



## 2014 Fall School in Empirical Research Methods

convened by  
*Southeast Asian Studies at Freiburg University*  
[www.southeastasianstudies.uni-freiburg.de](http://www.southeastasianstudies.uni-freiburg.de)  
 in collaboration with the *Global Studies Programme (GSP)*  
 and the *Center for Transcultural Asian Studies (CETRAS)*

*Southeast Asian Studies at Freiburg University* is convening a methodology school on empirical research methods between **7 November and 9 November 2014**. The workshops are open for students and young scholars of all disciplines independently of their research focus. We particularly invite young scholars at the master or PhD levels to take part in our methodology school.

Location: [Übungsraum 1 \(Ü1\) and Übungsraum 2 \(Ü2\), KGIV, Rempartstr. 15, 5<sup>th</sup> floor](#)

### *Friday 7.11.2014*

9:15 – 10:00	Welcome session & introduction to the workshop program (Ü1)
10:00 – 13:15	Research Design (Ü1)
13:15 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30 – 17:45	Option 1: Participant Observation (Ü1) Option 2: Quantitative Methods (Ü2)

### *Saturday 8.11.2014*

9:00 – 12:15	Option 1: Qualitative Interviews (Ü1) Option 2: Quantitative Research (Ü2)
12:15 – 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30 – 16:45	Option 1: Analyzing Qualitative Interviews (Ü1) Option 2: Quantitative Research (Ü2)

### *Sunday 9.11.2014*

9:00 – 12:15	Option 1: Analyzing Qualitative Interviews (Ü1) Option 2: Quantitative Research (Ü2)
12:30 – 13:30	Concluding plenary session & evaluation (Ü1)

## Workshop outlines:

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### *Research Design Workshop*

#### **Get it right, and then get it written: Research Design for Beginners**

(Yandry Kurniawan, Department of International Politics, University of Freiburg)

When dealing with different research procedures, students and young researchers often face a great deal of complexity that can cause confusion on how to find a procedure that fits to their research focus. Indeed, the quest to understand research methods in social science is like taking a journey into a deep forest. There are many different paths one might take, and each of them may lead to somewhere or nowhere. This workshop provides a comprehensive overview of social science research methodology, which might enable students and young researchers to choose the right path according to their research interest. The workshop highlights the nature of and the traditions in social science research, and introduces general methods used in the field. The workshop briefly discusses case study research as this method seems to be commonly used, but concurrently causes a degree of perplexity. Finally, the workshop assembles a road map of complete procedure for conducting a social science research project.

**Friday 7.11.2014, 10:00 – 13:15**

### *Option 1: Qualitative Research Techniques*

#### **Participant Observation**

(Mirjam Lücking, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Freiburg)

People's deeds and habits, activities of daily life and social interactions mirror identity building, values, morality and social order. By in-depth participation and observation within the research context, the researcher gains insights on lived experiences. In this workshop we discuss the chances and challenges of generating data with all human senses. After an introduction to techniques of (participant) observation we will practically experiment with it and reflect upon the purposes, benefits and limits of observation and participation. Moreover, we will discuss how lived experiences are transferred into text, talking about techniques and tools for documentation and analysis.

**Friday 7.11.2014, 14:30 – 17:45**

#### **Qualitative Interviews**

(Dr. Kirsten Hackenbroch, Institute of Social Environmental Science and Geography, University of Freiburg & Anna Fünfgeld, Department of International Politics, University of Freiburg)

The workshop offers the opportunity to approach qualitative interviews from a process-oriented perspective. Different interview techniques and the basics of qualitative interviewing in general will be discussed briefly at the beginning. The main part of the workshop, however, focusses on the "soft" skills and knowledge in the field of interview research, i.e., the practicalities, realities, and context-specificities that inform the preparing and conducting of qualitative interviews. As there is often no "right" and "wrong" but much depends on devising a strategy fitting to both research context and researcher, the workshop is meant to offer space for exchange among participants.

The workshop is open for people with no or few experience in interview research as well as for more experienced researchers who wish to discuss and reflect upon their research practice.

***Saturday 8.11.2014, 9:00 – 12:15***

### **Analyzing Qualitative Interviews**

(**Caroline Janz**, Global Studies Programme, University of Freiburg & **Diana Cichecki**, Institute of Sociology, University of Freiburg)

The workshop focuses on different steps within the qualitative analysis of qualitative interviews (contrasting analysis, etc.). The aim of the workshop is to highlight what appears to many students as a "black box": The process of the analysis, which is situated between having a transcript of the conducted qualitative interviews and the ability to present results from the empirical work. What are the analytical steps and possibilities one needs to undertake here? The course is very much weighted to practical sessions and students will have the opportunity to analyze data. We will start with an introduction into qualitative research and present its main characteristics before going into empirical analysis.

***Saturday 8.11.2014, 13:30 – 16:45 (part 1)***

***Sunday 9.11.2014, 9:00 – 12:15 (part 2)***

### ***Option 2: Quantitative Research Techniques***

#### **Introduction to Quantitative Research**

(**Antonio Farfán-Vallespín**, Department of International Economic Policy, University of Freiburg)

The workshop offers a hands-on approach to the methodology of quantitative research in social sciences. It will combine short presentations by the instructor with active work of the participants on small research projects based on real studies from the literature. During the workshop, participants will be guided through each of the steps of a quantitative research project, choosing themselves the hypotheses, the data, the descriptive statistics, the empirical strategy, the way of presenting the results, and the robustness checks. At the end of the workshop participants will have developed a draft for a viable quantitative research project. If computers are available, participants will also receive a short introduction into some software (yet to be determined) for statistical analysis. The workshop does not require any kind of previous experience with quantitative research, although some basic knowledge of statistics might be helpful.

***Friday 7.11.2014, 14:30 – 17:45 (part 1)***

***Saturday 8.11.2014, 9:00 – 12:15 (part 2)***

***Saturday 8.11.2014, 13:30 – 16:45 (part 3)***

***Sunday 9.11.2014, 9:00 – 12:15 (part 4)***

Please note that the quantitative methods workshop will take the whole two days. Participants are required to attend all sessions.