

CourseNo: PLANA8900_001_2013_3

Meeting Location: [FAYERWEATHER 201](#)

Meeting Time: T 11:00A-01:00P

Instructor Information: [David Andrew King](#)

Doctoral Subcommittee in Urban Planning
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation
Columbia University

PLA8900/PLA8902 COLLOQUIUM I and III

(Updated August 28, 2013)

Prof. David King Fall, 2013

Tuesdays, 11-1

The primary purpose of this doctoral colloquium is to reflect on the role of research design in social science scholarship. We will focus on general approaches to research as well as more specific methodologies such as case study design, comparative analysis, mixed methods, and historical research. As part of this discussion, we will investigate the issue of representation. Because this is a doctoral seminar, the pedagogical style is one of discussion and debate. In each class, students should be prepared to engage the readings, and each other.

Course Readings. The course readings are available in a course packet that can be purchased at Village Copier at 2872 Broadway between 111th and 112th streets.

Assignments. In addition to active participation in class discussions, students must complete two written assignments. One is a review essay on a research design that you are likely to use for your dissertation. Your task will be to assess the applicability and strengths as well as limitations of this approach. For the second assignment, your task will be to discuss the ‘epistemological qualities’ of a specific body of research using a comparative analysis of existing research studies. Each assignment will consist of an initial statement of intent, a draft version, and a final text. See the Course Schedule for due dates. Additional guidelines will be distributed at a later date.

Grading. The grading will be as follows:

Pre-Assignment	Ungraded
Research Design	40 percent
Research critique	40 percent
Class Participation	20 percent
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	100 percent

Office Hours: Regularly scheduled office hours are Mondays from 2-4pm. I am available at other times by appointment. Please email me at dk2475@columbia.edu to arrange a time.

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 3 Pre-Assignment Due:
Please bring a short description of your proposed
dissertation topic.

Weeks

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. September 3 | Research Strategies |
| 2. September 10 | Explanation and Interpretation |
| 3. September 17 | Quantitative Analysis |
| Due: Research Design Intent | |
| 4. September 24 | Positivism, Post-Positivism, and Strategic |
| Positivism | |
| 5. October 1 | Case Study Research |
| 6. October 8 | Traditional Comparative Analysis |
| 7. October 15 | Alternative Comparative Perspectives |

Due: Draft of Research Design

Assignment

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8. October 22 | Extended and Retracted Cases |
| Due: Research Critique Intent | |
| 9. October 29 | Quasi-Experimental Designs |

Due: Final Version of Research Design

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| November 5 | No Class |
| 10. November 12 | Mixed Methods |
| 11. November 19 | Historiography |

12. November 26 Policy Research

13. December 3 The Rhetoric of Scholarship

Due: Draft of Research Critique

14. December 10 Representational Strategies

December 13 **Final Draft of Second
Assignment Due. Please email as a Word
document.**

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Research Strategies

Robert Weiss, "Alternative Approaches in the Study of Complex Situations," *Human Organization* 25, 3 (1966):198-206.

Andrew Sayer, *Method in Social Science*. London: Routledge, 1992ed., pp. 232-257.

Martin Bauer, George Gaskell, and Nicholas C. Allum, "Quantity, Quality and Knowledge Interests: Avoiding Confusions," pp. 3-17 in M. Bauer and G. Gaskell, eds., *Qualitative Researching*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2000.

2. Explanation and Interpretation

Charles Frankel, "Explanation and Interpretation in History," *Philosophy of Science*, 24, 2 (1957):137-155.

Ann Chin Lin, "Bridging Positivist and Interpretivist Approaches to Qualitative Methods," *Policy Studies Journal* 26, 1 (1998):162-180.

Wendy Roth and Jal Mehta, "The *Rashomon* Effect: Combining Positivist and Interpretivist Approaches in the Analysis of Contested Events," *Sociological Methods & Research* 31, 2 (2002):131-173.

3. Quantitative Analysis

Alan Bryman, *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004,
pp. 61-82.

Steven A. Greenlaw, *Doing Economics*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006,
pp. 183-201.

Andrew Abbott, "Transcending General Linear Reality," *Time Matters: On Theory and Method*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001, pp. 37-63.

4. Positivism, Post-Positivism, and Strategic Positivism

Trevor J. Barnes, "'Not Only ... But Also': Quantitative and Critical Geography,"

The Professional Geographer 61, 3 (2009):292-300.

Sara L. McLafferty, "Counting for Women," *The Professional Geographer*, 47, 4 (1995):436-442.

Eric Sheppard, "Quantitative Geography: Representations, Practices, and Possibilities," *Environment and Planning D*, 19 (2001):535-554.

Elvin Wyly, "Strategic Positivism," *The Professional Geographer* 61, 3 (2009):310-322.

5. Case Study Research

Wilson Gee, "The Case Method," *Social Science Research Methods*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1950, pp. 230-251.

Piet J.M. Verschuren, "Case Study as a Research Strategy: Some Ambiguities and Observations," *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 6, 2 (2003); 121-139.

Bent Flyvbjerg, "Five Misunderstandings About Case-Study Research," *Qualitative Inquiry* 12, 2 (2006):219-245.

6. Traditional Comparative Analysis

John Madge, *The Tools of Social Science*. New York: Doubleday, 1965, pp. 49-74.

Charles Ragin, "Case-Oriented Comparative Methods," *The Comparative Method*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. 1987, pp. 34-52.

Charles Tilly, *Big Structures, Large Processes, Huge Comparisons*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1984, pp. 60-86.

Neil Brenner, "World City Theory, Globalization and the Comparative Historical Method," *Urban Affairs Review* 37, 1 (2001):124-147.

7. Alternative Comparative Perspectives

Charles Ragin, "Diversity-Oriented Research: Between Complexity and Generality," *Fuzzy-Set Social Science*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000, pp. 21-42.

Charles Ragin, "How to Lure Analytical Social Science Out of the Doldrums: Lessons from Comparative Research," *International Sociology* 21, 5 (2006):633-646.

Robert A. Beauregard, "Writing Transnational Histories," *Journal of Planning History* 4, 4 (2005):392-402.

Ian Tyrrell, "Beyond the View from Euro-America: Environment, Settler Societies, and the Internationalization of American History," pp. 168-191 in T. Bender, ed., *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2002.

8. Extended and Retracted Cases

Philip McMichael, "Incorporating Comparison Within a World Historical Perspective," *American Sociological Review* 55 (1990):385-397.

Michael Buroway, "The Extended Case Method," *Sociological Theory*, 16, 1
(1998):4-33.

Vinit Mukhija, "N of One Plus Some: An Alternative Strategy for Conducting Single Case Research," *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 29, 4
(2010):416-426.

Howard S. Becker, "Problems of Inference and Proof in Participant Observation,"
American Sociological Review, 23, 6 (1958):652-660.

Clifford Geertz, "I-Witnessing," pp. 73-101 in *Works and Lives: The Anthropologist As Author*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1988.

9. Quasi-Experimental Designs

Thomas D. Cook and Donald T. Campbell, *Quasi-Experimentation: Design and Analysis Issues in Field Settings*. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1979, pp. 1-30.

Donald T. Campbell and Julian C. Stanley, *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research*. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1963, pp. 1-13.

Donald T. Campbell, "Reforms as Experiments," pp. 187-223 in C.H. Weiss, ed., *Evaluating Action Programs*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 1972.

Murdock Pencil, "Salt Passage Research," *Journal of Communication* 26, 4 (1976):31-36.

10. Mixed Methods

William A. Firestone, "Meaning in Method: The Rhetoric of Quantitative and Qualitative Research," *Educational Researcher* 16, 7 (1987):16-21.

Sandra Mathison, "Why Triangulate?" *Educational Researcher* 17, 2 (1988):13-17.

R. Burke Johnson and Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie, "Mixed Method Research: A Research Paradigm Whose Time Has Come," *Educational Researcher* 33, 7 (2004):14-26.

Mario L. Small, "How to Conduct a Mixed Methods Study: Recent Trends in a Rapidly

Growing Literature," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 37 (2011):57-86.
(Posted on CourseWorks site: Class Files, Shared Files.)

11. Historiography

Allan Megill, "Narrative and the Four Tasks of History-Writing," *Historical Knowledge, Historical Error*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2007, pp. 78-103.

Andrew Abbott, "History and Sociology: The Lost Synthesis," *Social Science History* 15, 2 (1991):201-238.

Larry W. Isaac, "Transforming Localities: Reflections on Time, Causality, and Narrative in Contemporary Historical Sociology," *Historical Methods* 30, 1 (1997):4-12.

William Cronon, "A Place for Stories: Nature, History, and Narrative," *The Journal of American History* 78, 4 (1992): 1347-1376.

12. Policy Research

Ron Johnston and Paul Plummer, "Commentary: What is Policy-Oriented Research?" *Environment & Planning A* 37, 9 (2005):1521-1526.

Robert Scott and Arnold Shore, "Sociology and Policy Analysis," *The American Sociologist* 9 (1974):51-59.

Paul Steinberg, "Causal Assessment in Small-N Policy Studies," *The Policy Studies Journal* 35, 2 (2007):181-204.

Martin Rein and Donald Schon, "Reframing Policy Discourse," pp. 145-166 in Frank Fischer and John Forester, eds., *The Argumentative Turn in Policy Analysis and Planning*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1993.

13. The Rhetoric of Scholarship

William Ogburn, "On Scientific Writing," *American Journal of Sociology* 52, 5 (1947):383-388.

Joseph Gusfield, "The Literary Rhetoric of Science: Comedy and Pathos in Drinking Driver Research," *American Sociological Review* 41, 1 (1976):16-34.

Raewyn Connell, "The Northern Theory of Globalization," *Sociological Theory* 25, 4 (2007):368-385.

George Orwell, "Politics and the English Language," pp. 156-171 in *A Collection of Essays by George Orwell*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich, 1953.

14. Representational Strategies

Joseph Gusfield, "Two Genres of Sociology," in A. Hunter, ed., *The Rhetoric of Social Research*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1990, pp. 62-96.

Andy Merrifield, "Between Process and Individuation: Translating Metaphors and Narratives of Urban Space," *Antipode* 29, 4 (1997):417-436.

Gordon L. Clark, "Stylized Facts and Close Dialogue: Methodology in Economic Geography," *Annals of the Association of American*

Geographers 88, 1 (1998):73-87.