

Political Science 204A, Fall 2018

Research Design

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Meetings: Friday 9:00-11:50am; Social Sciences Building Room 104  
Instructor: Karen Ferree [keferree@ucsd.edu](mailto:keferree@ucsd.edu)  
Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30, SSB 390

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The primary text for this course is Trochim, William and James P. Donnelly. 2007. *The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 3rd Edition*. Cincinnati, OH, Atomic Dog Publishing.

Also recommended (purchase or borrow):

- Dunning, Thad. 2012. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- John Gerring. 2007. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (This is available on-line through the library).

Most other readings will be available on the TED website for the course.

You are expected to read all assigned materials and to be prepared to discuss them at the class meeting for which they are assigned. Most weeks have lecture and discussion sections, but a few have only one or the other. There are three assignments for the course, due as noted on the syllabus below. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** The first assignment will be worth 20% of your total grade, the second and third will both be worth 30%, and the remaining 20% will be based on your participation in classroom discussions.

**Week 1 (September 28): The Scientific Method. (Lecture only).**

Lecture reading:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 1
2. Curd, Martin and J. A. Cover. 1998. *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues*. New York: W. W. Norton. Chapters by Ruse, pp.38-47, Hempel and Snyder, pp.445-480.
3. King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1.
4. Friedman, Milton, 1953. The Methodology of Positive Economics, in *Essays in Positive Economics* by Milton Friedman.
5. Weingast, Barry. 1979. A Rational Choice Perspective on Congressional Norms. *American Journal of Political Science* 23: 245-62.

**Week 2 (October 5): Observation, Measurement, and Construct Validity**

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim and Donnelly, Chapter 3 (skip 3-1d through 3-1g).
2. King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapter 5, section 5.1 on measurement error.
3. Cook, Thomas D. and Donald T. Campbell. 1979. *Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Pages 59-70.

4. Adcock, Robert and David Collier. 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *American Political Science Review* 95(3), September: 529-546.

Discussion Readings: (focus on measurement strategies)

1. Fenno, Richard. US House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration. Reprinted in Weisberg et al.
2. Gastil, Raymond. 1986. Freedom in the World: Political Rights and Civil Liberties, 1985-1986. New York: Greenwood Press. Pp. 3-30.
3. James H. Fowler and Sangick Jeon, 2008, "The Authority of Supreme Court Precedent," *Social Networks* 30: 16-30.
4. Cottler, Linda B., Shaun Ajinkya, Bruce A. Goldberger, Mohammad Asrar Ghani, David M Martin, Hui Hu, Mark S. Gold. 2014. "Prevalence of drug and alcohol use in urban Afghanistan: epidemiological data from the Afghanistan National Urban Drug Use Study (ANUDUS)." *Lancet Global Health* 2014; 2: e592-600.
5. King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. 2013. How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression. *American Political Science Review* 107(2): 1-18.

**Assignment 2: Assess the validity and reliability of the IRIS dataset on quality of governance (ICRG), to be provided. Due October 12, 2018.**

**Week 3 (October 12): Sampling and External Validity (Lecture Only)**

Lecture Readings:

1. Fowler, Floyd J. 2009. *Survey Research Methods*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage. Chapters 1-3.
2. Trochim. Chapter 2.
3. Beber, Bernd, Philip Roessler, and Alexandra Scacco. 2013. "Intergroup Violence and Political Attitudes: Evidence from a Dividing Sudan." Unpublished manuscript.

**Week 4 (October 19): Causal Inference; Introduction to Experiments (Lecture Only)**

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim. Chapter 7 (skip 161-171); Chapter 9; Chapter 12, pp. 253-260.
2. Gertler, Paul et al. 2011. *Impact Evaluation in Practice*. Chapter 3. Washington, DC: World Bank.
3. Cook, Thomas D. and Donald T. Campbell. 1979. *Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Ch.s 1 and 2, pp. 37-50.

**Week 5 (October 26): Randomized Controlled Trials**

Lecture Readings:

1. Gertler, Paul et al. 2011. *Impact Evaluation in Practice*. Chapter 4. Washington, DC: World Bank.
2. Duflo, Esther Rachel Glennerster and Michael Kremer. 2008. "Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit." Chapter 61 in *Handbook of Development Economics*, Vol. 4.

3. Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2009. "Field Experiments and the Political Economy of Development." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12:367-78.

Discussion Readings:

1. Dammert, Ana C, Jose C Galdo, and Virgilio Galdo. 2014. "Preventing Dengue Through Mobile Phones: Evidence From a Field Experiment in Peru." *Journal of health economics* 35: 147–61.
2. Olken, Ben. 2007. "Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia." *Journal of Political Economy*. 115(2): 200-250.

**Week 6 (November 2): Survey Experiments**

Lecture Readings

1. Mutz, Diana C. *Population Based Survey Experiments*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-4.
2. Barabas, Jason, and Jennifer Jerit. 2010. "Are Survey Experiments Externally Valid?" *American Political Science Review* 104(2): 226-42.

Discussion Readings

1. **ADD ARTICLE**
2. Frye, Timothy. 2006. "Original Sin, Good Works, and Property Rights in Russia." *World Politics* 58(4): 479-504.

**Assignment 2: Design an experiment; Discuss sampling strategies and power considerations. Due November 9.**

**Week 7 (November 9): Natural Experiments**

Lecture Readings

1. Dunning, Thad. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences*. Chapters 1-5 and 8.
2. Trochim. Chapter 10, pp. 215-222.
3. Gertler, Paul et al. 2011. *Impact Evaluation in Practice*. Chapter 5. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Discussion Readings

1. Duflo, Esther and Raghavendra Chattopadhyay. 2004. "Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India." *Econometrica* 72(5): 1409-1443.
2. Blattman, Christopher. 2009. "From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda." *American Political Science Review* 103(2): 231-247.
3. Lemieux, Thomas and Kevin Milligan. 2008. "Incentive Effects of Social Assistance: A Regression Discontinuity Approach." *Journal of Econometrics* 142: 807–828.
4. Miguel, Edward, Shankar Satyanath, and Ernest Sergenti. "Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict: An Instrumental Variables Approach." *Journal of Political Economy*, 2004, 112(4): 725-753.

**Week 8 (November 16): Quasi Experiments**

Lecture Readings:

1. Trochim. Chapter 7 161-171, Chapter 10 (except 215-222).

2. Cook and Campbell. Chapters 3 (skip RDD), 5.
3. Gertler, Paul et al. 2011. *Impact Evaluation in Practice*. Chapters 6 and 7. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Discussion Readings:

1. Donald T. Campbell et al., "Connecticut Crackdown on Speeding," *Law and Society Review*, 1968.
2. Jalan, Jyotsna and Martin Ravallion. "Does Piped Water Reduce Diarrhea for Children in Rural India?" *Journal of Econometrics* 112 (2003) 153 – 173.
3. Bellows, John and Edward Miguel. 2009. "War and local collective action in Sierra Leone." *Journal of Public Economics* 93: 1144-1157.
4. Futch, Michael Douglas, and Craig Thomas McIntosh. 2009. "Tracking the Introduction of the Village Phone Product in Rwanda." *Information Technologies & International Development* 5(3): 54–81.

**November 23: Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class.**

**Week 9 (November 30): Causal Inference and Case Selection in Small n Designs**

Lecture Readings

1. Gerring, John. 2007. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2, 5.
2. King, Keohane, and Verba, Chapters 4 and 6.

Discussion Readings:

1. Lieberman, Evan S. 2003. *Race and Regionalism in the Politics of Taxation in Brazil and South Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 4.
2. Posner, Daniel N. 2004. The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi. *American Political Science Review* 98, 4 (November): 529-545.

**Week 10 (December 7): Mixed Methods Designs/Wrap-up**

Lecture:

1. Dunning, Chapter 7.
2. Gerring, John. 2007. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3 and 7.
3. Rao, Vijayendra and Michael Woolcock. "Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches in Program Evaluation."
4. Freedman, David. 1991. "Statistical Models and Shoe Leather." *Sociological Methodology*, Vol. 21: 291-313.

Discussion:

1. Jamison, Julian, Dean Karlan, and Pia Raffler. "Mixed Method Evaluation of a Passive Mhealth Sexual Information Texting Service in Uganda." *Working Paper*: 36.
2. Haggard, Stephan, and Robert R. Kaufman. 2012. "Inequality and Regime Change: Democratic Transitions and the Stability of Democratic Rule." *American Political Science Review* 106(3): 495-516.
3. Any other papers we did not get to earlier in quarter, or you want to talk about.

**Assignment 3: Design a mixed methods project that involves a large n natural or quasi experiment and one or more case studies. Due December 14.**