

Social Science Concepts and Methods

Block Seminar Graduate School

Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences
University of Hamburg

Winter Semester 2018/19

Seminar Outline

Convenors:

Prof. Dr. Antje Wiener (WISO-UHH)

Dr. Maren Hofius (WISO-UHH)

Venue: AP1, Room 250

Dates:

Meeting I:	Monday, October 22, 2018, 09:15 - 10:45	Session 1
Meeting II:	Monday, December 3, 2018, 09:15 – 14:15	Sessions 2-5
Meeting III:	Monday, January 21, 2019, 09:15 – 14:15	Sessions 6-8

Abstract

In the planning of research projects, research objects are addressed based on theory, methodology, and research methods. And, pending on the research object's empirical substance, specific research techniques are required to undertake fieldwork. While methodological 'triangulation' and 'mixed methods approaches' are possible, the choice of methodology requires careful consideration taking into account the researcher's epistemological standpoint and ontological preference. Against that background, specific methodologies and methods are identified to pursue the research question. Several research objectives and types of research questions can be distinguished, including for example, theory-based or problem-oriented research objectives, or 'how possible' and 'why' questions, respectively. To familiarise the students with these distinct perspectives and choices, this seminar on *Social Science Concepts and Methods* addresses the research process that leads scholars to the position from which problem-oriented research assumptions can be made and more particular research questions can be formulated.

Chair's Office

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Office hours: By appointment through the Chair's office only

OVERVIEW: BLOCK SEMINAR OUTLINE¹

I Meeting Preparation Organisation	October 22, 2018 09:15 – 10:45 h	This meeting will serve four main purposes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce seminar outline (theme, purpose, aim, organisation); 2. Discuss the substantive organisation of the seminar's two main block-meetings in December and January; 3. Identify main areas of interest and presentation on topics taking into account participants' own research projects 4. <i>Outlook</i>: Discuss central elements of a research proposal (e.g. research question, objective)
II Meeting Block Seminar	December 3, 2018 09:15 – 14:45 h	This block-meeting will focus on the presentation and discussion of: <i>Ways of Knowing</i>
III Meeting Block Seminar	January 21, 2019 09:15 - 14:45 h	This block-meeting will focus on the presentation and discussion of: <i>Basic Research Strategies</i>
Post-Seminar Reflection	Self-study	Going through these readings means learning about reflexivity and ponder the presence of the 'I' in your research: <i>Learning & Reflexivity</i>

Core Readings

- Berenskoetter, F. (ed.) (2016) *Concepts in World Politics*, London: SAGE Publications.
- Blumer, H. (1954) What is Wrong with Social Theory?, *American Sociological Review* **19**(1), 3–10.
- Garfinkel, H. (1967) *Studies in Ethnomethodology*, Cambridge: Polity Press.
- George, A. & Bennett, A. (2005) *Case studies and theory development in the social sciences*, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Goodin, R. E. (ed.) (2006) *The Oxford handbook of contextual political analysis*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hollis, M. & Smith, S. (1990) *Explaining and Understanding International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Klotz, A. & Prakash, D. (eds.) (2008) *Qualitative Methods in International Relations: A Pluralist Guide*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Schwartz-Shea, P. & Yanow, D. (2012) *Interpretive Research Design: Concepts and Processes*, New York: Routledge.
- Tilly, C. (1984) *Big structures, large processes, huge comparisons*, New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Yanow, D. & Schwartz-Shea, P. (eds.) (2006) *Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn*, Armonk: M. E. Sharpe.

¹ Please note that in the absence of access to STiNE electronic updates of this outline will be made available on the Chair's website. It is each student's responsibility to maintain him- or herself updated.

MEETING I - October 22, 2018, 09:15 – 10:45 h

INTRODUCTION AND COURSE OVERVIEW

Session 1: Writing a Research Proposal: Puzzles and Questions

Lead Questions:

What are the central elements of a research design/proposal? Where do research questions come from? And what makes a 'good' research question?

Background Readings:

- Ackerly, B. A. & True, J. (2010) *Doing feminist research in political and social science*. Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, New York (**Chapter 4**: Question-Driven Research: Formulating a Good Question).
- Blaikie, N. W. H. (2010) *Designing social research: The logic of anticipation*, 2nd ed. Polity Press, Cambridge, Malden, Mass.
- Doty, R. L. (1993) Foreign Policy as Social Construction: A Post-Positivist Analysis of U.S. Counterinsurgency Policy in the Philippines. *International Studies Quarterly* **37**(3), 297–320.
- Pzeworski, A. & Salomon, F. (1995 rev., 1988) *On the Art of Writing Proposals*. Social Science Research Council, New York, N.Y.
- Schwartz-Shea, P. & Yanow, D. (2012) *Interpretive Research Design: Concepts and Processes*. Routledge, New York, NY (**Chapter 2**: Ways of Knowing: Research Questions and Logics of Inquiry).
- Wendt, A. (1987) The Agent-Structure Problem in International Relations Theory. *International Organization* **41**(3), 335 (see especially pp. 362-363).

MEETING II - December 3, 2018, 09:15 – 14:45 h

WAYS OF KNOWING I: INTERPRETIVE METHODOLOGY

Session 2: Interpretivism

Lead Questions: What is distinct about interpretive research? What does it 'mean' to do interpretive research? How does it differ from positivism? What does it offer?

Required Readings:

- Cohn, C. (1987) Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* **12**(4), 687–718.
- Geertz, C. (1973) Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture, in: Geertz, C. *The Interpretation of Cultures*, New York: Basic Books, 3–30.

Further Readings:

- Epstein, C. (2013) Constructivism or the eternal return of universals in International Relations. Why returning to language is vital to prolonging the owl's flight, *European Journal of International Relations* **19**(3), 499–519.
- Rorty, R. (1979) *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Taylor, C. (1971) Interpretation and the Sciences of Man, *The Review of Metaphysics* **25**(1), 3–51.
- Yanow, D. (2006) Thinking Interpretively: Philosophical Presuppositions and the Human Sciences, in: Yanow, D. & Schwartz-Shea, P. (eds.) *Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn*, Armonk: M. E. Sharpe, 5–26.
- Wagenaar, H. (2011) *Meaning in action: Interpretation and dialogue in policy analysis*, Armonk: Sharpe.

Session 3: Social Scientific Reasoning and Meta-Theorising

Lead Questions: What difference does it make to either seek to understand or explain a social phenomenon? Can the two purposes of research be neatly distinguished?

Required Readings:

Hollis, M. & Smith, S. (1990) *Explaining and Understanding International Relations*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York (**chapter 1, 3-4**).

Further Readings:

- Furlong, P. & Marsh, D. (2010) A Skin Not a Sweater: Ontology and Epistemology in Political Science. In: Marsh, D. & Stoker, G. (eds.) *Theory and methods in political science*, 3rd ed. Palgrave Macmillan Press, New York, pp. 184–211.
- Hollis, M. & Smith, S. (1991) Beware of Gurus: Structure and Action in International Relations. *Review of International Studies* **17**(4), 393–410.
- Hollis, M. & Smith, S. (1996) A response: why epistemology matters in international theory. *Review of International Studies* **22**(1), 111-116.
- Howard, P. (2010) Triangulating Debates Within the Field: Teaching International Relations Research Methodology. *International Studies Perspectives* **11**(4), 393–408.
- Jabri, V. & Chan, S. (1996) The Ontologist Always Rings Twice: Two More Stories about Structure and Agency in Reply to Hollis and Smith. *Review of International Studies* **22**(1), 107–110.
- Jackson, P. T. (2011) *The Conduct of Inquiry in International Relations: Philosophy of Science and its Implications for the Study of World Politics*. Routledge, London [etc.] (**Chapter 2**).
- Pouliot, V. (2007) Subjectivism: Toward a Constructivist Methodology. *International Studies Quarterly* **51**(2), 359–384.
- Suganami, H. (1999) Agents, Structures, Narratives. *European Journal of International Relations* **5**(3), 365–386.
- Wendt, A. (1991) Bridging the Theory/Meta-Theory Gap in International Relations. *Review of International Studies* **17**(4), 383–392.

WAYS OF KNOWING II: MODES AND LOGICS OF INQUIRY

Session 4: Theories and Concepts

Lead questions: What is the difference between theory and concept? What are concepts (good) for? What different modes and purposes of theorising are there and how are they related to different modes of knowledge production?

Required Readings:

- Berenskoetter, F. (2017) Approaches to Concept Analysis, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* **45**(2), 151–173.
- Guzzini, S. (2013) The ends of International Relations theory: Stages of reflexivity and modes of theorizing, *European Journal of International Relations* **19**(3), 521–541.

Further Readings:

- Berenskoetter, F. (ed.) (2016) *Concepts in World Politics*, London: SAGE.
- Blumer, H. (1954) What is Wrong with Social Theory?, *American Sociological Review* **19**(1), 3–10.
- Cox, R. W. (1981) Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* **10**(2), 126–155.
- Gallie, W. B. (1955) Essentially Contested Concepts, *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* **56**, 167–198.
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Wiesner, C. (2019) *Inventing the EU as a democratic polity: Concepts, actors and controversies*. Springer Science and Business Media, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

Session 5: Logics of Inquiry and the Interplay between Theory and Data

Lead Questions: What different forms of reasoning exist and how do they differ? How do theory and data hang together throughout the research process? What logic of inquiry have you pursued in the past and how much did it conform to the actual research experience?

Required Readings:

- Friedrichs, J. & Kratochwil, F. (2009) On Acting and Knowing: How Pragmatism Can Advance International Relations Research and Methodology, *International Organization* **63**(4), 701–731.
- Kelle, U. (2007) "Emergence" vs. "Forcing" of Empirical Data? A Crucial Problem of "Grounded Theory" Reconsidered, *Historical Social Research / Historische Sozialforschung - Supplement* **19**, 133–156.
- Locke, K., Golden-Biddle, K. & Feldman, M. S. (2008) Perspective—Making Doubt Generative: Rethinking the Role of Doubt in the Research Process, *Organization Science* **19**(6), 907–918.
- Reichertz, J. (2014) Induction, Deduction, Abduction, in: Flick, U. (ed.) *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*, London: SAGE Publications, 123–135.

Further Readings:

- Abbott, A. D. (2004) *Methods of discovery: Heuristics for the social sciences*, New York, London: W.W. Norton.
- Bowen, G. A. (2006) Grounded Theory and Sensitizing Concepts, *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* **5**(3), 12–23.
- Glaser, B. G. (2002) Conceptualization: On Theory and Theorizing Using Grounded Theory, *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* **1**(2), 23–38.
- Glynos, J. & Howarth, D. R. (2007) *Logics of Critical Explanation in Social and Political Theory*, London, New York: Routledge.
- Nicolini, D. (2009) Zooming in and zooming out: A package of method and theory to study work practices, in: Ybema, S., Yanow, D., Wels, H. & Kamsteeg, F. H. (eds.) *Organizational Ethnography: Studying the Complexities of Everyday Life*, Los Angeles, London: SAGE, 120–138.
- Reichertz, J. (2010) Abduction: The Logic of Discovery of Grounded Theory, *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research* **11**(1), 214–228.
- Schwartz-Shea, P. & Yanow, D. (2012) *Interpretive Research Design: Concepts and Processes*, New York: Routledge.
- Van Maanen, J., Sørensen, J. B. & Mitchell, T. R. (2007) Introduction to Special Topic Forum: The Interplay between Theory and Method, *The Academy of Management Review* **32**(4), 1145–1154.
- Yanow, D. (2009) What's Political About Political Ethnography? Abducting Our Way Toward Reason And Meaning, *Qualitative & Multi-Method Research* **5**(Fall), 33–37.

MEETING III - January 21, 2019, 09:15 - 14:45 h

BASIC RESEARCH STRATEGIES

Session 6: Modes of Construction

Lead Questions: Who or what are we to follow as researchers? How can we tap background knowledge?

Required Readings:

- Bueger, C. (2014) Pathways to Practice: Praxiography and International Politics, *European Political Science Review* **6**(3), 383–406.
- Wiener, A. (2009) Enacting Meaning-in-Use: Qualitative Research on Norms and International Relations, *Review of International Studies* **35**(1), 175–193.

Further Readings:

- Brigg, M. & Bleiker, R. (2008) Expanding Ethnographic Insights into Global Politics, *International Political Sociology* **2**(1), 89–90.
- Bueger, C. & Gadinger, F. (2018) *International Practice Theory*, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan (**Chapter 6**).
- Cohn, C. (2006) Motives and methods: using multi-sited ethnography to study US national security discourses, in: Ackerly, B. A., Stern, M. & True, J. (eds.) *Feminist methodologies for international relations*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 91–107.
- Carol C. & Enloe, C. (2003) A Conversation with Cynthia Enloe: Feminists Look at Masculinity and the Men Who Wage War, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* **28**(4), 1187–1207.
- Kuus, M. (2013) Foreign Policy and Ethnography: A Sceptical Intervention, *Geopolitics* **18**(1), 115–131.
- Marcus, G. E. (1995) Ethnography in/of the World System: The Emergence of Multi-Sited Ethnography, *Annual Review of Anthropology* **24**(1), 95–117.
- Nicolini, D. (2017) Practice Theory as a Package of Theory, Method and Vocabulary: Affordances and Limitations, in: Jonas, M., Littig, B. & Wroblewski, A. (eds.) *Methodological Reflections on Practice Oriented Theories*, Cham: Springer International Publishing, 19–34.
- Symposium in *Political Science and Politics* (2017) **50**(1), on “Ethnography and Participant Observation: Political Science Research in this ‘Late Methodological Moment’”
- Schwartz-Shea, P. & Majic, S. (2017) Introduction, *Political Science and Politics* **50**(1), 97–102.
- Solomon, T. & Steele, B. J. (2017) Micro-moves in International Relations theory, *European Journal of International Relations* **23**(2), 267–291.
- Vrasti, W. (2008) The Strange Case of Ethnography and International Relations, *Millennium - Journal of International Studies* **37**(2), 279–301.

Session 7: Analysing Data – Discourse Analysis

Select Readings:

- van Dijk, T. A. (1993) Principles of Critical Discourse Analysis. *Discourse & Society* **4**(2), 249–283.
- van Dijk, T. A. (ed.) (1997) *Discourse as structure and process: A multidisciplinary introduction*, London: SAGE Publications.
- Doty, R. L. (1993) Foreign Policy as Social Construction: A Post-Positivist Analysis of U.S. Counterinsurgency Policy in the Philippines. *International Studies Quarterly* **37**(3), 297–320.
- Epstein, C. (2008) *The Power of Words in International Relations: Birth of an Anti-Whaling Discourse*, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Epstein, C. (2010) Who speaks? Discourse, the subject and the study of identity in international politics, *European Journal of International Relations* **16**(3), 1–24.

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- Hansen, L. (2006) *Security as Practice: Discourse Analysis and the Bosnian War*, Abingdon, New York: Routledge.
- Holzschleiter, A. (2014) Between Communicative Interaction and Structures of Signification: Discourse Theory and Analysis in International Relations, *International Studies Perspectives* 15(2), 142–162.
- Howarth, D. & Stavrakakis, Y. (2000) Introducing Discourse Theory and Political Analysis, in: Howarth, D., Norval, A. J. & Stavrakakis, Y. (eds.) *Discourse theory and political analysis: identities, hegemonies and social change*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1–23.
- Howarth, D. R. & Torfing, J. (eds.) (2005) *Discourse theory in European politics: Identity, policy, and governance*, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire Palgrave Macmillan.
- Jaworski, A. & Coupland, N. (eds.) (2006) *The discourse reader*, London, New York: Routledge.
- Jenner, B. & Titscher, S. (2000) *Methods of text and discourse analysis*, London: SAGE Publications.
- Milliken, J. (1999) The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods, *European Journal of International Relations* 5(2), 225–254.
- Neumann, I. B. (2008) Discourse Analysis, in: Klotz, A. & Prakash, D. (eds.) *Qualitative methods in international relations: A pluralist guide*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 61–77.
- Reisigl, M. & Wodak, R. (2016) The discourse-historical approach (DHA), in: Wodak, R. & Meyer, M. (eds.) *Methods of critical discourse studies*, London: SAGE Publications, 23–65.
- Titscher, S., Meyer, M., Wodak, R. & Vetter, E. (2000) *Methods of text and discourse analysis*, London: SAGE Publications.
- Wetherell, M., Yates, S. & Taylor, S. (eds.) (2001) *Discourse Theory and Practice: A Reader*, London: SAGE Publications.
- Wodak, R. (1996) *Disorders of discourse*, London, New York: Longman.

Session 8: Analysing Data – Visual Analysis

Select Readings:

- Bleiker, R. (2001) The Aesthetic Turn in International Political Theory. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 30 (3), 509–533.
- Bleiker, R. (2015) Pluralist Methods for Visual Global Politics. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 43 (3), 872–890.
- Dodds, K. (2007) Steve Bell's Eye: Cartoons, Geopolitics and the Visualization of the 'War on Terror'. *Security Dialogue* 38 (2), 157–177.
- Hansen, L. (2015) How images make world politics: International icons and the case of Abu Ghraib. *Review of International Studies* 41 (2), 263–288.
- Hansen, L. (2011). Theorizing the image for Security Studies: Visual securitization and the Muhammad Cartoon Crisis. *European Journal of International Relations* 17 (1), 51–74.
- Hansen, L. (2015) How images make world politics: International icons and the case of Abu Ghraib. *Review of International Studies* 41 (2), 263–288.
- Heck, A., & Schlag, G. (2013). Securitizing images: The female body and the war in Afghanistan. *European Journal of International Relations* 19 (4), 891–913.
- Margolis, E. & Pauwels, L. (eds.) (2011) *The Sage Handbook of Visual Research Methods*. SAGE, Los Angeles.
- Rose, G. (2012) *Visual methodologies: An introduction to researching with visual materials*, 4th edition. SAGE, Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, [etc.].
- Schlag, G. & Geis, A. (2017) Visualizing violence: aesthetics and ethics in international politics. *Global Discourse* 7 (2-3), 193–200.
- Weber, C. (2008) Popular visual language as global communication: the remediation of United Airlines Flight 93. *Review of International Studies* 34 (Supplement, S1), 137–153.
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POST-SEMINAR REFLECTION (OUT-OF-CLASS)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AS A VOCATION AND ACADEMIC VOICE

Reflexivity: Practice Theory or Theory as Practice?

Lead Questions: What does it mean to conduct research in IR reflexively? What is and should the relationship between the theory and practice of international relations be?

Required Readings:

- Abraham, K. J. & Abramson, Y. (2017) A pragmatist vocation for International Relations: The (global) public and its problems, *European Journal of International Relations* **23**(1), 26–48.
- Wiener, A. (2018) *Constitution and contestation of norms in global international relations*, Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press (**Chapter 8: A Voice through the Practice**).
- Hamati-Ataya, I. (2013) Reflectivity, reflexivity, reflexivism: IR's 'reflexive turn' - and beyond, *European Journal of International Relations* **19**(4), 669–694.

Further Readings:

- Guzzini, S. (2013) The ends of International Relations theory: Stages of reflexivity and modes of theorizing, *European Journal of International Relations* **19**(3), 521–541.
- Hamati-Ataya, I. (2012) IR Theory as International Practice/Agency: A Clinical-Cynical Bourdieusian Perspective, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* **40**(3), 625–646.
- Jackson, P. T. (2011) *The Conduct of Inquiry in International Relations: Philosophy of Science and its Implications for the Study of World Politics*, London: Routledge (**Chapter 6**).
- Schmidt, R. (2017) Sociology of Social Practices: Theory or Modus Operandi of Empirical Research?, in: Jonas, M., Littig, B. & Wroblewski, A. (eds.) *Methodological Reflections on Practice Oriented Theories*, Cham: Springer International Publishing, 3–17.

The 'I' in IR: Autoethnography and Novel Writing

Lead Questions: To what extent are novel writing and auto-ethnography worthwhile ways of including the researcher's own presence in his or her research? What are the prospects of these forms of writing?

Required Readings:

- Brigg, M. & Bleiker, R. (2010) Autoethnographic International Relations: exploring the self as a source of knowledge, *Review of International Studies* **36**(3), 779–798.
- Dauphinee, E. (2013) *The Politics of Exile*, New York: Routledge.

Further Readings:

- Brigg, M. & Bleiker, R. (2008) Expanding Ethnographic Insights into Global Politics, *International Political Sociology* **2**(1), 89–90.
- Doty, R. (2010) Autoethnography – Making Human Connections, *Review of International Studies* **36**(4), 1047–1050.
- Löwenheim, O. (2010) The 'I' in IR: an Autoethnographic Account, *Review of International Studies* **36**(4), 1023–1045.
- Ravecca, P. & Dauphinée, E. (2018) Narrative and the Possibilities for Scholarship, *International Political Sociology* **12**(2), 125–138.
- Security Dialogue* Special Issue on Elizabeth Dauphinee's *The Politics of Exile*, **44**(4), i.a. Edkins, J. (2013) Novel writing in international relations: Openings for a creative practice, *Security Dialogue* **44**(4), 281–297.
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