

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies-Geneva
Political Science

EPISTEMOLOGY & METHODS

E150
Spring 2008

Tuesdays, 16h15-18h00
Voie-Creuse, CV201

Professors:

G. Balachandran bala@hei.unige.ch Office hours : CV 322, Wednesdays, 14h30 to 16h00	Manfred Elsig elsig@hei.unige.ch Office Hours: Rigot 18, Thursdays 15.00- 16.30
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Assistants:

Imene Ajala ajala5@hei.unige.ch Office: Voie-Creuse 331, Thursdays, 12h30- 14h30	Rachelle Cloutier cloutie3@hei.unige.ch Office hours: Rigot 35, Tuesdays,12h30- 14h30
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Course Description

The objective of this course is twofold. First, it provides participants with a short introduction to the diversity of qualitative perspectives and methods that may be employed to understand contemporary international issues. Second, the course aims at helping students design the research leading to their MIA dissertation. The two parts of the course will respectively cover perspectives and methods derived from human disciplines such as critical historical and critical cultural analyses, and those from the social sciences.

Each part of the course will be evaluated separately.

Requirements

-In the first part with Prof. Balachandran, students will critically review, in approximately 2500 words (+10%), a "text" (including from music, theatre, material culture, etc.) dealing with an issue of contemporary significance to uncover their categories of analysis and their underlying historical, cultural and other assumptions or values that can be hidden in the discourse. You should give an intelligent, sensitive and informed reaction to the "text", connecting the real world "out there" to your critical analysis tools. The deadline is April 15 2008.

-In the second part with Prof. Elsig, students will write a short paper of approximately 2500 words that presents the design for a research question that they are likely to pursue in future personal research (such as the MIA dissertation), including e.g., hypotheses, arguments, data collection methods, etc. The deadline is 10 June 2008.

-On May 20, students will participate in a moot exercise. Further details will be provided in due course during the semester.

The evaluation is as follows:

-1/3 for the individual paper due to Professor Balachandran.

-1/3 for the individual paper due to Professor Elsig.

-1/3 for the moot exercise.

Readings

In order to prepare assignments and to participate in class discussions, students must do a set of required readings. A reading packet is available for purchase at Imprimerie Minute. Additional readings or course material will be posted on the website of the course on a password protected page.

Course Outline

FEBRUARY 19

INTRODUCTION TO COURSE (GB/ME)

FEBRUARY 26 (GB)

Synchronicity: Historical Time and Human Progress

-Uday Singh Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire: India in British Liberal Thought*, ch. 3, The University of Chicago Press, 1999.

-Partha Chatterjee, *The Politics of the Governed: Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World*, ch. 1.

MARCH 4(GB)

'Every step you take, every move you make': Progress, Tutelage, Exclusion, Empowerment

-Partha Chatterjee, *Politics of the Governed*, ch. 2, reprise

-Dipesh Chakrabarty, 'Postcoloniality and the artifice of history', in *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*, Princeton University Press, 2000.

MARCH 11(GB)

'Dark memories of when there was no sunshine': Orientalism

-Edward Said, *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*, Introduction and Chapter 1.1 ('Knowing the Oriental'), Penguin Editions, 1996.

-Paula Fichtner, 'The Other's new face: Austria, the Habsburg empire and Islam'

-Kishore Mahbubhani, *Can Asians Think?*, Penguin Editions, 2004, p. 47-100.

MARCH 18(GB)

'We kings man, we don't take orders, we give em': History And Memory

-David Cannadine, 'The Context, Performance, and Meaning of Ritual: The British Monarchy and the "Invention of Tradition", c. 1820-1977', in Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds, *The Invention of Tradition*, Cambridge University Press, ed. 2007.

-David B. Edwards, 'Mad Mullahs and Englishmen: Discourse in the Colonial Encounter', *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (31: 4) 1989

APRIL 1(GB)

'If you know your History ...'?

-Mahmood Mamdani, 'Beyond Settler and Native as Political Identities: Overcoming the Political Legacy of Colonialism', *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (43: 4) 2001

-Partha Chatterjee, *Politics of the Governed*, ch. 3

APRIL 8 **VARIETY IN POLITICAL RESEARCH: PLURALITY AND COMMONALITY (ME)**

-Geddes Barbara 2003. *Paradigms and Sand Castles. Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. The University of Michigan Press, Chapter 1

-George, Alexander and Andrew Bennett 2004. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: MIT Press, Chapter 7

-King, Gary, Keohane, Robert O. and Verba, Sidney 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1

-Gerring, John 2005. "Causation. A Unified Framework for the Social Sciences." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 17(2): 163-198.

APRIL 15 **GETTING STARTED: RESEARCH QUESTIONS, PUZZLES AND CASE STUDY METHODS(ME)**

-Geddes 2003, Chapter 2

-Zinnes, Dina A. 1980. "Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher." *International Studies Quarterly* 24 (September): 315-342

-George and Bennett 2004, Chapter 4, pp. 73-79

-Odell, John 2001. "Case Study Methods in International Political Economy" *International Studies Perspectives* 2: 161-76.

APRIL 22 **"MODEL BUILDING" [CONCEPTS, ARGUMENTS, AND HYPOTHESES] (ME)**

-King, Keohane and Verba 1994, Chapter 3.

-George and Bennett 2004, Chapter 4, pp.79-88.

-Fearon James 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science" *World Politics* 43 (January):169-95.

APRIL 29 **DATA SELECTION, OPERATIONALIZATION AND MEASUREMENT(ME)**

-King, Keohane and Verba 1994, Chapter 4.

-Geddes 2003, Chapter 3

- George and Bennett 2004, Chapter 5
- Bowman Kirk, Fabrice Lehoucq and James Mahoney 2005. "Measuring Political Democracy. Case Expertise, Data Adquacy, and Central America" *Comparative Political Studies* 38(8):939-70.

MAY 6 METHODS I: PROCESS-TRACING, CONTENT ANALYSIS (ME)

- George and Bennett 2003, Chapter 10
- Checkel Jeffrey 2005. "It's the Process Stupid! Process Tracing in the Study of European and International Politics" *Arena Working Paper Series* 26
- Manheim, Jarol and Rich, Richard 1995. *Empirical Political Analysis*, Chapter 10, Content Analysis.
- Laver, Michael and John Garry 2000. "Estimating Policy Positions from Political Texts", *American Journal of Political Science*: 619-634.

MAY 13 METHODS II: SURVEY RESEARCH (ME)

- Brady, Harry E. 2000. "Contributions of Survey Research to Political Science", *PS: Political Science and Politics* 33 (March): 47-57.
- Manheim and Rich 1995, Chapter 7, Survey Research
- Herrmann, Richard, Philip Tetlock, and Matthew Diascro 2001. "How Americans Think About Trade", *International Studies Quarterly* 45:191-218.

MAY 20 Moot Exercise GB/ME

MAY 27 Review GB/ME