

211 Fall 2017

Introduction to Interpretive Methods

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Class meetings Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:50
Office hours Wednesday 10-12

Research in social science aims to understand phenomena that are human constructions. Ideas such as ‘country,’ ‘democracy,’ ‘voting,’ ‘power,’ and ‘market’ refer to things or practices that come from how people think and behave. Social inquiry therefore has to consider both that the subjects of the inquiry depend on social phenomena and also that the observer understands what he or she is looking at by reference to social phenomena. Both the subject and the scholar are making sense of the world through interpretation. This class introduces students to methodological issues raised by interpretation in political science scholarship. It considers both sides of this ‘double-interpretation’ and considers practical methodological strategies for political science students. It gives students a foundation on which to formulate their own research with a well-chosen match between research methods, the questions being asked, and the subject under study.

Teaching assistants

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Class talisman

Ian Shapiro, *The Moral Foundations of Politics*. Yale University Press, 2003.

Theme song

Drive by Truckers, ‘What it Means’ from American Band, 2016.

Required text

Katherine J. Cramer, *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*. University of Chicago Press, 2016.

plus one more book as discussed below.

Assignments

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| Participation in section | 20 % | |
| Response paper, Sept. 28, 500 words | 10 % | (D. Immerwahr) |
| Response paper, Oct. 12, 700 words | 10 % | (J. Scott) |
| Sign up for book essays on Thursday Oct. 26. | | |
| Book analysis of problematique, Nov 9 | 20 % | |
| Final paper, Dec. 5, 10am | 40 % | |

The course assignment is to read a recent book in political science and comment on its research methods. Choose one of the following books and write an essay that describes its research goals and its approach to methods and that gives your thoughts on the connections between the two. The paper should be 8 to 10 pages long and is due on Tuesday December 5th at 10am.

There are two goals. The first is to describe what the author thinks needs explaining, what they presume in order to see the problem that way, what resources they bring to bear to make that point, and what they see as the implications. The second is to place yourself in the conversation and expand down that path.

You will also submit a short preliminary analysis of the book's problematique - that is, how the author motivates the work, what they see as the problem or issue that needs exploring with the book and what the presumptions are that make that problem or issue stand out.

The books are:

Rosa Brooks, *How Everything Became War and the Military Became Everything: Tales from the Pentagon.* (Simon and Schuster, 2017).

Oona Hathaway and Scott Shapiro, *The Internationalists: How a Radical Plan to Outlaw War Remade the World* (Simon and Schuster, 2017).

Ian Hurd, *How to Do Things With International Law* (Princeton University Press, 2017).

Keally McBride, *Mr. Mothercountry: The Man Who Made the Rule of Law* (Oxford University Press, 2016).

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Tuesday Sept 19 - What is the goal of political science?

IAN SHAPIRO, "WHAT'S WRONG WITH POLITICAL SCIENCE," CH. 5 OF SHAPIRO, THE FLIGHT FROM REALITY IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2005.

JOHN R. SEARLE, "THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF SOCIAL REALITY," CH. 1. OF SEARLE, THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIAL REALITY. THE FREE PRESS, 1995.

Thursday Sept 21 - Meaning and action: Humanitarian rescue in the Bosnian War

R. CHARLI CARPENTER, "WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST': GENDER, NORMS, AND HUMANITARIAN EVACUATION IN THE BALKANS 1991-95," INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, 2003, 57:661-694.

II.

Tuesday Sept 26 - Sense-making by agents

KARL WEICK, "THE NATURE OF SENSEMAKING," CH. 1 OF WEICK, SENSEMAKING IN ORGANIZATIONS. SAGE, 1995.

CHARLES TAYLOR, "TO FOLLOW A RULE..." IN CRAIG CALHOUN, EDWARD LIPUMA, AND MOISHE POSTONE EDS. BOURDIEU: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, 1993.

Thursday Sept 28 - Meaning and observation

**** response paper #1 due ****

DANIEL IMMERWAHR, "THE GREATER UNITED STATES: TERRITORY AND EMPIRE IN U.S. HISTORY," DIPLOMATIC HISTORY, 40(3), 2016.

further reading

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, "World Order," Ch. 1 of Hardt and Negri, Empire. Harvard University Press, 2000.

III.

Tuesday Oct 3 - Interpretivism as research method

KATHERINE J. CRAMER, THE POLITICS OF RESENTMENT: RURAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN WISCONSIN AND THE RISE OF SCOTT WALKER. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, 2016. CH. 1 AND 2.

Thursday Oct 5 - Making sense of the world

KATHERINE J. CRAMER, *THE POLITICS OF RESENTMENT: RURAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN WISCONSIN AND THE RISE OF SCOTT WALKER*. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, 2016. CH. 3 AND 4.

further reading

Helen Kinsella, "Discourses of Difference: Civilians, Combatants, and Compliance with the Laws of War," *Review of International Studies* 2005.

IV.

Tuesday Oct 10 - Social science and the double hermeneutic

PIERRE BOURDIEU, "STRUCTURES AND THE HABITUS," CH. 2 OF BOURDIEU *OUTLINE OF A THEORY OF PRACTICE*. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1977.

further reading

Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, "Neopositivism," Ch. 3 in Jackson, *The Conduct of Inquiry in International Relations: Philosophy of Science and its Implications for the Study of World Politics* (Routledge, 2011).

Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, "Making Sense of Making Sense: Configuration Analysis and the Double Hermeneutic," in Dvora Yanow and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea eds. *Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn*. ME Sharpe, 2006.

Thursday Oct 12 - Planning and control, formal and informal, power and diagnosis

**** response paper #2 due ****

JAMES C. SCOTT, "VERNACULAR ORDER, OFFICIAL ORDER," FROM SCOTT, *TWO CHEERS FOR ANARCHISM*. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2012.

further reading

Charles Perrow, "Why Bureaucracy?" Ch. 1 of Perrow, *Complex Organizations*. McGraw-Hill 3rd ed. 1986.

Frederic Charles Schaffer, "Why Do Concepts Need Elucidating?" Ch 1 of Schaffer *Elucidating Social Science Concepts*. Routledge, 2016.

Karl Popper, "Of Clouds and Clocks: An Approach to the Problem of Rationality and the Freedom of Man," in Popper Objective Knowledge: An Evolutionary Approach.

V. Cases

Tuesday Oct 17 - Thinking about discourse

HELEN KINSELLA, THE IMAGE BEFORE THE WEAPON: A CRITICAL HISTORY OF THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN COMBATANT AND CIVILIAN. CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2011, CHS. 1 AND 2.

Thursday Oct 19 - Anarchy as discourse

RICHARD ASHLEY, "UNTYING THE SOVEREIGN STATE: A DOUBLE READING OF THE ANARCHY PROBLEMATIQUE," MILLENNIUM, 17(2), 1988.

further reading

Hans J. Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Politics," Ch. 1 of Morgenthau Politics Among Nations, 7th ed. McGraw-Hill 2006.

John Gerard Ruggie, "What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-Utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge," International Organization, 52(4), 1998.

Kenneth Waltz, "Laws and Theories," Ch. 1 of Theory of International Politics. McGraw-Hill, 1979.

G. John Ikenberry, "America's Liberal Hegemony," Current History, 1999.

VI.

Tuesday Oct 24 - Thinking about law

ROSA BROOKS, "CROSS-BORDER TARGETED KILLINGS: 'LAWFUL BUT AWFUL?'" HARVARD JOURNAL OF LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY, 2, 2015.

JESSE HELMS, "AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND THE UN," THE NATIONAL INTEREST, 2000/01.

JUDITH SHKLAR, CH. 1 OF LEGALISM. HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS.

further reading: 2 approaches to studying international law

Barbara Koremenos, "The Continent of International Law," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 57(4), 2013.

Basak Çali, "On Interpretivism and International Law," *European Journal of International Law*, 20(3), 2009.

Thursday Oct 26 - Samples Day

**** deadline to decide on a book to analyze ****

ROSA BROOKS, INTERVIEW WITH ISAAC CHOTINER, SLATE, 2016.

OONA HATHAWAY AND SCOTT SHAPIRO, "MAKING WAR ILLEGAL CHANGED THE WORLD. BUT IT'S BECOMING TOO EASY TO BREAK THE LAW," *THE GUARDIAN* SEPT. 14 2017.

IAN HURD, "ENCHANTED AND DISENCHANTED INTERNATIONAL LAW," *GLOBAL POLICY*, 2016.

KEALLY MCBRIDE, "MR. MOTHERCOUNTRY: THE RULE OF LAW AS PRACTICE," *LAW, CULTURE AND THE HUMANITIES*, 2015.

VII.

Tuesday Oct 31 - Thinking about categories: markets and the state

BERNARD HARCOURT, "THE PARIS MARAIS AND THE CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE," CH. 1 OF HARCOURT, *THE ILLUSION OF FREE MARKETS*. HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2011.

further reading

Charles E. Lindblom, *Politics and Markets*. Basic Books, 1977.

Thursday Nov 2 - Thinking about categories: Social power and Marxism

B.S. CHIMNI "INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TODAY: AN IMPERIAL GLOBAL STATE IN THE MAKING," *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW*, 2004.

further reading

John Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Ch. 2, 3, 1, and 10. Univ of Illinois Press.

Robert W. Cox, "Social Forces, States and World Orders," in Robert O. Keohane, *Neorealism and its Critics*. Columbia University Press, 1986.

VIII.

Tuesday Nov 7 - Thinking about categories: consequences

DAVID CAMPBELL, "ETHICS, POLITICS, AND RESPONSIBILITY: THE BOSNIAN CHALLENGE" IN CAMPBELL NATIONAL DECONSTRUCTION: VIOLENCE, IDENTITY, AND JUSTICE IN BOSNIA. UNIV OF MINNESOTA, 1998.

FREDERIC CHARLES SCHAFFER, "THE ETHICS OF ELUCIDATING," CH 5 OF SCHAFFER ELUCIDATING SOCIAL SCIENCE CONCEPTS. ROUTLEDGE, 2016.

further reading

Ian Shapiro, "Gross Concepts in Political Argument," Ch.4 of Shapiro, The Flight From Reality in the Social Sciences, Princeton 2005.

Thursday Nov 9 - Book discussions

**** problematique assignment due ****

IX.

Tuesday Nov 14 - Thinking about practices

STEVEN BERNSTEIN, RICHARD NED LEBOW, JANICE GROSS STEIN, AND STEVEN WEBER, "GOD GAVE PHYSICS THE EASY PROBLEMS: ADAPTING SOCIAL SCIENCE TO AN UNPREDICTABLE WORLD," EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, 6(1), 2000.

further reading

Emanuel Adler and Vincent Pouliot, "International Practices," International Theory, 2009.

Christian Bueger and Frank Gadinger, International Practice Theory: New Perspectives. Palgrave, 2014.

Thursday Nov 16 - Book discussions

no reading

X.

Tuesday Nov 21 - Wrapup