

PS 261: Practice of Research

Fall 2019

Wednesdays, 3-5:50 PM

SSB 104

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This course is intended for second year graduate students developing their seminar papers and third year graduate students working on their dissertation prospectuses. The course is less structured than many and will be tailored to the interests of the students. Although there are assigned readings on some weeks, the majority of the reading will be defined by the students in the course of developing their own research proposals. Assignments must be submitted in advance and will be “workshopped” by the students in the course. It is expected that earlier assignments will have to be substantially revised to accord with later assignments as the course unfolds. A single grade will be assigned for the quarter based on progress made over the ten weeks.

October 2: Motivations for research

Kruzel, Joseph and James N. Rosenau, *Journeys through World Politics: Autobiographical Reflections of Thirty-four Academic Travelers*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1989.
Read essays by [Oran Young](#) (69-82), [Bruce Russett](#) (329-335), [Robert O. Keohane](#) (403-415), [Stephen D. Krasner](#) (417-427).

Scan the following works for their motivating “puzzle”:

[Walter, Barbara, *The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement*, *International Organization* 51: 3 \(1997\): 335-364.](#)

[Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson, *Inefficient Redistribution*, *American Political Science Review* 95: 3 \(2001\): 649-661.](#)

[Grossman, Guy and Janet I. Lewis, *Administrative Unit Proliferation*, *American Political Science Review* 108: 1 \(2014\): 196-217.](#)

[Rehm, Philipp. *Risk Inequality and Welfare States*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016.](#)

[Walter, Stefanie, *Financial Crises and the Politics of Macroeconomic Adjustments*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013.](#)

[Goldschmidt, Deborah, and Johannes F. Schneider, *The Rise of Domestic Outsourcing and the Evolution of the German Wage Structure*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 132: 3 \(2017\): 1165-1217.](#)

[Guide](#) to writing a research paper/dissertation

October 9: Puzzles (continued) and the DV

[Lake, David A. *Hierarchy in International Relations*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2009, Chapter 3 \(pp.51-59\).](#)

[Abbott, Kenneth W., et al., The Concept of Legalization, *International Organization*. 54:3 \(2000\): 401-419.](#)

[Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal, The Rational Design of International Institutions, *International Organization*, 55:4 \(2001\): 761-799.](#)

[Fortna, Virginia Page, Scraps of Paper? Agreements and the Durability of Peace, *International Organization*, 57:2 \(2003\): 337-372.](#)

[Kinne, Brandon J. Defense Cooperation Agreements and the Emergence of a Global Security Network, *International Organization* 72: 4 \(2018\): 799-837.](#)

October 16: One-on-one meetings on DV (no class)

Paragraph due October 13

Will schedule individual meetings on Oct. 15 and 16

October 23: Presentations on DV

Up to 5 pages, due October 21. These memos will be circulated to the class. Everyone should read all the memos prior to the meeting.

October 30: Theory and the IV

[Marks, Michael P. *Metaphors in International Relations Theory*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011. Read Chapter 1-4 and one or more of 5-8 according to interest.](#)

Scan the following works for their central theoretical idea, “metaphor,” or “analogy”:

[McCubbins, Mathew D. and Thomas Schwartz, Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms, *American Journal of Political Science* 28: 1\(1984\): 165-179.](#)

[Keohane, Robert O., The Demand for International Regimes, *International Organization* 36: 2 \(1982\): 325-355.](#)

[Emily A. Sellars, Emigration and Collective Action, *Journal of Politics* \(forthcoming\).](#)

[Skarbek, David, Governance and Prison Gangs, *American Political Science Review* 105: 4 \(2011\): 702-716.](#)

[Fearon, James D. Rationalist Explanations for War, *International Organization* 49: 3 \(1995\): 379-414.](#)

[Berman, Eli, et al., Principals, Agents, and Indirect Foreign Policies, in Berman and Lake, eds., *Proxy Wars: Suppressing Violence through Local Agents*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019: 1-27.](#)

[Acemoglu, Daron, James A. Robinson, and Thierry Verdier, Asymmetric Growth and Institutions in an Interdependent World, *Journal of Political Economy* 125: 5 \(2017\): 1245-1305.](#)

[Fourcade, Marion, and Kieran Healy, Seeing Like a Market, *Socio-Economic Review* 15: 1 \(2017\): 9-29.](#)

November 6: One-on-one meetings on IV (no class)

Paragraph due November 4

Will schedule individual meetings on Nov. 5 and 6

November 13: Presentations on IV

Up to 5 pages, due November 11. These memos will be circulated to the class. Everyone should read all the memos prior to the meeting.

November 20: Construct validity

[Lee, Melissa M., and Nan Zhang, Legibility and the Informational Foundations of State Capacity, *Journal of Politics* 79: 1 \(2017\): 118-132.](#)

[Fariss, Christopher J. Respect for Human Rights has Improved Over Time: Modeling the Changing Standard of Accountability, *American Political Science Review* 108:2: 297-318.](#)

[Mitts, Tamar, From Isolation to Radicalization: Anti-Muslim Hostility and Support for ISIS in the West, *American Political Science Review* 113: 1 \(2019\): 173-194.](#)

[Lake, David A. *Hierarchy in International Relations*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2009, Chapter 3 \(pp.63-92\).](#)

[The Political Economist, 15:1 \(2019\). Issue on remote sensing, pp.4-14.](#)

[Allee, Todd, and Andrew Lugg, Who Wrote the Rules for the Trans-Pacific Partnership? *Research & Politics* \(2016\): 1-9.](#)

[Kim, In Song, Political Cleavages within Industry: Firm-level Lobbying for Trade Liberalization, *American Political Science Review* 111:1 \(2017\):1-20.](#) See also the [paper](#) and [API](#) for the firm lobbying database.

November 20: No Class (Thanksgiving)

December 4: Final Presentations

Papers due December 1. These paper will be circulated to the class. Everyone should read all the papers prior to the meeting.