

MY410

Fundamentals of Research Design for International Development

Seminar Week 8

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Outline

1. Housekeeping
2. Feedback (Annotated Bibliography)
3. Dissertation Proposal

1. Housekeeping

- Q&A
- Sit next in (feedback) groups

2. Feedback

1. Introduction & examples
2. Assessment Sheet – Sections 1-6
3. Present your assessments
4. Questions/Reactions/Clarifications
5. General Feedback

2. Feedback

1. Introduction & examples

- Peer assessment
 - Feedback that helps **look forward**
 - Become more aware of what is a 'good' AB.
 - Identify areas for your **own improvement**.
- 'The research designs are partially clear' (Q3)
 - 'I would have liked to know more about: sampling, controls, definitions, operationalization, questionnaire, etc.'
- 'There are only a few or misdirected comments on the research designs' (Q4)
 - You say that the conclusions might not be externally valid, why exactly? Is the case analyzed atypical? How so?
- Underline key sentences!

2. Feedback

1. Introduction & examples
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2. Feedback

[Please refer to feedback slides uploaded in Moodle for a full set of comments]

- As mentioned in the seminars, the following comments are the ones that resonated more with the ABs of my students:
 - Be specific when describing the RD and assessing merits and limitations.
 - Move from design (internal and external concerns) to trade-offs.
 - Follow instructions

3. Dissertation Proposal

- Timeline
 - Intro/guideline, week 08
 - Research Designs, week 09
 - Your topics, week 10
 - Submission, week 11

3. Dissertation Proposal

- Content and Structure
 - No recipe, but common elements:
 1. Research Question
 2. Background Literature
 3. Research Design
 4. Trade-offs
 5. References
 - Go with flow!
 - Sections should be connected.

3. Dissertation Proposal

1. Research Question

- What do you want to find?
- It has to be a question (no assumptions, no statements)
- Explanatory, exploratory, causal...
- Feasible (intellectually, time, resources)
- **Narrow and focused**

3. Dissertation Proposal

2. Background Literature

- Describe your topic
- What we know and (still don't know)
- Not a laundry list of papers!
 - Jones (2009) said 'high', Li (2010) said 'low', Perez (2011) said mainly 'high' and sometimes 'low'.
- An analytical description of the field
 - Existing literature does not agree on the outcomes, some scholars find 'high' (Jones, 2009; Perez, 2011) others find 'low' (Li, 2010; Perez, 2011).
 - Under which conditions can we expect 'high' to happen?

3. Dissertation Proposal

3. Research Design

- A **strategy** to answer your question
 - Data, sources, how will it be analysed...
 - Examples: comparative case studies, quantitative or qualitative causal analysis (e.g., process-tracing, difference-in-difference estimation), discourse analysis, thematic analysis, a combination of above, etc.
 - You need to state the plan, you don't have to implement it.

3. Dissertation Proposal

4. Trade-offs

- What aspects of the design condition the conclusions?
 - Case selection, data (e.g., availability, quality, etc.)
 - You have an analytical toolbox for this, e.g.:
 - Internal validity, causality, reliability, generalizability, etc.

5. References

- Consistency

3. Dissertation Proposal

Sections	Your Toolbox
Research Question	Lectures 2-4. AB
Background Literature	Seminars 3. AB
Research Design	Seminars 2-5, 7-9
Trade-offs	AB, WEI

- 1000 words
- Deadline: December 13th, 5pm
- Include a Cover Sheet
- **Do not include your name or id**
- File name: MY410-GROUPY-ZZZZZ
 - MY410-GROUP2-98765
- For guidelines, see D. of Methodology
- Files can be doc or pdf

Wrap-up

- Next week: your very last reading! See moodle.
- Work on your proposals and bring it to the seminar in week 10.