

# Secondary Data Analysis

**Instructor: Adalbert Wilhelm**

Research IV, Room 111, phone - 3402, e-mail: a.wilhelm@jacobs-university.de

## **Task: Research proposal**

- written document (2-3 pages)

DUE IN: September 23, 2014, 23:59

HOW: electronically in pdf-format via submission to course space at `conncet.academy`

## **Research proposal shall include:**

- Background/Motivation
- Research question/specific focus
- Methodological approach
  - data sources
  - main variables
  - units (level) of analysis
  - statistical techniques to be used
- expected results/main hypotheses/main claims
- project plan (time table: who does what, when)
- preliminary bibliography (at least one academic reference)

## Proposal evaluation<sup>1</sup>

- Is the research problem clearly defined?
- Have the research objectives been outlined and understood?
- Has the background and the context of the work been clearly understood?
- Has the background and context of the research work been linked to the research plan?
- What is the aim of the research project? Describing data, explaining relationships, predicting outcomes?
- Has a suitable data source been identified?
- Does the data fit the research objectives?
- What are the key variables for the research objectives?
- What size does the data have (sample size, number of variables)?
- Do the methods chosen meet with the objectives of the research?
- Will they generate the information required in a robust, valid and reliable way?
- Have any limitations been outlined and what is being done to mitigate against those?
- How will the data be analysed and presented?
- Have any ethical issues been defined?
- Has a timeline been clearly presented?
- Does this match the tasks outlined in the methodology?
- Is the timeline realistic?

---

<sup>1</sup>adapted from Laura Lake, U Plymouth