

GOVERNMENT 2009: METHODS OF POLITICAL ANALYSIS

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Course Meets: Wednesday 2-4

The object of this course is to familiarize those planning to undertake an empirical inquiry, such as a doctoral dissertation, with the principal challenges facing those doing empirical research in the social sciences and some of the methods available for coping with these challenges. We begin by considering a few of the issues raised by the philosophy of science about what we can know about the world and causal relations in it. In subsequent weeks, the course considers three broad types of research designs, based on large-n aggregate analysis, small-n comparison, and case-studies, as well as current debates about how each of these kind of studies should be conducted. We consider some specific issues about how to select cases and how to improve measurement. We read a number of examples of empirical research with a view to considering such issues through the eyes of those undertaking research. There is an emphasis on recent debates and the problems of coping with various types of causal complexity.

The course is suitable for all doctoral students in Government regardless of year, and we welcome the participation of those in their third-year and above working on dissertation topics as well as first and second-year students. If there is space, advanced undergraduates or graduate students in other fields will be admitted. Auditors are welcome but will be asked to do all the course readings and to participate in discussion.

Requirements

Since the class proceeds largely by discussion, all the required reading must be done carefully and class participation will form a component of the grade. Books should be available at the Harvard Coop and we have asked that all materials be placed on reserve in Littauer Library.

Participants will be asked to prepare a 2-3 page response to the readings for any two weeks of the course to be circulated by email to all participants the Tuesday before class.

In the third week, all participants will be asked to turn in a two-page proposal for a piece of research, which can be a planned dissertation topic or any other research project (however notional) that involves some primary empirical research. In the seventh week, participants will turn in a six-page (double-spaced) revision of this proposal (or a new one). In the final week of the course, participants will hand in a 15 page (double-spaced) revision of this proposal designed as a prospectus or grant proposal for this research.

Readings and Course Outline

** - Readings for purchase at the Coop.

\$\$ - Readings available on line.

++ - Readings to be distributed.

INTRODUCTION

1. (Jan 30) The Evolution of the Discipline

At this session we will introduce the course and review the development of the discipline of political science from a methodological perspective.

PART ONE: SOCIAL SCIENCE AS DISCOVERY AND EXPLANATION

2. (Feb 6) Positivism and Interpretivism (PH)

"...Nature is pleased with simplicity and affects not the pomp of superfluous causes"

-- Isaac Newton

This week we examine positivist models of inquiry (represented here by Friedman and in more nuanced and modest way, Moon), which continue to influence mainstream social science, and the interpretivist critique of them (represented by Geertz). Overarching issues include: What do social scientists do? Why should they do it this way? What, according to positivists and interpretivists, constitutes a valid intersubjective social scientific claim?

Required Reading

Donald Moon, "The Logic of Political Inquiry", in Fred Greenstein and Nelson Polsby, eds., *Handbook of Political Science* Vol. 1 (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing, 1975), pp. 131-95.

Milton Friedman, "The Methodology of Positive Economics" in May Brodbeck, ed., *Readings in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences* (NY: Macmillan, 1968), pp. 508-29.

Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures* (NY: Basic 1973), pp. 3-32.

Recommended Reading

Clifford Geertz, "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight," in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures* (NY: Basic 1973), pp. 3-32.

Charles Taylor, "Interpretation and the Sciences of Man" *Collected Papers*. Vol II. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1985), pp. 15-57

Peter Kosso, *Reading the Book of Nature* New York: Cambridge University Press 1992

David Hackett Fischer, "Fallacies of Motivation," "Fallacies of Composition," and "Fallacies of False Analogy," in David Hackett Fischer, *Historians' Fallacies: Toward a Logic of Historical Thought* (New York: Basic Books, 1970), pp. 187-259

3. (Feb 13) The Evolution of Positivist Science (AM + PH)

This week, we examine a series of criticisms and revisions of the basic positivist model of how (social) science progresses, beginning with the influential critique of Kuhn and proceeding through the efforts of Lakatos to preserve elements of a positivist approach while accommodating such critiques to the recent perspectives of 'scientific realism' (represented here by Outhwaite). We then examine whether efforts to apply the resulting formulations ("research programmes," "hard cores", "novel facts," etc.) to scholarship in international relations has been enlightening.

Required Reading

** Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press 1970), 2nd edition, Chs. 2-6, 8-10, 12-13, parts of the Postscript. (i.e. pp. 1-65, 77-135, 144-173, 198-210)

William Outhwaite, "Realism and Social Science" in Margaret Archer et al. *Critical Realism* (London: Routledge 1998), pp. 282-296.

++ Colin and Miriam Fendius Elman, eds. *Progress in International Relations Theory: Metrics and Measures of Scientific Change* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2002), Chapters 2 (Colin and Miriam Elman, "Lessons from Lakatos"), 3 (Keohane and Martin, "Institutional Theory as a Research Program"), 4 (Moravcsik, "Liberal International Relations Theory: A Scientific Assessment"), 14 (Bennett, "A Lakatosian Reading of Lakatos").

Recommended Reading

Robert O. Keohane, "Theory of World Politics: Structural Realism and Beyond," in Keohane, ed. *Neo-Realism and its Critics* New York: Columbia University Press, 1986, 158-203.

Miriam and Colin Elman, "How Not to be Lakatos Tolerant: Appraising Progress in International Relations Theory," *International Studies Quarterly* (forthcoming)

Imre Lakatos, "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes" in Lakatos and Alan Musgrave, eds. *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1970): 91-196.

Peter Mancias, "A Realist Social Science" in Margaret Archer et al. *Critical Realism*. London: Routledge 1998 : 313-38.

Jeffrey Legro and Andrew Moravcsik, "Is Anybody Still a Realist?" *International Security* (Fall 1999). Available at: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/journals/ISEC/is24-2.pdf>

Jeffrey Legro and Andrew Moravcsik, "Is Anybody Still a Realist? The Authors Reply," in "Correspondence: Brother, Can You Spare a Paradigm? (Or Was Anybody Ever a Realist?)," *International Security* (Summer 2000). (Reply to critiques by Peter Feaver, Gunther Hellmann, Randall Schweller, Jeffrey Taliaferro and William Wohlforth)
Available at: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/journals/ISEC/is25-1b.pdf>

A. O. Hirschman, "The Search for Paradigms as a Hindrance to Understanding." *World Politics* 22(3) (1970): 329-343.

Albert Hirschman, "Against Parsimony: Three Easy Ways of Complicating some Categories of Economic Discourse." *Economics and Philosophy* 1(April 1985): 7-21.

4. (Feb 20) Construing Causation and Explanation (PH)

"The idea of causality is allowed to survive because, like the British Monarchy, one supposes it to do no harm."

-- Bertrand Russell

This week, we examine three issues: i. what it means to say that x causes y; ii. what kind of 'explanations' for political developments social scientists can seek; iii. the challenges social scientists face when they seek to establish causation. The reading introduces the influential perspective of King, Keohane and Verba on these issues. It covers Waltz's argument about the role of theory in explanation and Tilly's qualms about what can be explained, as well as the proposal to address that qualm advanced by those who advocate the study of 'social mechanisms'. We will seek to uncover the underlying sources of disagreement between these positions as regards the structure of the social world, the nature of the researcher's interests, and the power of existing theory and method to bridge the two.

Required Reading

** Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1994), Chs. 1-3. Pages 3-114.

Kenneth Waltz, *A Theory of International Relations* Reading: Addison-Wesley 1979) p. 1-17.

John Gehring, *Social Science Methodology: A Criterial Framework* (New York: Cambridge, 2001), pp. 128-154.

Jon Elster, *Explaining Technical Change* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983), chs. 2 and 3. (pp. 25-88)

\$\$ Charles Tilly, "To Explain Political Processes," *American Journal of Sociology* 100, 6 (May 1995): 1594-1610.

** Peter Hedstrom and Richard Swedberg, eds. *Social Mechanisms*. Introduction and chapter 3 'A Plea for Mechanisms' by Jon Elster. (pp. 1-31; 45-73).

Recommended Reading

Henry E. Brady and David Collier, eds., *Rethinking Social Inquiry* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, forthcoming).

Charles Tilly, "Mechanisms in Political Processes," (Columbia University, September 2000). Available at <http://www.asu.edu/clas/polisci/cqrm/papers/Tilly/TillyMechs.pdf>.

Charles Lave and James March, *An Introduction to Models in the Social Sciences* (New York: Harper and Row, 1975), especially Chapter 3, "The Evaluation of Speculations," pp. 51-78.

David Hackett Fischer, "Fallacies of Causation," in Fischer, *Historian's Fallacies*, pp. 164-186.

Elliott Sober and David Papineau, "Causal Factors, Causal Inference, Causal Explanation," *The Aristotelian Society Supplementary Volume* 60 (Oxford: Basil Blackwell 1986): 97-136.

Wesley Salmon, "Scientific Explanation: Causation and Unification" in *Causality and Explanation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 1998), 68-78.

Alasdair MacIntyre, "Is a Science of Comparative Politics Possible?" in Paul Lewis et al., eds., *The Practice of Comparative Politics*, 2nd ed. (NY: Longman 1978): 266-84.

Ira Katznelson, "Structure and Configuration in Comparative Politics" in Mark Lichbach and Alan Zuckerman, eds., *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture and Structure* (NY: Cambridge University Press 1997): 81-112.

PART TWO: ASSESSING GENERAL TYPES OF RESEARCH DESIGNS

5. (Feb 27) Standard Regression Models (PH)

"Without a constant counterfeiting of the world by means of numbers, mankind could not survive"
-- Friedrich Nietzsche

This week we examine the value of standard regression methods for establishing causal relations, considering two examples of the approach (Alesina and Hall/Franzese), two articles concerned with the limits of what regression analysis can do (Shalev and Wallerstein) and one that proposes some statistical solutions to common problems (Braumoeller).

Required Reading

++Alberto Alesina, "Why Doesn't the US have a European-Style Welfare System"
Brookings Papers on Economic Activity (forthcoming spring 2002).

Peter A. Hall and Robert J. Franzese, Jr. "Mixed Signals: Central Bank Independence, Coordinated Wage Bargaining and European Monetary Union," *International Organization* 52, 3 (Summer 1998): 505-535.

++ Michael Shalev, "Limits of and Alternatives to Multiple Regression in Macro-Comparative Research". Paper presented to a conference on The Welfare State at the Crossroads, Stockholm, June 1998.

\$\$ Michael Wallerstein, 2000. "Trying to Navigate between Scylla and Charybdis: Misspecified and Unidentified Models in Comparative Politics," *APSA-CP: Newsletter* for the Organized Section in Comparative Politics of the American Political Science Association, 11, 2 (Summer): 1-21.

++ Bear Braumoeller, "Modelling Multiple Causal Paths". Manuscript. Harvard Government Department.

Recommended Reading

David Hackett Fischer, "Fallacies of Generalization," in Fischer, *Historian's Fallacies*, pp. 103-130.

John Jackson, "Political Methodology: An Overview" in Robert Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingeman, eds., *A New Handbook of Political Science* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996: 717-748.

Mattei Dogan, "The Use and Misuse of Statistics in Comparative Politics" in Mattei Dogan and Ali Kazanufi, eds., *Comparing Nations*. Oxford: Blackwell 1994: 35-70.

Stanley Lieberson, *Making it Count*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985.

6. (Mar 6) The Challenges of Non-Linearity, Complexity, and Reflexivity (AM)

"I have cleansed the Augean stables only to replace it with this cart of dung"

-- Johannes Kepler on finding his laws of planetary motion did not conform to geometrical form

This week we consider recent work drawing attention to assumptions about the structure of the social world, and the resulting type of causal relations we observe underlying most social science studies. Some call into question the conventional methods of the field and raise issues about how such relations can be studied. We focus in particular on three aspects of the social world: non-linearity, complexity and reflexivity. What are these phenomena, how prominent are they in the social world, and what are some implications for establishing causality?

Required Reading

Andrew Abbot, "Transcending Linear Reality," *Sociological Theory* 6 (1988): 169-86.

James D. Fearon, "Causes and Counterfactuals in Social Science: Exploring an Analogy between Cellular Automata and Historical Processes," Philip E. Tetlock and Aaron Belkin, eds. *Counterfactual Thought Experiments in World Politics: Logical, Methodological and Psychological Perspectives* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), pp. 39-67.

** Robert Jervis, *System Effects: Complexity in Political and Social Life* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997), pp. 3-28, 92-176.

Paul Pierson, "Not Just What, but *When*: Timing and Sequence in Political Processes," *Studies in American Political Development* 14 (Spring 2000): 72-92.

\$\$ Dan Reiter, "Learning, Realism, and Alliances: The Weight of the Shadow of the Past," *World Politics* 46 (July 1994), pp. 490-526.

Recommended Reading

Ernest R. May, *Strange Victory: Hitler's Conquest of France* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2000), pp. 448-464.

7. (Mar 13) The Comparative Method (PH)

This week we consider the uses and limits of the comparative methods employed when a relatively small number of cases are to be compared. We consider Lijphart's influential formulation of the 'comparative method' as it is normally construed, Lieberman's critique of that method, and Ragin's proposal that comparison should be approached differently.

Required Reading

\$\$ Arendt Lijphart, "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method," *American Political Science Review* (September 1971): 682-93.

Stanley Lieberman, "Small N's and Big Conclusions" in Charles C. Ragin and Howard S. Becker, eds., *What is a Case?* (NY: Cambridge University Press 1992): 105-118.

** Charles C. Ragin, *Fuzzy-Set Social Science* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press 2000), chs 1-5 and pp. 261-2, 286-308, 321-328.

Recommended Reading

"Symposium on Designing Social Inquiry", *American Political Science Review* (June 1995) 89, pp. 454-482.

Charles Ragin, 'Turning the Tables..' *Comparative Social Research* 16 (1997)

David Collier, "The Comparative Method" in Ada Finifter, ed. *Political Science: The State of the Discipline II*. (Washington: APSA, 1983) pp. 105-120.

Theda Skocpol and Margaret Somers, "The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 22 (1980): 175-97.

Adam Przeworski and Henry Teune, *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry* (New York: Wiley 1970).

Alexander George, "Case Studies and Theory Development: The Method of Structured Focused Comparison" in Paul Lauren, ed., *Diplomacy: New Approaches in History, Theory and Policy* New York: Free press 1979): 43-68.

8. (March 20) Case-Studies and Systematic Process Analysis (AM)

This week we consider the value of case-studies, taking the article by Weingast and the book by Moravcsik as examples of this kind of research, and considering the efforts to justify the use of case studies and to outline how they should be done by Bates et al. and Hall.

Required Reading

++ Peter A. Hall, "Aligning Ontology and Methodology in Comparative Research " in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Research* (NY: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

** Robert Bates et al., *Analytical Narratives* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1998), Introduction, Conclusion and Ch 4 by Barry Weingast (pp 3-22, 148-193, and 231-238).

** Andrew Moravcsik, *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998), pp. 1-85, 159-237, 472-489, 494-501.

Recommended Reading

Fischer, "Fallacies of Narration" and "Fallacies of False Analogy," in Fischer, *Historian's Fallacies*, pp. 131-163.

Timothy J. McKeown, "Case Studies and the Statistical Worldview," *International Organization* 53:1 (Winter 1999), pp. 161-90.

Alexander George and Timothy J. McKeown, "Case Studies and Theories of Organizational Decision-Making," *Advances in Information Processing in Organizations* 2: 21-58.

Graham Allison, *The Essence of Decision* 2nd ed. (Boston: Little Brown, 1999).

John Goldthorpe, "Current Issues in Comparative Macrosociology: A Debate on Methodological Issues," *Comparative Social Research* 16 (1997) 1-26.

Harry Eckstein, "Case-Study and Theory in Political Science " in Fred Greenstein and Nelson Polsby, eds., *Handbook of Political Science* Vol. 7 (Reading: Addison-Welley 1975), pp. 79-139.

9. (April 3) Selecting Cases and Improving Evidence (AM)

"Truth proceeds more readily from error than from confusion"

Francis Bacon

Under the rubric of considering some specific issues of importance to research design, this week we consider the problems of how to select cases and how to strengthen research designs in order to counter the kinds of threats to validity enumerated by Kidder who draws on the tradition of seeing social science as quasi-experimentation as well as debates about how to improve the quality of evidence initiated by Lustick.

Required Reading

Louise Kidder, "Quasi-Experimental Designs" in *Research Methods in Social Relations* (NY: Holt Rinehart and Wilson 1981), ch. 3. (pp. 43-57).

** Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1994), chs. 4 and 6. (pp. 115-49; 208-30).

Barbara Geddes, "How the Cases you Choose Affect the Answers You Get," *Political Analysis* 2 (1990): 131-149.

\$\$ Ian Lustick, "History, Historiography and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias," *American Political Science Review* 90:3 (September 1996), pp. 605-618.

\$\$ Moravcsik, "De Gaulle between Grain and *Grandeur*: The Economic Origins of French EC Policy, 1958-1970 (Parts I and II)" *Journal of Cold War Studies* (Spring 2000), pp.4-8, 20-22, (Fall 2000), pp. 63-68.

Available at: <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/cws/toc/cws2.2.html> and <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/cws/toc/cws2.3.html>

\$\$ John Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," *International Security* 19:2 (Fall 1994), pp. 87-125.

Recommended Reading

Henry E. Brady and David Collier, eds., *Rethinking Social Inquiry* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, forthcoming).

Thomas Cook and Donald Campbell, *Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues for Field Settings*. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1979). pp. 37-91.

David Collier and James Mahoney, "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research," *World Politics* (October 1996): 56-91.

Moravcsik, "De Gaulle between Grain and *Grandeur*: The Economic Origins of French EC Policy, 1958-1970 (Parts I and II)" *Journal of Cold War Studies* (Spring 2000), pp. 8-22, (Fall 2000), pp. 4-34, 65-68. Available at: <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/cws/toc/cws2.2.html>, <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/cws/toc/cws2.3.html>.

10. (April 10) Small N Studies in Practice (PH + AM)

This week we read two well-known works based on small-N comparison with a view to evaluating the various techniques Skocpol and Milner use to establish their points and to considering the issues that have arisen in the course to date in the context of concrete pieces of research.

Required Reading

** Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979. Introduction, Conclusion, Sections on France and Russia.

James Mahoney, "Nominal, Ordinal and Narrative Appraisal in Macrocausal Analysis," *American Journal of Sociology* 104, 4 (January 1999): 1154-96.

++ James D. Fearon, "Selection Effects and Deterrence," (unpublished paper, 1992), 40 pp.

\$\$ Helen Milner, "Industries for Free Trade," *World Politics* (April 1988), pp. 350-376.

** Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1994), pp. 179-82.

Recommended Reading

Bear Braumoeller and Gary Goertz, "The Methodology of Necessary Conditions," *American Journal of Political Science* 44, 4 (October 2000).

William Sewell, "Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Reflections on the French Case," *Journal of Modern History* 57 (1985), pp. 57-85.

William Sewell, "Three Temporalities: Toward and Eventful Sociology" in Terrence J. McDonald, ed., *The Historic Turn in the Human Sciences*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996, pp. 245-80.

PART THREE: SPECIFIC TOPICS IN RESEARCH DESIGN

11. (Apr 17) Improving Concepts and Measurement (PH)

"With eyes-to-see and lips to kiss with, who cares if some one-eyed sonofabitch invents an instrument to measure spring with"

-- e.e. cummings

This week we consider the problem of devising good concepts and of designing good measures for those concepts that can be used in empirical inquiry. The article by Putnam provides a concrete example of comparative research in which these issues can be examined. It should be read carefully and critically.

Required Reading

\$\$ Robert Putnam, "Explaining Institutional Success: The Case of Italian Regional Government," *American Political Science Review* (March 1983), pp. 55-74.

\$\$ Giovanni Sartori, "Concept Misinformation in Comparative Politics," *American Political Science Review* 64 (1970), pp. 1033-1053.

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1994), ch 5.

Robert Adcock and David Collier, "Measurement Validity: Toward a Shared Framework for Qualitative and Quantitative Research," *American Political Science Review* (September 2001).

Sidney Verba, "Cross-National Survey Research: The Problem of Credibility" in Ivan Vallier, ed., *Comparative Methods in Sociology* (Berkeley: University of California Press 1971), pp. 309-56.

Recommended Reading

David Collier and Stephen Levitsky, "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research," *World Politics* (April 1997), pp. 430-51.

12. (April 24) Rigor: Choosing, Developing and Refining Theories (AM)

"Every simple statement is false. Every complex statement is useless"

-Paul Valéry

How do we define theoretical rigor? What can we do to increase the rigor of theory? How do we evaluate the trade-offs between theoretical rigor and the other qualities demanded of good social scientific research?

Required Reading

\$\$ Edgar Kiser and Michael Hechter, "The Role of General Theory in Comparative-Historical Sociology," *American Journal of Sociology* 97 (1991), pp. 1-30.

John Ferejohn and Debra Satz, "Unification, Universalism and Rational Choice Theory," *Critical Review* (Winter/Spring 1995)

Jon Elster, "The Nature and Scope of Rational Choice Explanation" in Michael Martin and Lee C. McIntyre, eds., *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1994), pp. 311-322.

** Michael Brown, Owen Cote, Jr., Sean Lynn-Jones, and Steven Miller, eds. *Rational Choice and Security Studies: Stephen Walt and His Critics* Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2000. Selections to be assigned.

Margaret Somers, "The Privatization of Citizenship: How to Unthink a Knowledge Culture" in Richard Biernacki et al. *Beyond the Cultural Turn*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999), pp. 121-161.

Recommended Reading

Donald P. Green and Ian Shapiro, *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory: A Critique of Applications in Political Science* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996).

Jeffrey Friedman, ed. *The Rational Choice Controversy: Economic Models of Politics Reconsidered* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996).

Harry Johnson, "The Keynesian Revolution and the Monetarist Counter-Revolution," in Harry and Elizabeth Johnson, *In the Shadow of Keynes* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1978), pp. 183-202.

W. Phillips Shively, *The Craft of Political Research* Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall 1974. Pp. 1-30.

13. (May 1) Empirical Work on Recursive Complexity (AM)

This week we consider recent arguments that see political phenomena as the outcome of processes that unfold over time and that may display features of recursiveness, including those marked by path dependence. The issues include: i. what does 'path dependence' mean? ii. how prominent is it in the social world? and iii. how do we study and test propositions about causal relationships that display path dependence or recursiveness?

Required Reading

James Mahoney, "Path Dependence in Historical Sociology," *Theory and Society* 29: 507-48.

Andrew Abbott, "Sequences of Social Events: Concepts and Methods for the Analysis of Order in Social Processes," *Historical Methods* 16, 4 (1993): 129-47.

Paul Pierson, 'The Path to European Integration: A Historical Institutional Analysis.' *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 29 (1996), pp. 123-63.

** Moravcsik, *Choice for Europe* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998), pp. 489-494.

++ Lars-Erik Cederman, "Review of The Choice for Europe," *Annals of the Social Sciences* (2001).

\$\$ Gerald Schneider and Lars-Erik Cederman, "The Change of Tide in Political Cooperation: A Limited Information Model of European Integration," *International Organization* 48:4 (Autumn 1994), pp. 633-662.

\$\$ Karen J Alter, "The European Union's Legal System and Domestic Policy: Spillover or Backlash?" *International Organization* 54:3 (2000), pp. 489-518.

Recommended Reading

William Sewell, "Three Temporalities: Toward an Eventful Sociology" in Terrence J. McDonald, ed., *The Historic Turn in the Human Sciences* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996): 245-80.

Howard S. Becker, "Cases, Causes, Conjunctures, Stories and Imagery" in Charles C. Ragin and Howard S. Becker, eds., *What is a Case?* (NY: Cambridge University Press 1992): 205-216.

Paul Pierson, "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence and the Study of Politics," *American Political Science Review* 94, 2 (June 2000): 1-17.