IPSA Antalya Summer School 2023
Case Study and Process Tracing
Tentative Course Syllabus

Course Instructor:
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Course Description:
This advanced-level course explores the logic and practice of case study method, with a particular focus on process tracing in qualitative case studies. Thus, it aims to introduce graduate students the foundational premises of how to test and refine causal mechanisms at work in historical processes in order to construct valid, historically-grounded causal arguments in their research projects. In a nutshell, process tracing is particularly useful in enabling the researcher to make causal inferences in historical analysis, by revealing out the variation in sequence and combination of paths and mechanisms that influence the variation in outcomes of interest. In the first part of the course, we will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the case study method, and elaborate various types of case studies and case selection techniques. In the second part, we will deal with the inferential logic of process tracing via an examination of theory-testing and theory-building practices, with a special emphasis on the counterfactual logic of social scientific thinking. After completing this course, it is aimed that, the students will i) acquire the relevant skills to read, understand and evaluate the academic literature that employs case study and process tracing methods; ii) design and conduct a good quality research based upon case study and process tracing, alongside with learning how to cope with possible methodological difficulties and causal inferential problems they may encounter in their research projects.

Course Format and Schedule:
This is a five-day long, intensive and highly interactive advanced-level course. From Monday to Friday, we will have four-hour long meetings, each divided into morning and afternoon sessions. For the first four days, the instructor will deliver lectures in the mornings, while the class discussion over assigned readings will take place in the afternoons. Friday sessions are organized as workshop meetings, in which the research projects of those students who would like to get a detailed feedback on their work will be thoroughly discussed. Students can present either a research proposal, a research design or an ongoing research project.

1st Day (Monday):

- Key concepts: *observation*, *case*, *case study*.
- Strengths and pitfalls of case studies

2nd Day (Tuesday):

- Designing a case study
  - Single vs. comparative case study
  - Case selection techniques
- Data collection

3rd Day (Wednesday):

- Defining Process Tracing
  - Its strengths and limits
- Types of process tracing
  - Theory-testing
  - Theory-building
  - Explaining (the variation in) outcomes.

4th Day (Thursday):

- Counterfactual logic of causal inference in process tracing.

5th Day (Friday):

- Some examples of best practice
- Exercises
- Workshop for Student Projects

Readings:
Below is a short selected list of recommended readings.

Books:

- Thomas, G. (2021). *How To Do Your Case Study*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Beach, D., & Pedersen, R. B. (2019). *Process-tracing methods: Foundations and guidelines*. University of Michigan Press.
- Yin, R. K. (2018). *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods*. Sixth ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Gerring, J. (2017). *Case study research: Principles and practices*. Cambridge university press.
- Beach, D., & Pedersen, R. B. (2016). *Causal case study methods: Foundations and guidelines for comparing, matching, and tracing*. University of Michigan Press.
- Morgan, S. L., & Winship, C. (2015). *Counterfactuals and causal inference*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bennett, A., & Checkel, J. T. (Eds.). (2015). *Process tracing*: *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*. Cambridge University Press.
- Mahoney, J., & Thelen, K. (Eds.). (2015). *Advances in comparative-historical analysis*. Cambridge University Press.
- Goertz, G., & Mahoney, J. (2012). *A Tale of Two Cultures*. Princeton University Press.
- Rohlfing, I. (2012). *Case Studies and Causal Inference: An Integrative Framework*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Blatter, Joachim, and Markus Haverland. 2012. *Designing Case Studies: Explanatory Approaches in Small-N Research*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Brady, H. E., & Collier, D. (Eds.). (2010). *Rethinking social inquiry: Diverse tools, shared standards*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

- Lebow, R. N. (2010). *Forbidden Fruit*: *Counterfactuals and International Relations* Princeton University Press.
- Ragin, C. C. (2009). *Redesigning Social Inquiry*. University of Chicago Press.
- Pearl, J. (2009). *Causality: Models, Reasoning and Inference*. Cambridge University Press.
- Tetlock, P. E., Lebow, R. N., & Parker, G. (Eds.). (2006). *Unmaking the West:" What-if" scenarios that rewrite world history*. University of Michigan Press.
- George, A. L., & Bennett, A. (2005). *Case studies and theory development in the social sciences*. MIT Press.
- Mahoney, J., & Rueschemeyer, D. (2003). *Comparative historical analysis in the social sciences*. Cambridge University Press.
- Lebow, R. N. (2000). "What's so different about a counterfactual?". *World politics*, *52*(4), 550-585.
- Tetlock, P. E., & Belkin, A. (Eds.). (1996). *Counterfactual thought experiments in world politics: Logical, methodological, and psychological perspectives*. Princeton University Press.
- Stake, R. E. (1995) *The Art of Case Study Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- King, G., Keohane, R. O., & Verba, S. (1994). *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton university press.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

- Mahoney, J., & Barrenechea, R. (2019). The logic of counterfactual analysis in case-study explanation. *The British journal of sociology*, *70*(1), 306-338.
- Beach, D., and Rasmus Brun Pedersen. (2018). "Selecting Appropriate Cases When Tracing Causal Mechanisms." Sociological Methods & Research 47(4):837-71.
- Ricks, J. I, and Amy H Liu. (2018). "Process-Tracing Research Designs: A Practical Guide." *PS*: *Political Science & Politics* 51(4):842-846.
- Beach, D. (2017). Process-Tracing Methods in Social Science. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.
- Lorentzen, P., M Taylor Fravel, and Jack Paine. (2017). "Qualitative Investigation of Theoretical Models: The Value of Process Tracing." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 29 (3):467-491.
- Beach, Derek. 2016. "It's all About Mechanisms–What Process-Tracing Case Studies Should be Tracing." *New Political Economy* 21 (5):463-472.
- Herron, M. C, and Kevin M Quinn. (2016). "A Careful Look at Modern Case Selection Methods." *Sociological Methods & Research* 45 (3):458-492.
- Trampusch, Christine and Bruno Palier. (2016). "Between X and Y: How Process Tracing Contributes to Opening the Black Box of Causality." New Political Economy 21(5):437-54
- Mahoney, James. (2016). "Mechanisms, Bayesianism, and Process tracing." *New Political Economy* 21 (5):493-499.
- Ragin, Charles. (2014). "Case-oriented Comparative Methods." In *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies*, Charles Ragin. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 34-52.

- Rohlfing, Ingo. 2014. "Comparative Hypothesis Testing via Process Tracing." *Sociological Methods & Research* 43 (4):606-642.
- Hall, Peter A. 2013. "Tracing the Progress of Process Tracing." *European Political Science* 12:20-30
- Mahoney, James. 2012. "The Logic of Process Tracing Tests in the Social Sciences." *Sociological Methods & Research* 41(4):570-97.
- Ragin, Charles C, and Garrett Andrew Schneider. (2011). "Case-Oriented Theory Building and Theory Testing." In *The Sage Handbook of Innovation in Social Research Methods*, edited by Malcolm Williams and W. Paul Vogt, 150-66. Thousand Oaks: Sage
- Harvey, F. P. (2011). "Comparative Counterfactual Analysis and the 2003 Iraq War", in *Explaining the Iraq War: counterfactual theory, logic and evidence*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 23-39
- Mahoney, James. 2010. "After KKV: The New Methodology of Qualitative Research." *World Politics* 62(1): 120-147.
- Gerring, John. 2010. "Causal Mechanisms: Yes But..." *Comparative Political Studies* 43(11): 1499-1526.
- Durand, R., & Vaara, E. (2009). Causation, counterfactuals, and competitive advantage. *Strategic Management Journal*, *30*(12), 1245-1264.
- Seawright, J. and John Gerring. (2008). "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options." *Political Research Quarterly* 61(2): 294-308
- Tansey, O. (2007). "Process Tracing and Elite Interviewing: A Case for Non-Probability Sampling." PS: *Political Science and Politics* 40(4):765-72.
- King, G., & Zeng, L. (2007). When can history be our guide? The pitfalls of counterfactual inference. *International Studies Quarterly*, *51*(1), 183-210.
- Capoccia, G., & Kelemen, R. D. (2007). The study of critical junctures: Theory, narrative, and counterfactuals in historical institutionalism. *World politics*, *59*(3), 341-369.
- Bennett, A. and Colin Elman. (2006). "Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods." *Annual Review of Political Science* 9:455-476.
- Checkel, J. T. (2006). "Tracing Causal Mechanisms." *International Studies Review* 8(2): 362-370.
- King, G., & Zeng, L. (2006). The dangers of extreme counterfactuals. *Political analysis*, *14*(2), 131-159.
- Mills, Melinda, Gerhard G. van de Bunt and Jeanne de Bruijn. 2006. "Comparative Research: Persistent Problems and Promising Solutions." *International Sociology* 21(5): 619-631.
- Flyvbjerg, B. (2006). "Five Misunderstandings about Case-Study Research." *Qualitative Inquiry* 12(2): 219-245.
- Gerring, J. (2004). "What is a Case Study and What is it Good For?" *American Political Science Review* 98 (2): 341-354.
- Tetlock, P. E., & Lebow, R. N. (2001). "Poking counterfactual holes in covering laws: Cognitive styles and historical reasoning". *American Political Science Review*, *95*(4), 829-843.
- Tilly, C. (2001). "Mechanisms in Political Processes." *Annual Review of Political Science* 4(1): 21-41.

- Dion, Douglas. 1998. “Evidence and Inference in the Comparative Case Study.” *Comparative Politics* 30(2):127-145.
- Fearon, J. D. (1991). “Counterfactuals and hypothesis testing in political science”. *World politics*, *43*(2), 169-195.