (martina.selmi@eui.eu)

Topic

This workshop will introduce the logics of process tracing and of multi-method research as forms of Bayesian inference. Bayesian inference has become an increasingly common approach in the social sciences, and leading qualitative methodologists have pointed out that process tracing often has an underlying Bayesian logic.

The first half of the workshop comprises two lectures by Alan Jacobs. The first lecture will introduce Bayesian inference as a general approach, show how we can conceptualize process tracing in Bayesian terms, and demonstrate the considerable advantages of doing so. The second lecture will address the problem of drawing inferences for multiple forms of evidence in mixed-method research. Specifically, how can we bring together quantitative (correlational) and process-tracing data to generate an integrated set of causal findings about a research problem? The second lecture introduces a framework, grounded in Bayesian logic, which allows researchers to combine the inferential strength of qualitative and quantitative evidence in a systematic manner and, in doing so, to improve the basic inferential assumptions underlying each method. There are assigned readings that participants should read before the lectures in order to draw maximal benefit from them.

The third and fourth sessions, led by Richard Maher, will provide a seminar format for discussion of the pros and cons of the Bayesian approach, and in particular will allow participants to consider their own process-tracing strategies and whether such an approach might be fruitfully applied to their research strategies.

Requirements

This workshop is worth 10 credits.

All researchers taking the workshop for credit are asked to send a brief (1,500-word) description of their research to Richard Maher (Richard.Maher@eui.eu), specifying in particular the way that it will use process-tracing, **by Wednesday 13th May**.

Schedule

The workshop will take place between May 19th and May 22nd, 2015.

Please see below for the full list of sessions:

Session 1:	Tuesday 19 May	14:00 – 16:00	Seminar room 2
Session 2:	Wednesday 20 May	14:00 – 16:00	Seminar room 3
Session 3:	Thursday 21 May	10:00 – 13:00	Seminar room 3
Session 4:	Friday 22 May	10:00 – 13:00	Seminar room 3

Readings

On the general logic of process tracing

Hall, Peter A., 2003. "Aligning Ontology and Methodology in Comparative Politics." In *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, edited by James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 373-404

Collier, David, Henry E. Brady, and Jason Seawright. 2010. "Sources of Leverage in Causal Inference: Toward an Alternative View of Methodology." In *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, edited by Henry E. Brady and David Collier

On Bayesian process tracing

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

Bennett, Andrew. 2015. "Appendix." In *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*. Edited by Andrew Bennett and Jeffrey Checkel. New York: Cambridge University Press.

On multi-method research

Kreuzer, Marcus. 2010. "Historical Knowledge and Quantitative Analysis: The Case of the Origins of Proportional Representation." *American Political Science Review* 104 (5): **read only p. 378-end**

Humphreys, Macartan and Alan M. Jacobs. "Mixing Methods: A Bayesian Approach." *American Political Science Review* (forthcoming). (Supplementary Appendices are optional.)