

Short Course 1: Multi-Method Research

Co-Sponsors: Qualitative Methods and International History and Politics Sections

Contact Person: Professor Colin Elman, CQRM, c/o Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs,
Maxwell School, 346 Eggers Hall, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
13244-1020
E: consortium@asu.edu P: 480.965.6551

Registration: Faculty - \$10; Grad Students - \$5
Check should be made out to CQRM and send to Prof. Colin Elman.

Time: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: On the premises of the APSA Annual Meeting

Instructors: David Collier, Henry E. Brady, and Jody LaPorte, UC Berkeley
Jason Seawright, Northwestern University
Thad Dunning, Yale University

Attention has increasingly focused on how qualitative methods can be linked to other analytic tools, including large-N quantitative analysis and field experiments. To this end, methodologists have urged scholars to “nest” their case studies within a larger quantitative analysis (Lieberman; also Laitin) and to link quantitative data-set observations with qualitative causal-process observations (Brady, Collier, and Seawright). Given that many political scientists are now convinced that good research necessarily employs multiple methodologies, how can different approaches be combined to maximize analytic leverage? How useful are the multi-method techniques noted above? What other procedures are available to political scientists? What are the pitfalls associated with multi-method approaches? Do they sometimes involve using multiple methodological tools poorly, rather than one tool with greater skill?

This short course will include discussions of most of the following topics:

- a. The contribution of qualitative evidence to specifying statistical models.
- b. Conceptual confusion and causal inference.
- c. Regression matching designs and regression discontinuity designs.
- d. Contextualized Comparison.
- e. Conceptions of causation: common ground for qualitative and quantitative researchers.
- f. Case selection in qualitative research.
- g. Natural Experiments, instrumental variables, and the critical role of qualitative evidence.

Short Course 1 (continued)

Background Readings

Brady, Henry E., and David Collier, eds. (2004). *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield). See, for example, Brady, Collier, and Seawright, "Sources of Leverage in Causal Inference" (chap. 13); and Sidney Tarrow, "Bridging the Quantitative- Qualitative Divide" (chap. 10).

Brady, Henry E. (2008, forthcoming). Causation and Explanation in Social Sciences." In Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press.)

Collier, David and Colin Elman. 2008. "Qualitative and Multi-Method Research: Organizations, Publications and Reflections on Integration." In Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press.)

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2008. "Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods. In Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press.)

Gerring, John. 2008. "Case Selection for Case Study Analysis: Qualitative and Quantitative Techniques." In Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, and David Collier, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press.)

Laitin, David D. (2002). "Comparative Politics: The State of the Subdiscipline," in Ira Katznelson and Helen V. Milner, eds., *Political Science: State of the Discipline* (New York: Norton).

Lieberman, Evan (2005). "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research," *American Political Science Review* 99, No. 3 (August): 435-452.