

Field Research, Transparency, and Analytic Rigor through Coding

A one-day methodology course at Warwick University

given by Dr. Maria Koinova, Associate Professor at PAIS
on 15 January 2015, 10am – 4 pm at Wolfson Exchange 3
for political science, international relations, sociology and anthropology
Ph.D. and MA students

“Qualitative political science, the use of textual evidence to reconstruct causal mechanisms across a limited number of cases, is currently undergoing a methodological revolution. Many qualitative scholars – whether they use traditional case-study analysis, analytic narratives, structured focused comparison, counter-factual analysis, process tracing, ethnographic and participant observation, or other methods – now believe that the richness, rigor, and transparency of qualitative research ought to be fundamentally improved.” *Prof. Andrew Moravcsik, Princeton University.*

This one-day course aims to address three important subjects in current qualitative research from the perspective of transparency and analytical rigor. First, it seeks to enhance students’ understanding on how to connect design and conceptualization of studied factors with practical tips on how to gather data during field research. Second, the course seeks to discuss data collection techniques while being in the field, strategies for interviewing, and how one can become aware and record the choices made while being in the field, for transparency purposes. Third, the course seeks to expose students to how to code their interviews so that the codes relate to earlier developed concepts, and how to potentially develop new theorizing by finding new explanatory and intervening factors. Finally, the course will expose the students to advanced techniques on how to enhance the transparency and replicability of qualitative research.

Sandwiches and coffee/tea will be served during the lunch break.

If you are interested to attend, please send an email to m.koinova@warwick.ac.uk by December 15, 2014. Several materials will be distributed in advance in order to facilitate the discussion. At the seminar, students will receive additional study materials as well.