Research Design

Time: Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – noon (until Christmas)
Room: SH 2.105
Modules: PW-MA-1, IS-MA-1, SOZ-MA-7, SOZ-MA-8, WF-MA-6
Open for: MEAS students
Registration: through LSF (only for organizational purposes; see the information there)
Information: Lars Lossau (student assistant, lossau@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)

The success of a research project also depends on its design. Often, the preparatory decisions already define which purposes a research project can fulfil. Therefore, design considerations are an important and decisive step of every research project. The objectives of this course are to introduce the participants to the social science literature on research design topics and to give an overview of contemporary methodological debates, since, in both political science and sociology, methodology is an important sub-discipline. This course is empirically oriented, with a strong focus on (comparative) case study research. Nevertheless, all empirical researchers (no matter whether qualitatively or quantitatively oriented) can benefit from the course. Interpretative or mainly normatively or theoretically oriented research designs will not be taught. Note that, due to the instructor’s formation, many (though not all) examples will be from political science. Nevertheless, students of sociology are highly welcome to this course, as well!

Course organization: The course will be held in English and ends before the Christmas break. The course program indicates three types of readings: a textbook reading (the participants can decide whether and when to read it); a methodological discussion text (which has to be read before class); and an application (which also has to be read before class). All readings will be made available through OLAT. Note that there are also readings for the first session which will be circulated via e-mail.

Credits for active class participation (3 CPs = workload of 90 hours): (1) presence in 80% of the sessions (attendance lists). Note that a presence which is characterized by excessive use of private online devices will not be counted. (2) participation in a group presentation of one of the application texts, plus 1-page summary (to be handed in before the presentation). (3) a 3-to-5 pages review of the research design of a published article (not yet covered in the course) (deadline: 14 January 2018, hardcopy printout, secretariat PEG 2.G 135).

Full credits ("Modulabschlussprüfung", additional 5 CPs = additional workload of 150 hours): a 15-to-20 pages paper which either deals with a methodological issue addressed in the course, using literature beyond the syllabus, or which presents an own (also fictive) research design, using the course materials (deadline: 31 March 2018, hardcopy printout, secretariat PEG 2.G 135). Grades can be expected by 31 May 2018.

Office hours: Tuesdays, 3 – 4 p.m., PEG 3.G 124. Please register: methoden-qualitativ@soz.uni-frankfurt.de.
## Course Schedule and Readings:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Textbook text (optional)</th>
<th>Discussion Text</th>
<th>Application Text</th>
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<tr>
<td>31 Oct 2017</td>
<td>Holiday: no class</td>
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