

Comparative Methodology

Spring, 2024

Graduate School of International Studies
Seoul National University

Instructor: Prof. Ki-Soo Eun (Bldg. 140-1, Room 611)

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Assistant: Ms. Eun-Hye Kang (PhD candidate; Bldg. 140-1, Room 620)

* 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.

This course focuses on 1) research design in quantitative, qualitative and comparative research, 2) reading and understanding tables and figures, and statistics from analysis of means and regression analysis.

All students are expected to be able to apply methodological knowledge attained from this course to their future independent research and/or thesis research.

* Grading

Mid-term exam 25%; Final exam 30%; Homework 40%; Attendance 5%;
Presentation (Extra credit) 10%;

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

* Classroom

Building , Room

*** Date and Time**

Thursday, 2:00- 5:00 pm.

*** 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.

***Course Schedule:**

Week 1 (March 7) Introduction to the Course

Homework 1: Review Rindfuss and Morgan(1983) by Tuesday, March 12, 5:00 pm; compmethsnu@gmail.com

Week 2 (March 14) Research Design 1: Exploratory and Explanatory Demographic Research; Modernization; Relation

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.

Presentation: _____

Week 3 (March 21) Research Design 1: Exploratory and Explanatory Demographic Research; Modernization; Relation (Continued)

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.

Homework 2: Review Beckfield(2006) by Tuesday, March 26, 5:00 pm; compmethsnu@gmail.com

Week 4 (March 28) Research Design 2: Quantitative Research; Aggregate Data; Conceptualization and Measurement (Continued)

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: _____

Week 5 (April 4) Research Design 2: Quantitative Research; Aggregate Data; Conceptualization and Measurement (Continued)

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.

Week 6 (April 11) Research Design 3: Quantitative Research; Measurement (Continued)

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.

Homework 3: Review Ono(2007) by Tuesday, April 18, 5:00 pm;
compmethsnu@gmail.com

Week 7 (April 18) Research Design 3: Quantitative and Comparative Research; Survey; Sampling

Schutt(2006). Ch. 5 "Sampling" Pp.147-183.
Ono, Hiroshi. 2007. "Careers in Foreign-Owned Firms in Japan" *American Sociological Review* 72(2): 267-290

Presentation: _____

Week 8 (April 25) Mid-term Exam

Week 9 (May 2) Research Design 3: Quantitative and Comparative Research; Survey; Sampling; Selection Bias (Continued)

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

Week 10 (May 9) Interpreting Quantitative Research 1

Week 11 (May 16) Interpreting Quantitative Research 2

Homework 4: Review Kirk(2009) by Tuesday, May 21, 5:00 pm;
compmethsnu@gmail.com

Week 12 (May 23) Research Design 4: Experiment; Natural Experiment

Schutt(2006). 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: _____

Homework 5: Review paper on Otis(2008) and Sassler(2017) by Tuesday, May 28, 5:00 pm; compmethsnu@gmail.com

Week 13 (May 30) Research Design 5: Qualitative Research; In-Depth Interview; Semi-structured interview 1

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.

Sassler, Sharon and Amanda Jayne Miller. 2017. *Cohabitation Nation. Gender, Class, and the Remaking of Relationships*. University of California Press.

Ch. 1. Cohabitation. Pp. 1-19

Ch. 4. “I Like Hugs, I Like Kisses, but What I Really Love is Help with the Dishes” Pp. 63-90.

Appendix A Interview Guide. Pp. 195-198.

Appendix B Methods and Sample Information. Pp. 199-202.

Appendix C Specific Characteristics of Cohabiting Couples. Pp. 203-206.

Presentation: _____

Week 14 (June 6) Comprehensive Discussion

Week 15 (June 13) Final Exam