**ISW Lesson Plan**

January 25, 2023

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| **Duration** | **Block** | **Content** |
| 20-30 mins | Recap | What we have done so far: Producing valid knowledge with compelling theoretical claims and appropriate theory-empirics alignment  The claims can have different functions: Description, interpretation, explanation, and prediction  The claims can take different forms: Verbal, formal, and combined (“Analytic narratives”)  The claims can serve different goals: Theory as ideology (ways of imaging the future), theory as “paradigms” (ways of explaining), and theory as approach (ways of seeing)  Induction, deduction, and abduction  Examples: Modernization theory, critical race theory, and rational choice theory  Takeaways: Promote knowledge accumulation and find yourself a place in the field |
| 15 mins | Study Skills | How to engage social science readings  Strategic reading and note-taking  Support network: Study Skills, reading clubs and pastoral tutoring  Learning at PG level: Why partial understanding is the goal |
| 30-40 mins | Lecture I | Using numbers to “investigate” the social world  Positivism and constructivism in social research  What we do with numbers: Measurement and inference (descriptive, causal, and predictive)  Challenges and issues: Bias, uncertainty, and “hidden decisions”  Solutions: Replicability and transparency |
| 15 mins | Exercise I | Can/should we measure identity? |
|  | Break |  |
| 30-40 mins | Lecture II | When Quants meet quals  Mixed methods: Post-KKV  “Critical” approaches to quantitative research |
| 15 mins | Exercise II | Is mixed method or multi-method research a good solution? |
| 20 mins | Conclusion | The end of “lone wolf” era: Interdisciplinary collaboration for future generations of social researchers  The rise of “computational” social science |