

Ph.D. Elective Paper-4

Research Design and Methods in International Relations

Course Objectives

The overarching course objective is for each student to

1. understand the terminology of social science research.
2. identify the components of a research design.
3. be familiar with basic methods commonly used in International Relations.
4. develop research questions and apply appropriate methods for research.
5. be aware of the ethical principles and challenges of social science research.

Syllabus Structure

Unit-I: Understanding IR: Theories and Approaches

- Major concepts, scope, and nature of International Relations and Area Studies
- Theories: Realist, Liberal, Marxist and Critical Theories of IR and Area Studies
- • Approaches: Western and Non-Western

Unit-II: Logic of Inquiry in IR Research

- Epistemologies: Empiricism & Social Constructivism

Unit-III: Understanding the Methodology

- Clusters of methodology: qualitative & quantitative
- Research Design –I: Qualitative
- Research Design-II: Quantitative

Unit-IV: Understanding the Method

- Case Study Method-I: Definition and Case Selection
- Case Study Method-II: Process tracing and Theory Building
- Data Processing and Discourse analysis

Course Outcomes

After successfully completing the course, students should be able to:

CO1: understand how to design a qualified International Relation research project,

CO2: read and evaluate existing IR scholarship,

CO3: orient themselves within the IR academic community and participate meaningfully in the on-going debates,

CO4: understand the basics of the most common statistical methods used in IR,

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CO5:comprehend interpretivist and critical social research projects and acquire basic interpretive analytical skills

Suggested Reading List

- Neuman, W. Lawrence (2014): 'Why Do Research?' in: Neuman, W. Lawrence (ed.): Social Research Methods Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches. Essex: Pearson. (pp. 1-24)
- Zinnes, Dina A. (1980): Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher. International Studies Quarterly, 24 (3): 315-42.

Suggested further readings

- Weber, Max (1946): 'Science as a Vocation,' in: Gerth, H.H. and C. Wright Mills (eds.): From Max
- Weber: Essays in Sociology. New York: Oxford University Press. (pp. 129-156)
- Lobo-Guerrero, Luis (2013): 'Wondering as Research Attitude,' in: Mutlu, Can E. and Mark B.
- Salter (eds.): Research Methods in Critical Security Studies. London: Routledge. (pp. 25-28).
- Babbie, Earl (2011): The Basics of Social Research. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. (pp. 3-10)
- Della Porta, Donatella and Michael Keating (2008): 'How Many Approaches in the Social Sciences?
- An Epistemological Introduction,' in: dellaPorta, Donatella and Michael Keating (eds.): Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (pp. 19-25)
- Almond, Gabriel A. and Stephen J. Genco (1977): Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics. World Politics, 29 (4): 489-522.
- Albert, Hans (2015): Karl Popper, Critical Rationalism, and the Positivist Dispute. Journal of Classical Sociology, 15 (2): 209-219

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