



Spring 2022  
 Prof. Dr. Ulrich Glassmann  
 Comparative Institutional Analysis

**Title: Master Colloquium / Ph.D. Colloquium – open for students of the ICES graduate school**

**Research Design in Social Science**

**Dates: Fridays, 10.00 – 12.00h (18.03./25.03./01.04.)**

**Block course dates: 22.04.; 20.05; 03.06: each 10-16.00h**

**Venue: MAD 130**

**Start: 18.03.2022**

### **Course description:**

The course introduces to the problems and solutions concerning the research design of master and Ph.D. theses. We will discuss how to identify meaningful research questions, how to develop a coherent theoretical approach, specify concepts and develop an empirical research plan. Methodological topics will be discussed on the basis of literature examples – some functioning as a blueprint for well-designed research projects others being more theoretical. The course plan is built on some ideas from Dimiter Toshkov's work on *Research Design in Political Science*. The course will allow individual participants to present their project ideas and discuss them in the final sessions.

### **Qualification objectives**

Students will be made acquainted with research design logics and learn how to apply them appropriately in their projects.

### **Course logistics:**

Students are expected to:

- \* attend the course from beginning to end
- \* actively contribute to discussions
- \* enjoy a free and informed exchange with their fellow students ☺
- \* complete assigned readings according to schedule
- \* present their Master or Ph.D. project in a 15 minutes talk

Literature will be prepared on Moodle.

#### Session 1

Introduction to class – getting to know each other

#### Session 2

How to write an excellent introduction

Zuber, Christina. (2022) *Ideational Legacies and the Politics of Migration in European Minority Regions* (Ideational legacies and the politics of migration: an introduction). Oxford: Oxford University Press: 1-16.

#### Session 3

Types of Questions and Types of Design

Toshkov, Dimiter (2016): *Research Design in Political Science* (Types of Research and Research Questions). Bloomsbury: 23-54.

## Session 4

Theory and Methods – Reflections on Sequential Logics

Sartori, Giovanni (1970) Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics. *The American Political Science Review*, 64: (4): 1033-1053.

## Session 5

Writing the theory chapter

Toshkov, Dimiter (2016): *Research Design in Political Science* (Theory in the Research Process). Bloomsbury: 56-82.

Knopf, J.W. (2006). Doing a literature review. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 39(1): 127-132.

## Session 6

From Theory to Measurement I

Toshkov, Dimiter (2016): *Research Design in Political Science* (Concepts and Operationalization). Bloomsbury: 83-105.

## Session 7

From Theory to Measurement II

Toshkov, Dimiter (2016): *Research Design in Political Science* (Measurement and Description) Bloomsbury: 107-144.

## Session 8

Causal Explanations – The Experimental Design

Glassmann, Ulrich and Jan Sauermann (2012): Decision Costs and Welfare Effects in Democratic Voting Rules – An Experimental Analysis. *World Political Science*, 8 (1): 159-183.

## Session 9

Social Science Methodology

Gerring, J. (2001). *Social science methodology: A criterial framework*. Cambridge University Press. S. 200-229

## Session 10

Large N Research

Toshkov, Dimiter (2016): *Research Design in Political Science* (Large N Designs). Bloomsbury: 200-225; 243-256.

## Session 11

Small N – Comparative Case Studies

Toshkov, Dimiter (2016): *Research Design in Political Science* (Comparative Designs). Bloomsbury: 258-283

## Session 12-13

Final workshop with projects from students, presentations and feedback