



Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Week 1: Doing Political Research | Qualitative,
Quantitative and Mixed Methods

Doing Political Research

Doing Political Research


- How do we know what we know about politics?
- How can we generate new knowledge?
- Focus on 1) the research process and 2) research methods
- By the end of the module, you will:
 - Be aware of your own research philosophy
 - Be able to critique research in political studies
 - Be able to design your own research projects

NHS

Denis Campbell *Health policy editor*

Fri 14 Jul 2017 12.30 BST

   16,980  1,362

 This article is over 1 year old

NHS holds on to top spot in healthcare survey

Commonwealth Fund analysis of healthcare systems in 11 nations finds NHS is the best, safest and most affordable



▲ An NHS nurse in an accident and emergency department. Photograph: Christopher Furlong/Getty Images

The **NHS** has been judged the best, safest and most affordable healthcare system out of 11 countries analysed and ranked by experts from the influential Commonwealth Fund health thinktank.

It is the second time in a row that the study, which is undertaken every three

“Last week our National Health Service was judged the best healthcare system. Best, safest, most affordable.”

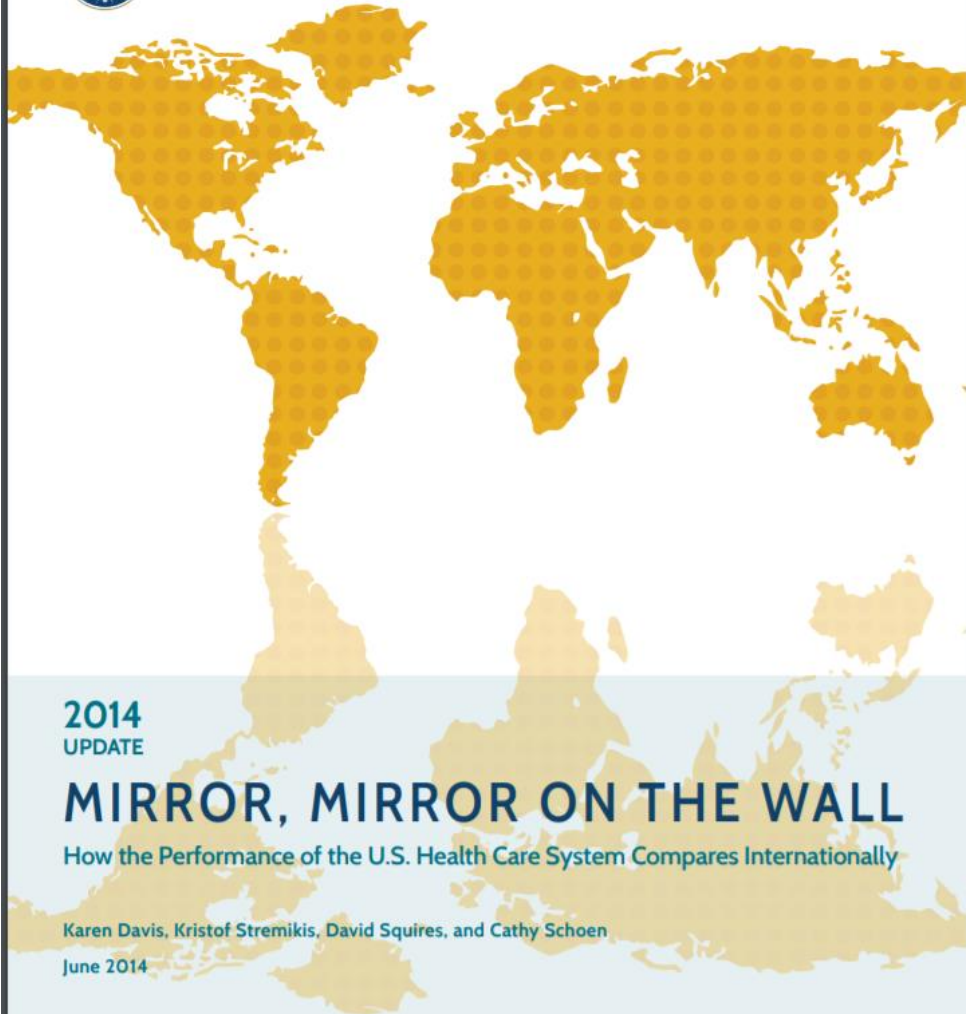
Helen Whately MP, [19 July 2017](#)

“The NHS [is] once again —because this isn't the first time—the number one health system in the world.”

Theresa May, [19 July 2017](#)



The
COMMONWEALTH
FUND



2014
UPDATE

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

How the Performance of the U.S. Health Care System Compares Internationally

Karen Davis, Kristof Stremikis, David Squires, and Cathy Schoen

June 2014

Mirror, Mirror 2017:

International Comparison Reflects Flaws and Opportunities for Better U.S. Health Care



Eric C. Schneider, Dana O. Sarnak, David Squires,
Arnav Shah, and Michelle M. Doty

JULY 2017



The
Commonwealth
Fund

EXHIBIT ES-1. OVERALL RANKING

COUNTRY RANKINGS

Top 2*

Middle

Bottom 2*



	AUS	CAN	FRA	GER	NETH	NZ	NOR	SWE	SWIZ	UK	US
OVERALL RANKING (2013)	4	10	9	5	5	7	7	3	2	1	11
Quality Care	2	9	8	7	5	4	11	10	3	1	5
Effective Care	4	7	9	6	5	2	11	10	8	1	3
Safe Care	3	10	2	6	7	9	11	5	4	1	7
Coordinated Care	4	8	9	10	5	2	7	11	3	1	6
Patient-Centered Care	5	8	10	7	3	6	11	9	2	1	4
Access	8	9	11	2	4	7	6	4	2	1	9
Cost-Related Problem	9	5	10	4	8	6	3	1	7	1	11
Timeliness of Care	6	11	10	4	2	7	8	9	1	3	5
Efficiency	4	10	8	9	7	3	4	2	6	1	11
Equity	5	9	7	4	8	10	6	1	2	2	11
Healthy Lives	4	8	1	7	5	9	6	2	3	10	11
Health Expenditures/Capita, 2011**	\$3,800	\$4,522	\$4,118	\$4,495	\$5,099	\$3,182	\$5,669	\$3,925	\$5,643	\$3,405	\$8,508

Notes: * Includes ties. ** Expenditures shown in \$US PPP (purchasing power parity); Australian \$ data are from 2010.

Source: Calculated by The Commonwealth Fund based on 2011 International Health Policy Survey of Sicker Adults; 2012 International Health Policy Survey of Primary Care Physicians; 2013 International Health Policy Survey; Commonwealth Fund National Scorecard 2011; World Health Organization; and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *OECD Health Data*, 2013 (Paris: OECD, Nov. 2013).

Exhibit 2. Health Care System Performance Rankings

	AUS	CAN	FRA	GER	NETH	NZ	NOR	SWE	SWIZ	UK	US
OVERALL RANKING	2	9	10	8	3	4	4	6	6	1	11
Care Process	2	6	9	8	4	3	10	11	7	1	5
Access	4	10	9	2	1	7	5	6	8	3	11
Administrative Efficiency	1	6	11	6	9	2	4	5	8	3	10
Equity	7	9	10	6	2	8	5	3	4	1	11
Health Care Outcomes	1	9	5	8	6	7	3	2	4	10	11

Source: Commonwealth Fund analysis.

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above or well below the average range. We found that these alternative methods tended to consistently yield

EXHIBIT 9. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SURVEYED

	AUS	CAN	FRA	GER	NETH	NZ	NOR	SWE	SWIZ	UK	US	TOTAL
2011, Survey of Sicker Adults	1,500	3,958	1,001	1,200	1,000	750	753	4,804	1,500	1,001	1,200	18,667
2012, Survey of Primary Care Physicians	500	2,124	501	909	522	500	869	1,314	1,025	500	1,012	9,776
2013, Survey of Adults	2,200	5,412	1,406	1,125	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,400	1,500	1,000	2,002	20,045

the same top-performing countries (the U.K. and Switzerland) and worst-performing countries (the U.S. and Canada). However, there was a fair amount of fluidity among the countries in the middle of the performance range, whose rankings were sensitive to relatively small changes in data or methodology. For this reason, overall rankings may overshadow important absolute differences in performance, warranting closer examination of the data when describing a particular country's performance.

EXHIBIT 8. HEALTHY LIVES MEASURES

	Raw Scores											Ranking Scores										
	AUS	CAN	FRA	GER	NETH	NZ	NOR	SWE	SWIZ	UK	US	AUS	CAN	FRA	GER	NETH	NZ	NOR	SWE	SWIZ	UK	US
OVERALL BENCHMARK RANKING												4	8	1	7	5	9	6	2	3	10	11
Mortality amenable to health care (deaths per 100,000) ^a	57	77	55	76	66	79	64	61	*	83	96	2	7	1	6	5	8	4	3	*	9	10
Infant mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births) ^b	3.8	4.9	3.5	3.6	3.6	5.5	2.4	2.1	3.8	4.3	6.1	6	9	3	4	4	10	2	1	6	8	11
Healthy life expectancy at age 60 (average of women and men) ^c	18.7	18.3	18.8	17.8	17.8	18.2	17.4	18.2	19.0	17.7	17.5	3	4	2	8	7	5	11	6	1	9	10

^a 2006–07 World Health Organization (WHO) mortality data; Canada data from 2002–03. * Data not available for Switzerland. For more details on sources see the [methodology](#) appendix.

^b OECD, *OECD Health Data, 2013* (Nov. 2013). Data are from 2011, except Canada (2009).

^c WHO Global Health Observatory Data Repository. Data from 2011.



Eric C. Schneider
Anav Shah
Michelle M. Doty
Roosa Tikkanen
Katharine Fields
Reginald D. Williams II

AUGUST 2021



Change in Rankings Since the 2017 Edition of *Mirror, Mirror*

Readers familiar with the [previous](#) edition of this report (2017) will notice that some of the country ranks have changed. These changes should be interpreted with caution. While most of the 71 measures included in the new edition are identical to those used in 2017, 10 measures were modified because survey items, response categories, or available data changed. We replaced 17 of the 2017 measures with 16 new measures to reflect newly available data as well as to better represent previously defined performance domains and subdomains. An expert advisory panel reviewed the proposed changes. See [Appendix 2](#) for more detail on the changes by domain.

Readers should interpret changes in ranks in the context of the statistical variation in countries' performance scores (as visualized in Exhibit 2, for example). We calculated performance differences as the standard deviation from "average performance" — a measure of the degree of difference between countries given the range of variation in this set of countries.

Depending on the domain, some countries have quantitatively similar performance scores, meaning that very small differences can produce changes in rankings. The U.K.'s drop in rank from #1 to #4 is associated with that country's lower performance on several domains (such as access to care and equity) compared to 2017.

Exhibit 1. Health Care System Performance Rankings

	AUS	CAN	FRA	GER	NETH	NZ	NOR	SWE	SWIZ	UK	US
OVERALL RANKING	3	10	8	5	2	6	1	7	9	4	11
Access to Care	8	9	7	3	1	5	2	6	10	4	11
Care Process	6	4	10	9	3	1	8	11	7	5	2
Administrative Efficiency	2	7	6	9	8	3	1	5	10	4	11
Equity	1	10	7	2	5	9	8	6	3	4	11
Health Care Outcomes	1	10	6	7	4	8	2	5	3	9	11

Data: Commonwealth Fund analysis.

How the Module Works

- Tuesdays at 6pm, 2-2½ hours with a short break in the middle
- Two topics each week: Research Process and Method
- Before the class
 - Watch recorded lectures on Moodle
 - Read the starred readings
 - Think about how you could use the week's method to answer a research question you are interested in
- Class discussion
 - Half on the research process
 - Half on the method



Weekly Reading

- A reading about the research process topic
- A reading about the method
- Two research articles to read to discuss the process and method



Topics Outline

WEEK BEGINNING	RESEARCH PROCESS	METHOD
2 October 2022	Doing political research	Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods
9 October 2022	Ontology and epistemology	Interviews
16 October 2022	Questions	Elite interviews
23 October 2022	Literature reviews	Focus groups
30 October 2022	Theory	Comparative case studies
6 November 2022	<i>Reading Week</i>	
13 November 2022	Concepts	Single case studies and process tracing
20 November 2022	Measurement	Ethnography
27 November 2022	Research integrity	Archives and Documents
4 December 2022	Ethics	Experiments
11 December 2022	Your research plans	

Assessment

Type of Assessment	Weighting (%)	Deadline
Essay	40	10 th November 2023
Research design	50	8 th January 2024
Quiz 1	5	3 rd November 2023
Quiz 2	5	15 th December 2023

Quizzes

- Two short-answer quizzes released on Moodle a week before their deadlines on 3rd November 2023 and 15th December 2023
- Each quiz will consist of five questions
- One point will be given for each successfully answered question, for a maximum of ten points between the two quizzes





Essay

- 2000-word critical review of a journal article that uses one of the methods covered in the module
- A list of suggested journal articles can be found on Moodle (or your own choice)
- Consider research process
 - Research question, theory, concepts, measurement, approach to explanation
- And method
 - How appropriate was the method? How well was it implemented? What other methods could have been used?
- Similar to our weekly seminar discussions

Research Design

- 2000-word outline of a planned research project that would answer an original research question of your own choosing
- Apply what you have learned during the module
 - What is your research question?
 - What ontological and epistemological foundations underpin your research philosophy?
 - Where does your proposed research fit into previous research on the topic? How will you build on existing studies?
 - What is your theory? Will you be testing an existing theory, developing a new theory or adapting an existing theory to a different context?
 - What are the key concepts in your research project? How will you operationalise and measure them?
 - Which method(s) will you use to answer your question? Why do you choose this method, or sets of method? How will you collect your data? How will you analyse the data you collect?
 - What practical difficulties might you face when collecting and analysing your data? How will you overcome them?
 - What ethical issues might arise during your research project? How will you ensure that your research meets relevant ethical standards?



Any questions?



My Research

- What effects do legacy unions have on labour politics in new democracies?
- How do migrants' remittances affect the likelihood of democratisation in authoritarian regimes?
- To what extent does corruption drive emigration?
- Mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods
 - Micro- and macro-data analysis
 - Interviews (field and elite)
 - Survey experiments




DEMOCRATIZATION
2020, VOL. 27, NO. 7, 1142-1161
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2020.1764941>

 Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

RESEARCH ARTICLE

 Check for updates

State-sponsored trade unions after democratic transitions

Daniel Fedorowycz ^a, Malu A. C. Gatto ^b and Barry Maydom ^c

^aJackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA; ^bInstitute of the Americas, University College London, London, UK; ^cDepartment of Politics, Birkbeck College, University of London, London, UK

ABSTRACT

New democracies inherit a variety of institutions from prior authoritarian regimes, including political parties, militaries and entrenched oligarchies. While these authoritarian legacies have generally been well-researched, one set of institutions has received relatively little attention: state-backed trade unions that lose official sponsorship after democratizing transitions. In most new democracies and competitive authoritarian regimes, these “legacy unions” have remained the dominant workers’ organizations despite few internal reforms. Previous research on the causes and consequences of legacy union dominance has rested on case studies of post-transition countries and small-N comparisons. In this article, we offer a global perspective on the fates of legacy unions by introducing new data about the relative importance of legacy unions in post-Third Wave democracies. We show that most legacy unions survive democratic transitions and remain dominant in new democracies, although with significant regional variation. Our data and analyses suggest that these trade unions are authoritarian legacies which continue to influence labour politics in new democracies. Dominant legacy unions are associated with lower labour movement fragmentation and better-protected labour rights in new democracies.

Migrant Remittances and Violent Responses to Crime in Latin America and the Caribbean

Ana Isabel López García
Barry Maydom

ABSTRACT

High levels of crime are a key driver of emigration from Latin America and the Caribbean. But can emigration change public opinion about how best to respond to crime? Focusing on the political economy of remittances—the money migrants send to their families and communities—this study argues that emigration can increase support for violent responses to crime. Migrants’ families often spend remittances on investment goods, which makes them more vulnerable to crime and more supportive of violence to protect themselves. An analysis of AmericasBarometer data finds that remittance recipients are more likely both to fear crime and to be victims of crime than nonrecipients. They are also more approving of vigilantism, more tolerant of police bending the law to apprehend criminals, and more supportive of deploying the military in crime fighting. These findings contribute to our knowledge of the consequences of international migration for political development in migrant-sending countries.

JOURNAL OF ETHNIC AND MIGRATION STUDIES
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2019.1623294>

 Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

 OPEN ACCESS  Check for updates

Remittances, criminal violence and voter turnout

Ana Isabel López García ^a and Barry Maydom ^b

^aGIGA Institut für Lateinamerika-Studien, Hamburg, Germany; ^bDepartment of Politics, Birkbeck, University of London, London, UK

ABSTRACT

How do financial remittances influence electoral participation in violent democracies? Previous work has focused on the ‘substitution effect’: if recipients depend on remittances for welfare rather than the state, they become disengaged from formal political processes and less likely to vote in elections. However, while remittances can be used to substitute for state provision of welfare goods, they cannot fully substitute for public security. In this paper, we posit that the ability of governments to contain crime and violence conditions the effect of remittances on electoral participation. Specifically, we argue that high levels of crime can negate the substitution effect and make remittance recipients more likely to vote. Using municipality-level data from Mexico and individual-level data from Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, we find that both the receipt of remittances and crime exposure significantly reduce individuals’ propensity to vote and that aggregate remittances and crime rates are correlated with lower turnout. Remittances can, however, negate the turnout-suppressing effects of crime, and crime can negate the turnout-suppressing effects of remittances. Our results suggest a need to account for government provision of both substitutable and non-substitutable goods when investigating the effects of remittances on political participation.

KEYWORDS

Political participation;
turnout; remittances; crime;
violence

Research Article

 Political Studies Association | POLITICAL STUDIES

Migrants’ Remittances, the Fiscal Contract and Tax Attitudes in Africa and Latin America

Ana Isabel López García ¹
and Barry Maydom ²

Abstract

How does the receipt of remittances shape recipients’ attitudes towards taxation? We argue that remittances are likely to reduce support for the fiscal contract of taxes in exchange for public services because recipients rely less on the national economy and the state for their well-being. Remittance recipients can use the money sent by friends or family overseas to obtain public services in the private market. Instead of, or in addition to, tax-funded welfare services. In doing so, remittance recipients become detached from the national political community and develop a transactional relationship with the state whereby they pay licence fees, taxes and bribes to protect investment goods procured with remittances, making them less willing to support general taxation and more likely to approve of tax evasion and avoidance. We find strong support for our theory in analysis of survey data from Africa and Latin America. Our article contributes to knowledge of the micro-foundations of the fiscal contract and the political-economic effects of emigration and remittances on migrants’ homelands.



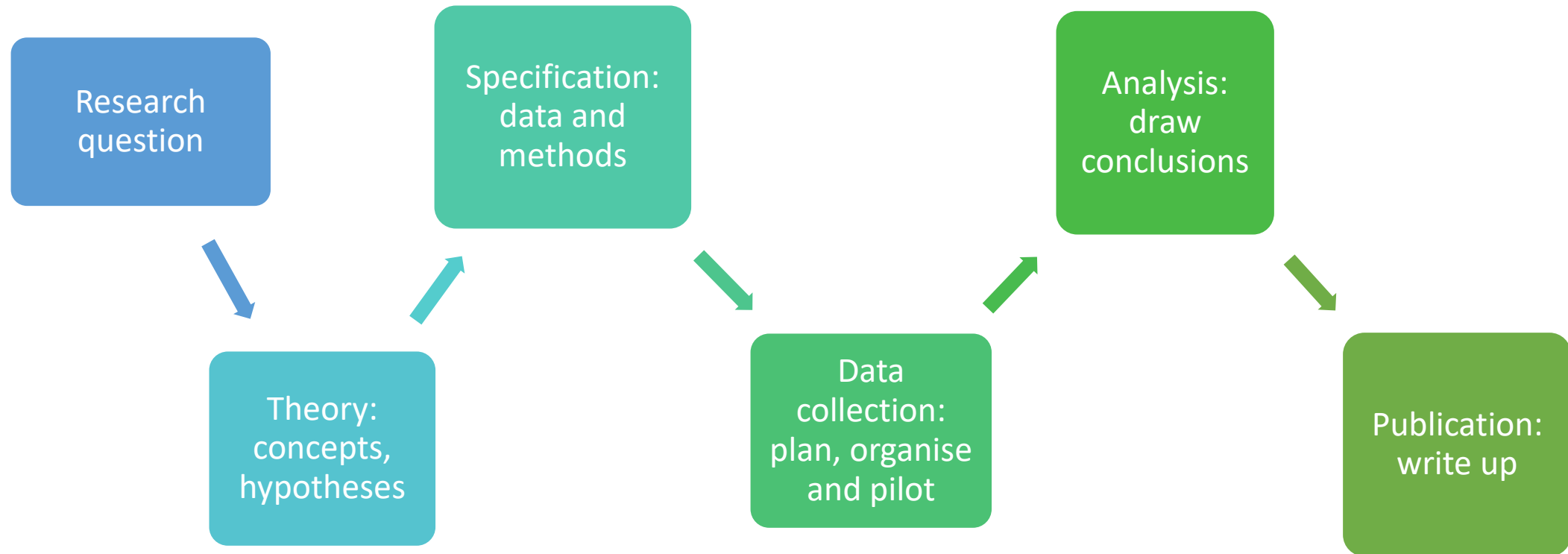
My Next Research Project

- Main question: How can we build robust and durable fiscal contracts in new democracies?
- Specific questions:
 - What effects do emigration, economic informality and crime have on the amount and composition of tax revenue in developing countries?
 - How do experiences of exclusion from the fiscal contract affect individual attitudes towards taxation and government spending?
 - How can governments increase tax compliance and support for taxation in groups which have been excluded from the fiscal contract?
- Plan: focus groups, survey experiments, cross-national statistical analysis

What research
questions do
you have?



The (Idealised) Research Process





But...

- Is it always linear?
- Is it more a research wheel?
- False starts and re-evaluations
- New developments
- Methods don't always work

Structure of a research design: migration and democratisation

- Theory: Migration to democratic countries makes democratisation in migrants' homelands more likely
- Specification: Data on 'democracy' and migration, change in political norms and participation amongst migrants' families
- Methods: Cross-national time-series analysis, secondary survey analysis, interviews with migrants' families
- Collection: Cross-national democracy and migration data, three regional surveys (Africa, Middle East, Central Asia), 63 interviews
- Issues?
 - Existing cross-national data is suspect
 - Existing surveys do not ask questions designed for the research project
 - How to fit methods together?

Dividing Lines in Methodology (Toshkov)

- Positivists vs subjectivists/interpretivists
 - Is political research about the “value-free pursuit of objective truths about the social and political worlds” or “interpreting the meaning of and reflecting on the reasons for human action”?
 - Do we want to understand or change the political world?
- Empiricists vs scientific realists
 - Should we focus only on what we can observe, or the structures and causal mechanisms underlying what we can observe?
- Qualitative vs quantitative
 - Statistical analysis vs other kinds of method
- This module will take a pragmatic approach

Blinder

- What were the research question, theory and key concepts?
- How did the research design get to see people's prejudices and circumvent 'socially desirable responses'?
- What problems might there be with this approach?
- How else could you design a research project to get around these issues?
- What other methods could be used to research this question?



Imagined Immigration: The Impact of Different Meanings of 'Immigrants' in Public Opinion and Policy Debates in Britain

Scott Blinder

University of Oxford

Public opinion research on immigration attitudes has largely overlooked the question of how survey respondents understand the term 'immigrants'. This article investigates latent perceptions of immigrants, termed 'imagined immigration', among members of the British public. Using novel survey data, I examine who members of the British public have in mind when they think of immigrants. I find that public perceptions of immigration diverge significantly from the set of people identified as immigrants in government statistics and targeted in policy changes. In particular, public perceptions focus on asylum seekers and permanent arrivals, while mostly ignoring international students, a target of new restrictive immigration policies. I also show that variation in individuals' imagined immigration is strongly associated with individual preferences for reduced immigration, suggesting imagined immigration as a new determinant of anti-immigration policy preferences to consider in future research.

Keywords: immigration; public opinion; immigration – Britain; imagined immigration; immigration attitudes



Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods

Gary King / Robert D. Keohane / Sidney Verba

Designing Social Inquiry



Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research



RETHINKING SECOND EDITION



SOCIAL INQUIRY



Diverse Tools, Shared Standards

EDITED BY HENRY E. BRADY AND DAVID COLLIER



A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research

James Mahoney

*Departments of Political Science and Sociology,
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60208-1006
e-mail: james-mahoney@northwestern.edu (corresponding author)*

Gary Goertz

*Department of Political Science,
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721
e-mail: ggoertz@u.arizona.edu*

The quantitative and qualitative research traditions can be thought of as distinct cultures marked by different values, beliefs, and norms. In this essay, we adopt this metaphor toward the end of contrasting these research traditions across 10 areas: (1) approaches to explanation, (2) conceptions of causation, (3) multivariate explanations, (4) equifinality, (5) scope and causal generalization, (6) case selection, (7) weighting observations, (8) substantively important cases, (9) lack of fit, and (10) concepts and measurement. We suggest that an appreciation of the alternative assumptions and goals of the traditions can help scholars avoid misunderstandings and contribute to more productive ‘cross-cultural’ communication in political science.

Introduction

Comparisons of the quantitative and qualitative research traditions sometimes call to mind religious metaphors. In his commentary for this issue, for example, Beck (2006) likens the traditions to the worship of alternative gods. Schrodt (2006), inspired by Brady’s (2004b, 53) prior casting of the controversy in terms of theology versus homiletics, is more explicit: ‘while this debate is not in any sense about religion, its dynamics are best understood as though it were about religion. We have always known that, it just needed to be said.’

We prefer to think of the two traditions as alternative cultures. Each has its own values, beliefs, and norms. Each is sometimes privately suspicious or skeptical of the other though usually more publicly polite. Communication across traditions tends to be difficult and marked by misunderstanding. When members of one tradition offer their insights to

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A Tale of Two Cultures

Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences

Gary Goertz & James Mahoney



Table 1 Contrasting qualitative and quantitative research

<i>Section</i>	<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Qualitative</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>
1	Approaches to explanation	Explain individual cases; "causes-of-effects" approach	Estimate average effect of independent variables; "effects-of-causes" approach
2	Conceptions of causation	Necessary and sufficient causes; mathematical logic	Correlational causes; probability/statistical theory
3	Multivariate explanations	INUS causation; occasional individual effects	Additive causation; occasional interaction terms
4	Equifinality	Core concept; few causal paths	Absent concept; implicitly large number of causal paths
5	Scope and generalization	Adopt a narrow scope to avoid causal heterogeneity	Adopt a broad scope to maximize statistical leverage and generalization
6	Case selection practices	Oriented toward positive cases on dependent variable; no (0,0,0) cases	Random selection (ideally) on independent variables; all cases analyzed
7	Weighting observations	Theory evaluation sensitive to individual observations; one misfit can have an important impact	All observations are a priori equally important; overall pattern of fit is crucial
8	Substantively important cases	Substantively important cases must be explained	Substantively important cases not given special attention
9	Lack of fit	Nonconforming cases are examined closely and explained	Nonsystematic causal factors are treated as error
10	Concepts and measurement	Concepts center of attention; error leads to concept revision	Measurement and indicators center of attention; error is modeled and/or new indicators identified

Criticisms of the 'Two Cultures'

Brady

- most quant and qual researchers follow the same paradigm, they develop “models of social and political phenomena”
- interpretivists and experimentalists might have different paradigms to other researchers

Elman

- it does not accurately describe either 'culture'
- quantitative research is moving towards experiments and become more sceptical of observational data
- many qualitative researchers do not use set theory

Do Quantitative and Qualitative Research Reflect two Distinct Cultures? An Empirical Analysis of 180 Articles Suggests “no”

David Kuehn ¹
and Ingo Rohlfing ²

Abstract

The debate about the characteristics and advantages of quantitative and qualitative methods is decades old. In their seminal monograph, *A Tale of Two Cultures* (2012, ATTC), Gary Goertz and James Mahoney argue that methods and research design practices for causal inference can be distinguished as two cultures that systematically differ from each other along 25 specific characteristics. ATTC's stated goal is a description of empirical patterns in quantitative and qualitative research. Yet, it does not include a systematic empirical evaluation as to whether the 25 are relevant and valid descriptors of applied research. In this paper, we derive five observable implications from ATTC and test the implications against a stratified random sample of 90 qualitative and 90 quantitative articles published in six journals between 1990–2012. Our analysis provides little support for the two-cultures hypothesis. Quantitative methods are largely implemented as described in ATTC, whereas qualitative methods are much

Sociological Methods & Research
1–36

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Table 3. Results of the Empirical Tests of Five Observable Implications.

OI	Expectation	Results	OI corroborated
1	High validity and empirical relevance	Six out of the 25 practices that could not be relevant (no exhaustiveness of expected quantitative and qualitative practice) are not relevant in empirical research.	No
2	Single dimension	Method practices do not reflect a single dimension of method practices.	No
3	Strong pairwise correlations	Most method practices do not correlate strongly with each other. Some of those that do, do so by the way they are defined in ATTC.	No
4.	High shares of predicted practices	The proportion of items in line with the used method is high for quantitative articles and low for qualitative articles.	Yes (quant) and no (qual)
5.	Strengthening qualitative culture over time, constantly strong quantitative culture	Strong conformity with quantitative culture over time (with few exceptions). Most qualitative practices and articles are not following the qualitative culture. No discernible trend towards qualitative culture over time.	Yes (quant) and no (qual)


¹GIGA German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Hamburg, Germany

²Cologne Center for Comparative Politics, University of Cologne, Köln, Germany

Corresponding Author:

David Kuehn, GIGA Institute for Global and Area Studies, Hamburg, Germany.

Email: david.kuehn@giga-hamburg.de



Bryman, *Social Research Methods*

QUALITATIVE

Inductive

Interpretivist

Constructivist

Interested in meaning

QUANTITATIVE

Deductive

Natural science basis

Objective

Interested in cause



Mixed Methods





What if your methods produce different results?

- Study on television watching and violence in children
- Interviews with 20 parents finds children less violent
- Representative survey of 1000 parents finds children slightly more violent
- Police report rise in childhood crime when a popular violent TV show was released
- What could you do?



Problems with Mixed Methods

1. *Ontological/philosophical*: can they be resolved?
2. *Methodological*: how can they fit?
3. *Practical/analytical*: what are the barriers to analysis?

Ontological/epistemological problems

Positivist

- Universe is driven by laws, causal explanations
- Seek to describe and explain
- Theory-hypothesise-empirics
- Large data

Anti-Foundationalist

- Loaded with subjectivity and values
- Seek to understand 'meaning'
- Inductive-empirics-interpret-theory
- Small data

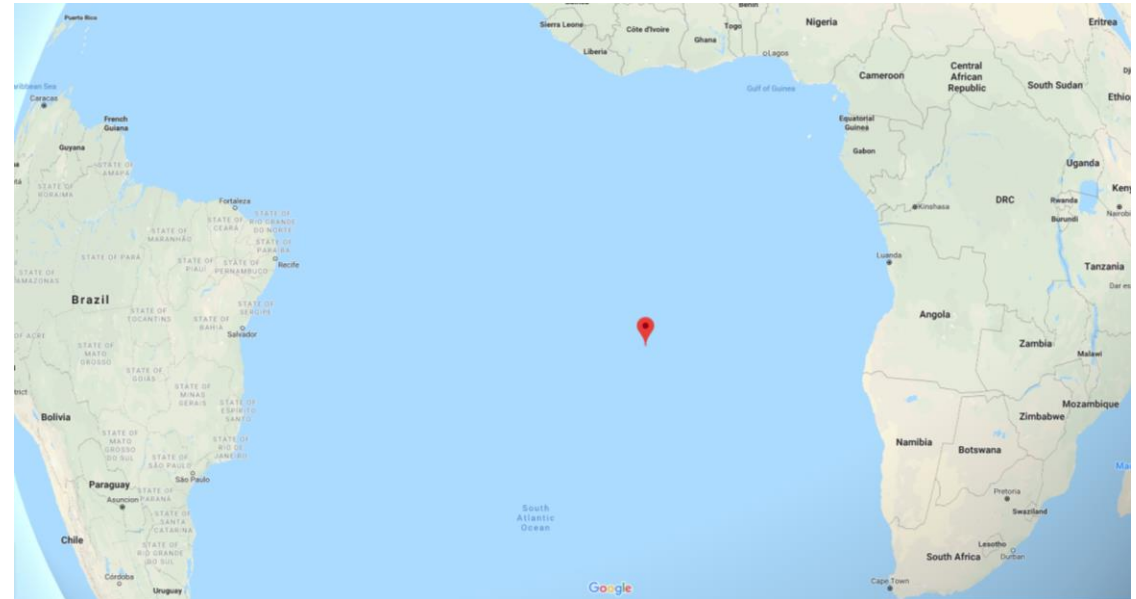


Can they be resolved?

- Depends on viewpoint?
- Challenge the idea of a binary distinction?
- Adopt a 'pragmatic' attitude?
- Decide *where* in the process it is/*when* it takes place?

St Helena TV Experiment

- Classic way is to mix methods in the design
- TV arrived in 1995: data collected 1993-2000
- Content analysis of TV violence/filmed interactions
- Checklist of pupil behaviour at nursery
- Essays written by children on family/community
- TV viewing diary



Displacement effects: Most children became enthusiastic - though not intemperate - viewers. Viewing time appeared to be most displaced from activities such as 'unorganised play', 'sleeping', 'eating' and 'walking' along with 'watching video'.

Content effects: Findings, so far, challenge simplistic notions that viewing TV encourages anti-social behaviour. Discussions with older students suggested family and community factors which seem more persuasive in shaping behaviour than mere exposure to TV.

Future research: If perceptions of the above kind are substantiated by further empirical work (currently in preparation) the possibility emerges that potentially adverse outcomes of TV viewing can be limited by equitable social

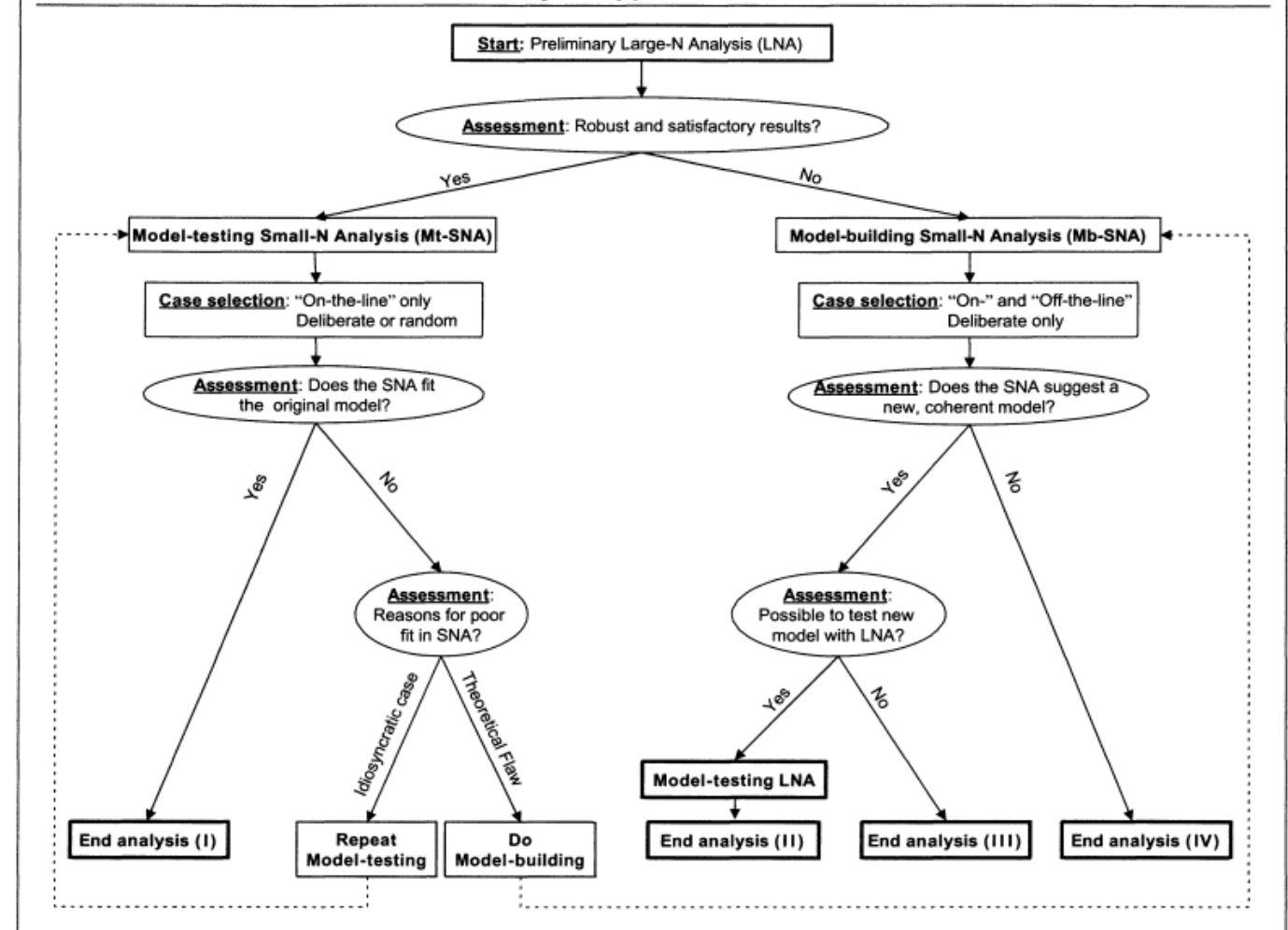
Triangulation? (Bryman and Denzin 1970)

- Refers to 'fixed point in space'
- Methodological triangulation, which refers to the use of more than one method for gathering data.
- Disadvantages
 - Can you just merge two views?
 - Interpret findings - is it 'truth' or a 'possible interpretation'?
 - Cannot compromise 'basic position'
 - **Need to decide which method supports the other (Read and Marsh 2002)**

Sequencing?

- Qualitative and quantitative approaches can inform each other
- One approach is nested analysis (Lieberman)

FIGURE 1. Overview of the Nested Analysis Approach



More Practical Problems...

- Do you have the skills to do both?
- Do you have the time or resources?
- What if your methods don't match? What if they produce different results?



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- What methods are used? How well do the different methods fit together in the paper? To what extent does one method dominate?
- How were the methods sequenced? Was the sequencing effective?
- How reliable are the findings?
- How could the paper be improved?
- What other methods could be used?

Transnational Militancy:

Diaspora Influence over Electoral Activity in Latin America

Michael Ahn Paarlberg

What makes migrants valuable to political parties in their countries of origin? Outreach efforts by parties to citizens residing in other countries indicate that parties believe winning the support of migrants does pay off in some form of electoral advantage. In the United States alone, within the past five years, candidates from Mexico, Guatemala, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, El Salvador, and Peru have visited and campaigned among diaspora communities residing in Miami, Los Angeles, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Chicago, and Washington, DC; many parties have designated representatives and, in some cases, permanent offices in the U.S. and other countries.

Notably, parties invest in these diaspora campaign activities and party infrastructures despite the fact that diaspora voter turnout is uniformly low: in Mexico's 2012 presidential election, only 40,737 out of an estimated 4.2 million eligible Mexican voters residing abroad voted, a turnout rate of less than 1 percent.¹ Among the top migrant-sending countries to the U.S., measured by the ratio of U.S.-residing diaspora to home country population, in some of the most active cases of diaspora campaigning—Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, and El Salvador prior to 2014—citizens do not have the right to vote outside of the country at all.² There is no apparent pattern to diaspora campaigning; parties campaigning in the U.S. include left, right, and center, incumbent and opposition parties.

Given the high cost to parties engaging in diaspora campaigning and small to nonexistent electoral payoff in terms of direct votes from abroad, such behavior by parties is puzzling.³ Specific cases of politicians in non-external voting countries campaigning in the U.S. suggest politicians see an indirect benefit from diaspora campaigning. In Mexico's 2000 election, before Mexico's establishment of external voting rights, Vicente Fox visited Mexican migrant neighborhoods in Los Angeles and passed out phone cards to supporters, encouraging them to call relatives in Mexico and tell them to vote for him.⁴ My interviews with forty-five politicians, party officials, and appointees in the top three Latin American migrant-sending countries to the U.S., Mexico, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic,⁵ support the theory that parties