



2015 Fall School in Empirical Research Methods

convened by
Southeast Asian Studies at Freiburg University
(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 **29 October and 31 October 2015**. We particularly invite young scholars at the master or PhD level who work with qualitative methods to take part in our methodology school.

Timetable:

Thursday 29.10.2015

16:00 – 20:00	Working with Quantitative Data (Antonio Farfán-Vallespín)
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Friday 30.10.2015

9:00 – 12:30	Area Studies and Concept Formation in the Social Sciences (Mikko Huotari)
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 17:30	Qualitative Comparative Research (Christian von Lübke)

Saturday 31.10.2015

9:30 – 13:00	<u>Option 1:</u> Analyzing Qualitative Interviews I (Caroline Janz & Diana Cichecki) <u>Option 2:</u> Sounding Board Session (Christian von Lübke & Mikko Huotari)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 17:30	<u>Option 1:</u> Analyzing Qualitative Interviews II (Caroline Janz & Diana Cichecki)

Please note: Please apply by sending the registration form to anna.fuenfgeld@politik.uni-freiburg.de until **16 October 2015**. If you didn't receive the registration form via email, you may download it from www.southeastasianstudies.uni-freiburg.de.

Workshop outlines:

Working with Quantitative Data

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

The workshop is targeted at master and PhD students of social sciences who are mainly using qualitative methods for their research and who don't necessarily have previous experience with quantitative methods, but who are considering using quantitative data to complement their analyses.

The workshop will address the following questions: what are the advantages and disadvantages of complementing qualitative research with quantitative data? What are the usual sources of quantitative data? What are the most usual types of graphs and tables for presenting quantitative information? Which ones are the most common software programs for quantitative analysis and how can one get a quick start in learning how to use them? We will also discuss the differences between correlation and causality.

Participants in the workshop will apply what they learn to a research topic of their choice. The chosen topic can be the research question of their doctoral dissertation or master thesis or it can be a topic they are interested in. The instructor will then prepare materials for the workshop that are related to these topics. For this, participants should submit by 16.10.2015 the title of a research topic and a short description of it or of what they would like to do with the general registration form.

Thursday 29.10.2015, 16:00 – 20:00

Room: [R01065 \(Alte Uni\)](#)

Area Studies and Concept Formation in the Social Sciences

(Mikko Huotari, MERICS)

"As we are ... prisoners of the words we pick, we had better pick them well" (G. Sartori).

The workshop "Area Studies and Concept Formation in the Social Sciences" will engage an often overlooked but central issue in social science methodology. As crucial hinges between theory and empirical research, concepts and concept formation are important building blocks in the formulation and implementation of research projects. During the workshop, participants will first be familiarized with different approaches to concept formation helping to locate these between the "poles" of "disciplinary" research and "area studies". Subsequently, we will work on specific elements and quality criteria of concepts and reflect on their importance for various disciplines. The workshop will include several practical parts where the participants jointly review, discuss and relate key concepts from their own research projects.

Friday 30.10.2015, 9:00 – 12:30

Room: [Übungsraum 1 \(Ü1\), KGIV, Rempartstr. 15, 5th floor](#)

Qualitative Comparative Research

(Christian von Lübke, Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute and Department for International Politics, University of Freiburg)

The aim of this seminar is to explore – from various theoretical and empirical vantage points – the different modes and methods of qualitative comparative research. Salient questions that will guide this session will include the following: What is the rationale for comparative research? How do we

choose the units of comparative inquiry? What are key principles and logical foundations for systematic comparisons? How do scholars like Mill, Przeworski, and Gerring inform the methodological repertoire of comparative research? What are the trade-offs between empirical rigor and contextual depth?

To attain deeper insights into these questions, this seminar will synthesize some of the key literatures in the field and, consecutively, discuss a number of hands-on examples and field applications. At the end of this course, students will have gained a better grasp of the theoretical underpinnings and empirical challenges of qualitative comparative research.

Friday 30.10.2015, 14:00 – 17:30/ 18:00

Room: [Übungsraum 1 \(Ü1\), KGIV, Rempartstr. 15, 5th floor](#)

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 31.10.2015, 9:30 – 17:30

Room: [Übungsraum 1 \(Ü1\), KGIV, Rempartstr. 15, 5th floor](#)

Sounding Board Session

(*Christian von Lübke*, Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute and Department for International Politics, University of Freiburg & *Mikko Huotari*, MERICS)

During this morning session, research students (MA/PhD) will have the opportunity to discuss their research design and methodology in greater detail. Two senior researchers (Dr. Huotari/Dr. von Lübke) will serve as "sounding boards" by offering comments, suggestions, and general advice.

To secure a seamless discussion, students will be required to (1) sign up in advance and (2) prepare a concise overview (that is, a 10-minute presentation – roughly 5 slides) of their research project. This summary should include the central research question (possibly hypotheses), the methodological approach, and, most importantly, ONE key challenge, concern, or problem that respective students wish to bring to the fore.

Saturday 31.10.2015, 9:30 – 17:30

Room: HS 1036, KGI