

**Spring Term 2024**

**Advanced Topics in Comparative Politics: Travelling through time and space:  
Conceptual and measurement issues in comparative political behavior (and beyond)**

**Master Seminar**

**Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Harald Schoen**

**Place:** B 318

**Time:** Tuesday, 12.00-13.30

**Start:** 13 February 2024

**Course description:**

Comparison is essential to research in comparative political behavior. At the same time, it raises multiple conceptual and measurement issues. Questions include what is 'similar', what is 'different', and what is incommensurable, and how can we figure out whether measures are equivalent or not. In this seminar, we will address conceptual and methodological issues in measurement and comparison in comparative political research. Students will review empirical studies in the field and prepare research papers in which they analyze specific questions using available data sets.

**Recommended for:**

M.A. Students in Political Science (2nd semester) and GESS-graduate students

**Study Requirements:**

Active participation, oral presentation, regular attendance is recommended

**Exam Requirements:** Term Paper

**Registration:** via Student Portal

**Office hours:** by appointment only

## **Course Plan**

### **Week 1 (13 February): Introduction**

Adcock, Robert, and David Collier. 2001. Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research. *American Political Science Review* 95: 529-546.

### **Week 2 (20 February): Conceptual issues**

Collier, David, and James E. Mahon jr. 1993. Conceptual “Stretching” Revisited: Adapting Categories in Comparative Analysis. *American Political Science Review* 87: 845-855.

Goertz, Gary. 2020. *Social Science Concepts and Measurement*. New and Completely Revised Edition. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chap. 6.

Sartori, Giovanni. 1970. Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics. *American Political Science Review*: 1033-1053.

### **Week 3 (27 February): Addressing issues in comparability I**

Harzing, Anne-Wil, Michelle Brown, Kathrin Köster, and Shuming Zhao. 2012. Response Style Differences in Cross-National Research: Dispositional and Situational Determinants. *Management International Review* 52: 341-363.

Hopkins, Daniel J., and Gary King. 2010. Improving Anchoring Vignettes: Designing Surveys to Correct Interpersonal Incomparability. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 74: 201-222.

King, Gary, Christopher J. L. Murray, Joshua A. Salomon, and Ajay Tandon. 2004. Enhancing the Validity and Cross-Cultural Comparability of Measurement in Survey Research. *American Political Science Review* 98: 191-207.

### **Week 4 (5 March): Addressing issues in comparability II**

Davidov, Eldad, Bart Meuleman, Jan Cieciuch, Peter Schmidt, and Jaak Billiet. 2014. Measurement Equivalence in Cross-National Research. *Annual Review of Sociology* 40: 55-75.

Medina, Tait R., Shawna N. Smith, and J. Scott Long. 2009. Measurement Models Matter: Implicit Assumptions and Cross-National Research. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 21: 333-361.

Stegmüller, Daniel. 2011. Apples and Oranges? The Problem of Equivalence in Comparative Research. *Political Analysis* 19: 471-487.

### **Week 5 (12 March): Values**

Alemán, José, and Dwayne Woods. 2016. Value Orientations from the World Values Survey: How comparable are they Cross-Nationally? *Comparative Political Studies* 49: 1039-1067.

Sokolov, Boris. 2018. The Index of Emancipative Values: Measurement Model Misspecifications. *American Political Science Review* 112: 395-408.

Welzel, Christian, and Ronald F. Inglehart. 2016. Misconceptions of Measurement Equivalence: Time for a Paradigm Shift. *Comparative Political Studies* 49: 1069-1094.

### **Week 6 (19 March): Populist attitudes**

Castanho Silva, Bruno, Sebastian Jungkunz, Marc Helbling, and Levente Littvay. 2020. An Empirical Comparison of Seven Populist Attitudes Scales. *Political Research Quarterly* 73: 409-424.

Van Hauwaert, Steven M., Christian Schimpf, and Flavio Azevedo. 2020. The measurement of populist attitudes: Testing cross-national scales using item response theory. *Politics* 40: 3-21.

Wuttke, Alexander, Christian Schimpf, and Harald Schoen. 2020. When the Whole is Greater than the Sum of its Parts: On the Conceptualization and Measurement of Populist Attitudes and Other Multidimensional Constructs. *American Political Science Review* 114: 356-374.

### ***Easter Break***

### **Week 7 (9 April): Democratic support**

Ariely, Gal, and Eldad Davidov. 2011. Can we Rate Public Support for Democracy in a Comparable Way? Cross-National Equivalence of Democratic Attitudes in the World Value Survey. *Social Indicators Research* 104: 271-286.

Claassen, Christopher, Kathrin Ackermann, Eri Bertsou et al. 2023. Conceptualizing and Measuring Support for Democracy: A New Approach. ([https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=4622645](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4622645))

Jacobsen, Jannes, and Lukas Marian Fuchs. 2020. Can We Compare Conceptions of Democracy in Cross-Linguistic and Cross-National Research? Evidence from a Random Sample of Refugees in Germany. *Social Indicators Research* 151: 669-690.

### **Week 8 (16 April): Conceptions of nationhood**

Medina, Tait R., Shawna N. Smith, and J. Scott Long. 2009. Measurement Models Matter: Implicit Assumptions and Cross-National Research. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 21: 333-361.

Reeskens, Tim, and Marc Hooghe. 2010. Beyond the civic–ethnic dichotomy: investigating the structure of citizenship concepts across thirty-three countries. *Nations and Nationalism* 16: 579-597.

Wright, Matthew, Jack Citrin, Jonathan Wand. 2012. Alternative Measures of American National Identity: Implications for the Civic-Ethnic Distinction. *Political Psychology* 33: 469-482.

**Week 9 (23 April): Left-right orientation**

Lin, Nick, and Seonghui Lee. 2023. Anchoring Vignettes as a Diagnostic Tool for Cross-National (in)Comparability of Survey Measures: The Case of Voters' Left-Right Self-Placement. *British Journal of Political Science* doi:10.1017/S0007123423000236

Lo, James, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Thomas Gschwend. 2014. A Common Left-Right Scale for Voters and Parties in Europe. *Political Analysis* 22: 205-223.

Piurko, Yuval, Shalom H. Schwartz, and Eldad Davidov. 2011. Basic Personal Values and the Meaning of Left-Right Political Orientations in 20 Countries. *Political Psychology* 32: 537-561.

**Week 10 (30 April): Political participation**

Garcia-Albacete, Gema M. 2014. *Young People's Political Participation in Western Europe*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan: 13-47.

Quaranta, Mario. 2013. Measuring Political Protest in Western Europe: assessing cross-national equivalence. *European Political Science Review* 5: 457-482.

Theocharis, Yannis, and Jan W. van Deth. 2018. The Continuous Expansion of Citizen Participation: a New Taxonomy. *European Political Science Review* 10: 139-163.

**Week 11 (7 May): Student presentations**

**Week 12 (14 May): Student presentations**

**Week 13 (21 May): Student presentations**

**Week 14 (28 May): Concluding Discussion**