



# Workshop: Process Tracing and Path Dependency in the Social Sciences

**3<sup>rd</sup> term 2016-2017**

**Organised by Stefano Bartolini and Anton Hemerijck**

Please register [online](#)

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## Description

Process tracing originated in psychology and more precisely in decision theory. The label has spread across all the social sciences and intense debate have taken place about its specific nature and its relationship with more traditional developmental and historical studies, on the one hand, and its differences with the variable oriented approach in statistical analysis. Path dependence theory was originally developed by economists to explain technology adoption processes and industry evolution. Even in this case, the concept and the associated methodological implications have spread throughout the social sciences. Process tracing and path dependency may be seen as a conceptual reformulation of traditional concerns or as innovative tools for the study of over-time development and the legacy of the past. This workshop primary goal is to critically review the main contributions of this literature in social and political science.

## Audience

The seminar is devoted to first and second year researchers, but everybody is welcome.

## Requirements

By choosing to take this class you are taking on the obligation to reading all the materials. This workshop is worth 10 credits.

## Schedule

Thursday 27 April 10-13 – 14-16

Friday 28 April 10-13 – 14-16

Room

Seminar Room 3

## Readings

### **Readings pertaining to Path Dependency’ (by year of publication)**

Mahoney, James (2000), ‘Path dependence in Historical Sociology’, *Theory and Society*, 29: 507-548.

Pierson, Paul (2000), ‘Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics’, *American Political science Review*, 94: 251-267.

Pierson, Paul (2000), ‘Not Just What, but *When*. Timing and Sequences in Political Processes’, *Studies in American political Development*, 14: 72-92.

Sydow, Jörg, Georg Schreyögg and Jochen Koch (2009), 'Organizational Path Dependence: Opening the Black Box', *The Academy of Management Review*, 34: 689-709

Boas, Taylor C. (2007), 'Conceptualizing Continuity and Change. The composite-Standard Model of Path Dependence', *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 19:33-54.

Vergne, J. and Durand, R. (2010). 'The missing link between the theory and empirics of path dependence: conceptual clarification, testability issue, and methodological implications', *Journal of Management Studies*, 47: 736–59.

Scharpf, Fritz W. (1997) Games Real Actor Play: actor-centered institutionalism in policy research", edited by Fritz W. Scharpf, Westview Press, 1997 (Introduction, Chapter 1 and 2)

### **Additional facultative readings (in alphabetical order)**

Brian, Arthur (1994), *Increasing Returns and Path dependence in the Economy*, Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press.

Greener I. (2002a), 'Theorising Path-dependency: How Does History Come to Matter in Organisations?', *Management Decision* 40(5/6), pp. 614–619.

Grzymala-Busse, Anna (2010), 'Time Will tell? Temporality and the Analysis of Causal Mechanisms and Processes' *Comparative Political Studies*, 20: 1-31.

Liebowitz, S. J. and S. E. Margolis (1995), 'Path Dependence, Lock-in , and History', *Journal of Law, Economics and Organizations*, 11: 205-226.

David, Paul A. (2007), 'Path dependence: a foundational concept for historical social science', *Cliometrica* (2007) 1:91–114.

Page, Scott (2006), 'Path dependence', *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 1: 86-115.

Raghu Garud, Arun Kumaraswamy and Peter Karnøe, (2010), 'Path Dependence or Path Creation?', *Journal of Management Studies* 47: 760-774.

G. Schreyögg, J. Sydow (eds.), (2010), *The Hidden Dynamics of Path Dependence: Institutions and Organizations*, London, Palgrave-Macmillan.

### **Readings pertaining to Process Tracing (by year of publication)**

Hall, P. (2008), 'Systematic Process Analysis: When and How to Use it (research article)', *European Political Science*, 7: 304-317.

Trampusch C. and Palier, B. (2016), 'Between X and Y: How process tracing contributes to opening the black box of causality', *New Political Economy*, Vol. 21; no. 5: 437-454.

Falleti, T.G. (2016), 'Process tracing of extensive and intensive processes', *New Political Economy*, Vol. 21; no. 5: 455-462.

Beach, D. (2016), 'It's all about mechanisms – what process-tracing studies should be tracing', in: *New Political Economy*, Vol. 21; no. 5: 463-472.

Mayntz, R. (2016), 'Process tracing, abstraction, and varieties of cognitive interest', in: *New Political Economy*, Vol. 21; no. 5: 484-488.

Bengtsson, B. and H. Ruonavaara (2017), 'Comparative Process Tracing: Making Historical Comparison Structured and Focused', *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, 47 (I): 44-66.

### **Additional facultative readings (in alphabetical order)**

Bennett, A., and J.T. Checkel (2015), *Process Tracing. From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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

Falleti, T.G. and J.F. Lynch (2009), 'Context and Causal Mechanisms in Political Analysis', *Comparative Political Studies*, 1143-1166.

Hall, P. (2013), 'Tracing the progress of process tracing (symposium)', *European Political Science*, 12: 20-30.

Hay, C. (2016), 'Process tracing: a laudible aim or a high-tariff methodology' in: *New Political Economy*, Vol. 21; no. 5: 500-504.

Kreuzer, M. (2016), 'Assessing causal inference problems with Bayesian process tracing: the economic effects of proportional representation and the problem of endogeneity', in: *New Political Economy*, Vol. 21; no. 5: 473-483.

Mahoney, J. (2016), 'Mechanisms, Bayesianism, and process tracing', in: *New Political Economy*, Vol. 21; no. 5: 493-499.

Mahoney, J. (2010), 'AFTER KKV. The New Methodology of Qualitative Research', *World Politics*, 62 (1), 120-147.

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