**Comparative Methodology**

Fall, 2009

Graduate School of International Studies

Seoul National University

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**\* Aim of This Course**

   This course discusses research methodology emphasizing comparison in social scientific research. Throughout this course, I do not intend to train students on (advanced) quantitative data analysis skills, but to promote their capacity to do social scientific research by themselves. In addition to theoretical learning, students are given the chance to practice social survey by following steps on literature review, hypothesis construction, questionnaire construction, face-to-face interview, and data analysis. I hope that students can have self-confidence to be able to do their own research after they complete this course successfully. In addition to this, I also wish that they could be nurtured the ability of critical thinking that is one of the most important traits in scholarly works.

**\* Grading**

Individual Homework & Quiz 35%;

Group Homework and Project: 35%;

Research Proposal: 30%

**\* Classroom**

Building 140-1, Room 201

**\* Date and Time**

  Monday 2:30-5:30pm

**\* Textbook**

Russell K. Schutt. 2006. *Investigating the Social World*. *The Process and Practice of Research.*

5th Edition. New York: Pine Forge Press. (Schutt)

* **Homework is given to you after class via email.**
* **I don’t accept late submission of homework.**

**Week 1 (9/7) Introduction to the Course: Social Research**

\*Schutt. Ch. 1. “Science, Society, and Social Research”

**Week 2 (9/14) Quantitative & Qualitative Methods**

\*Ragin, Charles C. 1994. *Constructing Social Research*. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

Ch. 4. Using Qualitative Methods to Study Commonalities. Pp. 81-103.

Ch. 6. Using Quantitative Methods to Study Covariation. Pp. 131-153.

\*Ono, Hiroshi. 2007. “Careers in Foreign-Owned Firms in Japan” *American Sociological*

*Review* 72(2): 267-290.

\*Sanyal, Raromita. 2009. “From Credit to Collective Action: The Role of Microfinance in

Promoting Women’s Social Capital and Normative Influence.” *American Sociological*

*Review* 74(4): 529-550.

\*Harding, David. 2009. “Violence, Older Peers, and the Socialization of Adolescent Boys in

Disadvantaged Neighborhoods.” *American Sociological Review* 74(3): 445-464.

**Week 3 (9/21) Comparative Methods**

\*Ragin, Charles C. 1994. *Constructing Social Research*. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

Ch. 5. Using Comparative Methods to Study Diversity. Pp. 105-130.

\*Ragin, Charles C. 1987. *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and*

*Quantitative Strategies.* University of California Press.

Ch. 3. Case-Oriented Comparative Methods. Pp.34-52.

Ch. 4. Variable-Oriented Approach. Pp.53-68.

\*Liu, Dongxiao. 2006. “When Do National Movements Adopt or Reject International Agendas?

A Comparative Analysis of the Chinese and Indian Women’s Movements.” *American*

*Sociological Review* 71(6): 921-942.

\* Scheepers, Peer, Manfred Te Grotenhuis, and Frans Van Der Slik. 2002. “Education,

Religiosity and Moral Attitudes: Explaining Cross-National Effect Differences.” *Sociology of Religion* 63(2): 157-176.

**Week 4 (9/28) Research Design 1: Social Research Questions and Review of Prior**

**Research**

**\*\*\* Time Change: 4:30-7:30pm**

\*Schutt . Ch. 3. “The Process and Problems of Social Research”

\*Beckfield, Jason. 2006. “European Integration and Income Inequality” *American Sociological*

*Review* 71(6): 964-985.

\*Ono, Hiroshi. 2007. “Careers in Foreign-Owned Firms in Japan” *American Sociological*

*Review* 72(2): 267-290.

\*Otis, Eileen M. 2008. “Beyond the Industrial Paradigm: Market-Embedded Labor and the

Gender Organization of Global Service Work in China.” *American Sociological*

*Review* 73(1): 15-36.

**Week 5 (10/5) Research Design 2: Theory and Hypothesis**

\*Schutt. Ch. 2. “Theories and Philosophies for Social Research” Pp. 31-39.

Ch. 3. “The Process and Problems of Social Research”

\*Beckfield, Jason. 2006. “European Integration and Income Inequality” *American Sociological*

*Review* 71(6): 964-985.

\*Ono, Hiroshi. 2007. “Careers in Foreign-Owned Firms in Japan” *American Sociological*

*Review* 72(2): 267-290.

\*Otis, Eileen M. 2008. “Beyond the Industrial Paradigm: Market-Embedded Labor and the

Gender Organization of Global Service Work in China.” *American Sociological*

*Review* 73(1): 15-36.

**Week 6 (10/12) Research Design 3: Conceptualization and Measurement: Reliability and**

**Validity**

\*Schutt. Ch. 4. “Conceptualization and Measurement”

\*Beckfield, Jason. 2006. “European Integration and Income Inequality” *American Sociological*

*Review* 71(6): 964-985.

\*Oppenheim, A.N. 1992. *Questionnaire Design, Interviewing and Attitude Measurement*.

London and New York: Pinter Publishers.

Ch. 9. Some Basic Measurement Theory. Pp. 150-173.

\*Duneier, Mitchell. 2006. “Ethnography, the Ecological Fallacy, and the 1995 Chicago Heat

Wave.” *American Sociological Review* 71(4): 679-688.

**Week 7 (10/19) Research Design 4: Causation**

\*Schutt. Ch. 6. “Causation and Research Design”

\*New York Times. January 3, 2007. “A surprising secret to a long life: Stay in school.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/03/health/03aging.html>

\*Beckfield, Jason. 2006. “European Integration and Income Inequality” *American Sociological*

*Review* 71(6): 964-985.

\*Griffin, Larry J. and Kenneth A. Bollen. 2009. “What Do These Memories Do? Civil Rights

Remembrance and Racial Attitudes” *American Sociological Review* 74(4): 594-614.

\*Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. 2005*. Freakonomics*. William Morrow.

Ch. 4. Where Have All the Criminals Gone? Pp. 117-144.

\*Rindfuss, Ronald and S. Philip Morgan. 1983. “Marriage, Sex and the First Birth Interval: The

Quiet Revolution in Asia” *Population and Development Review* 9(2): 259-278.

**Week 8 (10/26) Research Design 5: Experiment**

\*Schutt. Ch. 7.

\*New York Times. January 21, 2008. “New York Measuring Teachers by Test Scores”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/21/nyregion/21teachers.html>

\*New York Times. March 5, 2008. “Next Question: Can Students Be Paid to Excel?”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/05/nyregion/05incentive.html>

\*Hunt, Morton. 1985. *Profiles of Social Research. The Scientific Study of Human Interactions*.

New York: Russell Sage Foundation. *Ch. 6. Twenty Thousand Volunteers*. Pp. 247-296.

\*Kirk, David. 2009. “A Natural Experiment on Residential Change and Recidivism: Lessons

from Hurricane Katrina.” *American Sociological Review* 74(3): 484-505.

\*Kogut, Bruce and Udo Zander. 2000. “Did Socialism Fail to Innovate? A Natural Experiment

of the Two Zeiss Companies.” *American Sociological Review* 65(2): 169-190.

\*Schuman, Howard and Lawrence Bobo. 1988. “Survey-based Experiments on White Racial

Attitudes toward Residential Integration” *American Journal of Sociology* 94(2): 273-

99.

**Week 9 (11/2) Research Design 6: Survey and Sampling**

\*Schutt. Chs. 5 & 8.

\*Hunt, Morton. 1985. *Profiles of Social Research. The Scientific Study of Human Interactions*.

New York: Russell Sage Foundation. *Ch. 3. Sampling Social Reality*. Pp. 98-154.

\*McPherson, Miller, Lynn Smith-Lovin and Matthew E. Brashears. 2006. “Social Isolation in

America: Changes in Core Discussion Networks over Two Decades.” *American*

*Sociological Review* 71(3): 353-375.

**Week 10 (11/ 9) Survey Practice 1: Questionnaire Construction**

\*Schutt. Ch. 8.

\*Oppenheim, A.N. 1992. *Questionnaire Design, Interviewing and Attitude Measurement*.

London and New York: Pinter Publishers.

Ch. 8. Question Wording Pp. 119-149.

Ch. 10. Designing Attitude Statements Pp. 174-186.

Ch. 11. Attitude Scaling Pp. 187-209.

**Week 11 (11/16) Survey Practice 2: Presentation of Reviews and Themes**

**Week 12 (11/23) Survey Practice 3: Quantitative Data Analysis**

\*Practice of Basic Statistical Analysis using SPSS

**Week 13 (11/30) Survey Practice 4: Presentation of Questionnaire**

\*Schutt. Ch. 14.

**Week 14 (12/7) Survey Practice 5: Presentation of Group Project**

**Week 15 (12/14) Presentation of Research Proposal**