

SPS 3rd term workshop 2021-2022

Using Historical Data in Social Science

Instructors: Shubha Kamala Prasad and Takuya Onoda

Dates:

2 May 2022, 9:30 – 17:30, Seminar room 2

3 May 2022, 9:30 - 13:30, Seminar room 2

Credits: 10

Register [online](#)

Description:

Historical sources can provide insights for social scientists to understand a variety of phenomena. Particularly, archival methods offer access to rich historical data as primary sources. The aim of this workshop is to train researchers on both the practical dimension of how to gather data from archives as well as the analytical dimension of how to evaluate the data gathered. The first half of the workshop will explore how to identify archival materials that are relevant to their research, evaluate the means of access to these archives, undertake the actual process of data collection in archives, and store the information correctly. The second half of the workshop will cover innovative ways in which archival data can be used for qualitative or mixed methods research. In this section, we will draw upon examples of social science research that have used archives in their analyses and evaluate their merits and pitfalls. We will also cover how to store and use archival data in order to meet rigorous standards of transparency and replicability.

Additionally, the workshop will cover different archival contexts – from issues of access in countries in the Global South to sorting voluminous data in archives in Western Europe. We will invite international scholars for a discussion of their experiences in order to cover a breadth of approaches to diverse archival resources. The roundtable will take place on Zoom. We also intend to include a trip to the EU archives. The course will also explore how to handle online archival resources.

Sessions:

Each session will last 1 hour 30 minutes with coffee/tea or lunch breaks in-between.

Part I

Theoretical Reflections

Practical Considerations

Part II

Application and Analysis

Transparency

Roundtable with Experts

Trip to the Historical Archives of the EU

Readings:

Theoretical Reflections

- Ian S. Lustick, "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias," *American Political Science Review* 90, no. 3 (1996).
- Charles King, "Can There Be a Political Science of the Holocaust?" *Perspectives on Politics* 10, no. 2 (Jun. 2012): 323-341.
- James Mahoney and Daniel Schensul, "Historical Context and Path Dependence," in Robert E. Goodin and Charles Tilly, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political Analysis* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Practical Considerations

- Frisch, Scott A., Douglas B. Harris, Sean Q. Kelly, and David CW Parker, eds. *Doing Archival Research in Political Science*. Cambria Press, 2012.
- Schwartz-Shea, Peregrine, and Dvora Yanow. *Interpretive Research Design: Concepts and Processes*. Routledge, 2012. (Chapter 4)
- Trachtenberg, Marc. *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method*. Princeton University Press (2006), Chapter 6.
- Thies, Cameron G. "A pragmatic guide to qualitative historical analysis in the study of international relations." *International Studies Perspectives* 3, no. 4 (2002): 351-372.

Application and Analysis

- Introduction to the *Journal of Peace Research Special Issue on Conflict Archives* (2018).
- Moravcsik, Andrew. "De Gaulle between grain and grandeur: the political economy of French EC policy, 1958–1970 (part 2)." *Journal of Cold War Studies* 2, no. 3 (2000): 4-68.
- Lieshout, Robert H., Mathieu LL 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, no. 4 (2004): 89-139.
- Cusack, Thomas, Torben Iversen, and David Soskice. "Coevolution of capitalism and political representation: The choice of electoral systems." *American Political Science Review* 104, no. 2 (2010): 393-403.
- Kreuzer, M. (2010). Historical knowledge and quantitative analysis: The case of the origins of proportional representation. *American Political Science Review*, 104(2), 369-392.

Transparency

- Gaikwad, Nikhar and Herrera, Veronica and Mickey, Robert, Text-Based Sources (February 12, 2019). American Political Science Association Organized Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Qualitative Transparency Deliberations, Working Group Final Reports, Report II.1 (December 2018), Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3332891> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3332891>
- Bennett, Andrew and Fairfield, Tasha and Soifer, Hillel David, Comparative Methods and Process Tracing (February 12, 2019). American Political Science Association Organized Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Qualitative Transparency Deliberations, Working Group Final Reports, Report III.1 (January 2019) , Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3333405> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3333405>