

Comparative Methodology

Fall, 2021

Graduate School of International Studies
Seoul National University

Instructor: Prof. Ki-Soo Eun (*Kyujanggak* Korean Studies Building (Bldg. 103), Room 204; 02-880-4031)

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* Aim of This Course

This course deals with research methodology emphasizing comparison in social scientific research. I do not intend to train students on (advanced) quantitative data analysis skills, but to promote their capacity to do their own social scientific research throughout this course. 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

Mid-term exam 25%; Final exam 25%; Projects 50%; Presentation-Extra credit

** This grading system is subject to change by variations of students' performance of exams. The instructor decides the final grading system after reviewing the performance of exams and projects at the end of semester.

* Classroom

Building 140, Room 103

* Date and Time

Friday, 9:00-11:50 am.

* Attendance

Attendance is required. If you do not appear more than twice, you cannot expect a grade appropriate for a graduate student.

*** Course Packet**

- Will be ready soon.
- Purchase it at Room 620, Building 140-1.

*** Reference**

1. King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton University Press.
2. George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett. 2004. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. MIT Press.
3. Schutt, Russell K. 2006. *Investigating the Social World. The Process and Practice of Research*. 5th Edition. New York: Pine Forge Press. (361.1072 Sch88i) Central Library and Library of GSIS.
4. Ragin, Charles, and Lisa Amoroso. 2011. *Constructing Social Research*. Sage.

*** Presenters are required to upload their presentation files to eTL one day before the class each week.**

- Presentation: Up to 30 minutes

*Check eTL pretty often.

*** Project 1: Preparation of setting a causal mechanism**

- Proposal as a ppt file
- Causal mechanism of lower fertility in Korea
- Submit it by 5 pm, Monday April 12.
- I will choose 6 students and ask presentations
- Final paper by June 21
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*** Project 2: Preparation of a quantitative/qualitative research proposal**

- Purpose of research, Significance of research, Reason why a quantitative research is designed, Hypothesis, Data.
- Proposal as a ppt file
- Submit it by 5 pm, Monday May 24.
- I will choose 6 students and ask presentations
- Final paper by June 21
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***Course Schedule:**

Week 1 (9/3) Introduction to the Course: Social Research

Week 2 (9/10) Exploratory and Explanatory Research

King et al. (1994) "Causality" Pp. 75-95

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.

*** *Preparation of Presentation on Beckfield(2006)*

Week 3 (9/17) Quantitative Research 1: Causal Mechanism, Research Design, Purpose of the Research, Hypothesis; Difference between Rindfuss and Morgan (1993), and Beckfield

Ragin et al. (2011). Ch.7 "Using Quantitative Methods to Study Covariation"

Schutt (2006). Ch.4. Conceptualization and Measurement. Pp.19-23, 91-128

Beckfield, Jason. 2006. "European Integration and Income Inequality" *American Sociological Review* 71(6): 964-985.

Presentation on Beckfield by _____

Week 4 (9/24) Quantitative Research 2: Data, Measurement Validity and Interpretations of Findings

Ragin et al. (2011). Ch.7 "Using Quantitative Methods to Study Covariation"

Schutt (2006). Ch.4. Conceptualization and Measurement. Pp.19-23, 91-128.

Beckfield, Jason. 2006. "European Integration and Income Inequality" *American Sociological Review* 71(6): 964-985.

*** *Preparation of Presentation on Ono(2007)*

Week 5 (10/1) Quantitative Research 3: Comparison, Research Design, Data, Selection Bias

King et al. (1994). "Selection Bias" Pp. 128-138

Ragin et al. (2011). Ch.6 "Using Comparative Methods to Study Diversity"

Ono, Hiroshi. 2007. "Careers in Foreign-Owned Firms in Japan" *American Sociological Review* 72(2): 267-290

Presentation on Ono by _____

Week 6 (10/8) Quantitative Research 3: Comparison, Research Design, Data, Selection Bias

King et al. (1994). "Selection Bias" Pp. 128-138

Ragin et al. (2011). Ch.6 "Using Comparative Methods to Study Diversity"

Ono, Hiroshi. 2007. "Careers in Foreign-Owned Firms in Japan" *American Sociological Review* 72(2): 267-290

Week 7 (10/15) Presentation of a causal mechanism

- **6 presenters**

Week 8 (10/22) Mid-term Exam

Week 9 (10/29) Interpreting Quantitative Research 1

- **Lecture by Eun**

Week 10 (11/5) Interpreting Quantitative Research 2

- **Lecture by Eun**

*** *Preparation of Presentation on Otis(2008)*

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Week 11 (11/12) Qualitative Research: Commonalities, In-depth interview, Research design

Ragin et al. (2011). Ch.5 “Using Qualitative Methods to Study Commonalities”

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.

Presentation on Otis by _____

Week 12 (11/19) Qualitative Research: Commonalities, In-depth interview, Research design

Ragin et al. (2011). Ch.5 “Using Qualitative Methods to Study Commonalities”

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 13 (11/26) Presentation of Research Proposal

- **6 presenters**

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*** *Preparation of Presentation on Kirk(2009)*

Week 14 (12/3) Experiment

Schutt. Ch. 7. “Experiment” Pp.200-215.

Kirk, David. 2009. “A Natural Experiment on Residential Change and Recidivism: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina.” *American Sociological Review* 74(3): 484-505.

Presentation on Kirk by _____

Week 15 (12/10) Final Examination