

Seminar 1.07.1121 Political Economy: Exploring comparative datasets and its visualization with R

Dr. Taehee Kim

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Office hour: By appointment

Place Mostly Online (BBB). Three sessions will take place in-person if the pandemic situation allows for it.

Time Thursday 10:00 – 12:00

1 Course Description

Nowadays diverse comparative datasets are available and it enables us to answer research questions of comparative political economy. This course offers essential skills to collect and analyze these comparative datasets with R. The course is linked to the lecture *1.07.112 Politische ökonomie* offered by Prof. Markus Tepe. The datasets handled in this course are closely related to the subjects introduced in the lecture. By creating and exploring the datasets, not only participants will facilitate their understanding of the lecture but also obtain basic techniques to start their own research using comparative panel datasets.

More concretely this course offers followings:

- Introduction to major data sources for the study of comparative political economy

- How to collect these data and create a panel structured data in R
- How to handle panel data in R
- Basic analytic techniques for comparative panel datasets in R
 - Generate summary statistics
 - Visualization

This course explore following comparative datasets:

- Economic time-series data
 - [Word Bank](#)
 - [IMF](#)
 - [OECD](#)
- Electoral System
 - [CSES Comparative Studies of Electoral Systems](#)
 - [Matt Golders Elections Dataset](#)
- Democracy
 - [V-Dem](#)
 - [Polity IV](#)
 - [Freedom House](#)
 - [Quality of Government \(QoG\)](#)

The course is held in English. However, participants can write a final report either in English or German (For more detail of a final report, see *Requirements and Grading* section below). Previous experience in R is preferable but not required. R refresher sessions will be offered on week 2 and week 3.

References

Clark, W. R., Golder, M., & Golder, S. N. (2013) Principles of comparative politics. Washington, London, Sage.

Kim, A. Y., McConville, K. S. (2019) Statistical Inference via Data Science: A ModernDive into R and the Tidyverse. Chapman & Hall/CRC The R Series. [Webpage](#)

Wickham, H., Grolemund, G. (2017) R for Data Science. O'Reilly.
[Webpage](#)

2 Requirements and Grading (3 ECTS)

- Dataset creation based on a research question (25%)
- Present own dataset and summary statistics or plots created from the dataset (25%)
 - Participants can choose presenting date from three slots: week 12, week 13 or week 14.
- Submit a short final report (50%). It should contain followings:
 - Research question
 - Dataset elaboration
 - Present summary statistics and/or plots using the dataset
 - Discussions of findings

It is expected that the length of a report is about **3 pages**. Participants can write it in either English or German. Participants should directly submit it to the lecturer by email.

Deadline: 15th March, 2021

3 Course Outline

Course will be held on **Thursday 10 am**.

Week 1: Introduction (21th Oct)

Week 2: R refresher 1 (28th Oct)

Week 3: R refresher 2 (4th Nov)

Week 4: Introduction to major data sources for the study of comparative political economy (11th Nov)

Week 5: Data collection and creating panel structured data in R (18th Nov)

Week 6: Handling panel data in R (25th Nov)

Week 7: Basic analytic techniques for comparative panel datasets in R : Summary statistics (2nd Dec)

Week 8: Basic analytic techniques for comparative panel datasets in R : Visualization (9th Dec)

Week 9: Practical exercise: Economic time-series data (16th Dec)

Week 10: Practical exercise: Democracy (6th Jan, 2022)

Week 11: Practical exercise: Electoral System (14th Jan, 2022)

Week 12: Student Presentation (20th Jan)

Week 13: Student Presentation (27th Jan)

Week 14: Student Presentation (3rd Feb)
