

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS (WITH A MANDATORY ONLINE MODULE AND AN OPTIONAL 4-DAY ON-CAMPUS MODULE IN BUDAPEST)

MAY 10 –JUNE 27, 2014 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



This Summer School builds on the outstanding methodological expertise available at CEU (departments of International Relations, Political Science and Public Policy). It offers a portfolio of courses on social science research methods, which would be available either online or in a blended format (online module + on-campus short course in Budapest). The courses are designed to assist PhD students and junior researchers in the process of writing their dissertation and developing and refining their research projects. Participants will receive training in case study research methods, set-theoretic methods and structural equation modeling.

Application is encouraged from all over the world. These summer courses are financed through tuition fees (600 EUR for online instruction / 1,000 EUR for a combination of online and on-campus instruction); scholarships or tuition waivers are not available.

Course Director:

Matteo Fumagalli, Department of International Relations and European Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Faculty:

Erin Jenne, Department of International Relations and European Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Levente Littvay, Department of Political Science, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Carsten Q. Schneider, Department of Political Science, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Application deadline: February 14, 2014

<http://www.summer.ceu.hu/SSRM-2014>

Course 1: Case Study Research Methods

Faculty: **Erine Jenne**

This course is designed to offer training in how to select cases, design and conduct case research, analyze the findings of research, and write up findings of the case analysis.

The **online** portion of the course will be used to interactively engage with each student's research project (including their question and theoretical claims) so that appropriate cases can be chosen for analysis. The online portion will be used to discuss how to conduct research on the chosen case and how to develop and assess theoretical claims in the context of the case research. Throughout, online collaboration is used to assess the extent to which the student has understood how to write an effective case narrative.

The **on-campus** portion will consist of a series of "homework assignments" whereby the students will read methods texts and then apply the techniques communicated in these texts to that student's chosen cases (namely, the student will be asked to select case(s) for research, describe the process of case research, synthesize research findings, and write up case narratives).

Course 2: Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences: Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Beyond

Faculty: **Carsten Q. Schneider**

Set-theoretic methods are becoming increasingly popular, with some scholars even claiming that qualitative social research is best understood as set-theoretic research. Students in this course learn the formal logical and set-theoretic foundations of this family of techniques and how such concepts are applied in the analysis of social science data.

The **online** part of the course aims at transmitting basic knowledge in a specific subfield of mathematics. Rather than focusing exclusively on formulas, instruction aims at providing examples and illustrations that should resonate with scholars from a broad range of social science sub-disciplines. Beyond its focus on logic, we also delve into the notions of sets, their calibration, and how they differ from variables.

The **on-campus** part aims at applying the conceptual knowledge gained in the online part to the analysis of typical social science data. We discuss several issues that occur when neat formal logic meets noisy social science data. By the end of the offline part, students will be able to distinguish better from worse applications of QCA. They will also be able to perform their own analyses, using either the R software environment or the custom-made software fsQCA.

Course 3: Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)

Faculty: **Levente Littvay**

The method is designed to test causal structures that go beyond one dependent and multiple independent variables of regression models. It allows for the assessment of complex multivariate relationships between observed variables with the inclusion of latent variable models. For example, causal structures are becoming increasingly important when testing relationships that are mediated. Latent variable models are useful when multiple indicators of the same underlying construct are measured.

The **online** part of the course offers a complete introduction to structural equation modeling (SEM).

The **on-campus** component of the course offers a computer laboratory workshop to the course where examples of path, confirmatory factor and full structural models will be presented. After this, students will have the opportunity to work on, present and refine their own research projects using SEM.