

**IPSA Antalya Summer School 2022**  
**Case Study and Process Tracing**  
**Course Syllabus**  
(Draft Version)

**Instructor:**

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**Course Description and Objectives:**

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This course is designed to enhance the research skills of graduate students as a social scientist. The course will focus on the logic and practice of case study method and process tracing, which is a method employed to identify and test causal mechanisms in qualitative case studies. In the first part of the course, the strengths and weakness of case study method, various types of case study, and case selection techniques will be considered. The second part of the course will deal with the inferential logic of process tracing. This part will also introduce various types of (e.g., theory testing, theory building, outcome explaining) and approaches to process tracing (e.g., traditional vs. Bayesian approaches). The goals of this course are to provide students with the skills that are necessary to: 1) read, understand and evaluate the academic literature that uses case study and process tracing; 2) design and conduct a decent case study research and process tracing. After attending this course, the students will not only learn when and how to conduct case study and process tracing but also increase their awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of these research methods and techniques.

**Course Format:**

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This is a five-day intensive course. Each day, there will be 4 hours of class meeting. From Monday to Thursday, we will have intensive lectures and discussions on various aspects of case study method and process tracing. On Friday, we will analyze some examples of best practice, and have some in-class exercises. In addition, the students, who would like to get detailed feedback on their own research, will be able to present their research on the final day of the course. Students can present either a research proposal, research design or an ongoing research project.

**Course Schedule:**

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**Day 1 (Monday):**

- Key concepts: *observation, case, case study*
- Advantages and disadvantages of case study method

**Day 2 (Tuesday):**

- Designing case study
  - Single vs. comparative case study
  - Case selection
  - Methods of case selection
- Data collection

- Techniques
- Modes of analysis
- Validity

### **Day 3 (Wednesday):**

- Defining process tracing
- Limits and strengths of process tracing
- Types of process tracing
  - Theory testing
  - Theory building
  - Outcome explaining

### **Day 4 (Thursday):**

- Approaches to process tracing
  - Traditional
  - Bayesian

### **Day 5 (Friday):**

- Some examples of best practice
- Exercises
- Presentations

### **Course Readings:**

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#### CASE STUDY

The followings are *recommended* for the case study part of the course. You can consider acquiring the books:

#### **Books:**

1. Thomas, Gary. 2021. *How To Do Your Case Study*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
2. Yin, Robert K. 2018. *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods*. Sixth ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
3. Gerring, John. 2017. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*. Second ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
4. Beach, Derek, and Rasmus Brun Pedersen. 2016. *Causal Case Study Methods: Foundations and Guidelines for Comparing, Matching, and Tracing*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
5. Rohlfing, Ingo. 2012. *Case Studies and Causal Inference: An Integrative Framework*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
6. Blatter, Joachim, and Markus Haverland. 2012. *Designing Case Studies: Explanatory Approaches in Small-N Research*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
7. Brady, Henry E. and David Collier, eds. 2010. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools; Shared Standards*. (Second Edition) Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
8. Swanborn, Peter. 2010. *Case Study Research: What, Why and How?* Thousand Oaks: Sage.

9. George, Alexander L, and Andrew Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
10. Stake, R. E. (1995) *The Art of Case Study Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
11. Ragin, Charles C. and Howard S. Becker. 1992. *What is a Case? Exploring the Foundations of Social Inquiry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
12. Feagin, Joe R., Anthony M. Orum and Gideon Sjoberg. 1991. *A Case for the Case Study*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

#### Articles and Book Chapters:

1. Herron, Michael C, and Kevin M Quinn. 2016. "A Careful Look at Modern Case Selection Methods." *Sociological Methods & Research* 45 (3):458-492.
2. Weller, Nicholas, and Jeb Barnes. 2016. "Pathway Analysis and the Search for Causal Mechanisms." *Sociological Methods & Research* 45 (3):424-457.
3. Gerring, John, and Lee Cojocar. 2016. "Selecting Cases for Intensive Analysis: A Diversity of Goals and Methods." *Sociological Methods & Research* 45 (3):392-423.
4. Seawright, Jason. 2016. "The Case for Selecting Cases That are Deviant or Extreme on the Independent Variable." *Sociological Methods & Research* 45 (3):493-525.
5. Elman, Colin, John Gerring, and James Mahoney. 2016. "Case Study Research: Putting the Quant into the Qual." *Sociological Methods & Research* 45 (3):375-391.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Gerring, John. 2010. "Causal Mechanisms: Yes But..." *Comparative Political Studies* 43(11): 1499-1526.
9. Mahoney, James. 2010. "After KKV: The New Methodology of Qualitative Research." *World Politics* 62(1): 120-147.
10. Seawright, Jason 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
11. Goertz, Gary. 2008. "Choosing Cases for Case Studies: A Qualitative Logic." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 6(2): 11-16.
12. Bennett, Andrew and Colin Elman. 2006. "Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods." *Annual Review of Political Science* 9:455-476.
13. Flyvbjerg, Bent. 2006. "Five Misunderstandings about Case-Study Research." *Qualitative Inquiry* 12(2): 219-245.
14. Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research" *Political Analysis* 14: 227-249.
15. 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.
16. Ebbinghaus, Bernhard. 2005. "When less is more: Selection Problems in Large-N and Small-N Cross-National Comparisons." *International Sociology* 20(2): 133-152.
17. Gerring, John. 2004. "What is a Case Study and What is it Good For?" *American Political Science Review* 98 (2): 341-354.

18. Reuschmeyer, Dietrich. 2003. "Can One or a Few Cases Yield Theoretical Gains?" pp. 305-336 in *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* edited by James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
19. Verschuren, Piet. 2003. "Case Study as a Research Strategy: Some Ambiguities and Opportunities." *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 6(2): 121-139.
20. Tilly, Charles. 2001. "Mechanisms in Political Processes." *Annual Review of Political Science* 4(1): 21-41.
21. Dion, Douglas. 1998. "Evidence and Inference in the Comparative Case Study." *Comparative Politics* 30(2):127-145.
22. Ragin, Charles. 1997. "Turning the Tables: How Case-Oriented Research Challenges Variable-Oriented Research." *Comparative Social Research* 16: 27-42
23. Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. "What Are Case Studies? How Should They Be Performed?" In *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, edited by Stephen Van Evera, 49-88. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
24. Jick, Todd D. 1979. "Mixing Qualitative and Quantitative Methods: Triangulation inaction." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 24(4): 602-611.
25. Eckstein, Harry. 1975. "Case Study and Theory in Political Science." pp. 79-137 in *Handbook of Political Science, Volume 7* edited by Fred I. Greenstein and Nelson W. Polsby. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley.
26. Lijphart, Arend. 1975. "The Comparable-Cases Strategy in Comparative Research." *Comparative Political Studies* 8(2): 158-177.
27. Meckstroth, Theodore W. 1975. "Most Different Systems and Most Similar Systems: A Study in the Logic of Comparative Inquiry." *Comparative Political Studies* 8(2): 132-156.
28. Teune, Henry. 1975. "Comparative Research, Experimental Design, and the Comparative Method." *Comparative Political Studies* 8(2): 195-198.
29. Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *The American Political Science Review* 65(3): 682-693.

#### PROCESS TRACING:

On process tracing, the following readings are recommended.

##### **Books:**

1. Beach, Derek, and Rasmus Brun Pedersen. 2019. *Process-Tracing Methods: Foundations and Guidelines*. (Second Edition). Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
2. Bennett, Andrew, and Jeffrey T Checkel, eds. 2015. *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

##### **Articles and Book Chapters:**

1. Fairfield, Tasha, and Andrew Charman. 2019. "A Dialogue with the Data: The Bayesian Foundations of Iterative Research in Qualitative Social Science." *Perspectives on Politics* 17(1):154-67.
2. Beach, Derek, and Rasmus Brun Pedersen. 2018. "Selecting Appropriate Cases When Tracing Causal Mechanisms." *Sociological Methods & Research* 47(4):837-71.
3. Ricks, Jacob I, and Amy H Liu. 2018. "Process-Tracing Research Designs: A Practical Guide." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51(4):842-846.
4. Beach, D. (2017). Process-Tracing Methods in Social Science. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.

5. Lorentzen, Peter, 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.
6. Beach, Derek. 2016. "It's all About Mechanisms—What Process-Tracing Case Studies Should be Tracing." *New Political Economy* 21 (5):463-472.
7. Mahoney, James. 2016. "Mechanisms, Bayesianism, and Process tracing." *New Political Economy* 21 (5):493-499.
8. 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.
9. Mahoney, James. 2015. "Process Tracing and Historical Explanation." *Security Studies* 24(2):200-218.
10. Waldner, David. 2015. "What Makes Process Tracing Good? Causal Mechanisms, Causal Inference, and the Completeness Standard in Comparative Politics." Pp. 126-52 in *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*, edited by Andrew Bennett and Jeffrey T Checkel. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
11. Waldner, David. 2015. "Process Tracing and Qualitative Causal Inference." *Security Studies* 24(2):239-50.
12. Rohlfing, Ingo. 2014. "Comparative Hypothesis Testing via Process Tracing." *Sociological Methods & Research* 43 (4):606-642.
13. Hall, Peter A. 2013. "Tracing the Progress of Process Tracing." *European Political Science* 12:20-30.
14. Rohlfing, Ingo. 2013. "Varieties of Process Tracing and Ways to Answer Why-Questions." *European Political Science* 12 (1):31-39.
15. Goertz, Gary, and James Mahoney. 2012. "Within-Case Analysis." Pp. 87-127 in *A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
16. Mahoney, James. 2012. "The Logic of Process Tracing Tests in the Social Sciences." *Sociological Methods & Research* 41(4):570-97.
17. Blatter, Joachim, and Markus Haverland. 2012. *Designing Case Studies: Explanatory Approaches in Small-N Research*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (Chapter 3: Causal-Process Tracing, 79-144).
18. Rohlfing, Ingo. 2012. *Case Studies and Causal Inference: An Integrative Framework*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan (Chapter 6: Process Tracing: Theory, Temporality, and Method, pp. 150-168).
19. Waldner, David. 2012. "Process Tracing and Causal Mechanisms." Pp. 65-84 in *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Social Science*, edited by Harold Kincaid. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
20. Collier, David. 2011. "Understanding Process Tracing." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 44(4):823-830.
21. Collier, David. 2011. "Teaching Process Tracing: Examples and Exercises." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44(4):823-830.
22. Bennett, Andrew. 2010. "Process Tracing and Causal Inference." In *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, edited by Henry E Brady and David Collier, 207-221. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
23. Bennett, Andrew. 2008. "Process Tracing: A Bayesian Perspective." Pp. 702-21 in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, edited by Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier,

- Henry E Brady, and David Collier. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
24. Checkel, Jeffrey T. 2008. "Process Tracing." Pp. 114-27 in *Qualitative Methods in International Relations: A Pluralist Guide*, edited by Audie Klotz and Deepa Prakash. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
  25. Tansey, Oisín. 2007. "Process Tracing and Elite Interviewing: A Case for Non-Probability Sampling." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 40(4):765-72.
  26. Checkel, Jeffrey T. 2006. "Tracing Causal Mechanisms." *International Studies Review* 8(2): 362-370.
  27. George, Alexander L, and Andrew Bennett. 2005. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (Chapter 10: Process Tracing and Historical explanation, pp. 205-232).
  28. Bennett, Andrew and Alexander L. George. 1997. "Process Tracing in Case Study Research." MacArthur Foundation Workshop on Case Study Methods, October 17-19, 1997.