FAKULTÄT FÜR SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN
Fachbereich Politikwissenschaft
Quantitative sozialwissenschaftliche Methoden
Professor Thomas Gschwend, Ph.D.

UNIVERSITÄT MANNHEIM

Besucheradresse:
A 5, 6, · Bauteil C, Raum C 219
68131 Mannheim
Telefon   0621-181-2087
Telefax   0621-181-3699
E-Mail: gschwend@uni-mannheim.de
http://methods.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/

Sekretariat:
Telefon   0621-181-2413
E-Mail: methods@uni-mannheim.de

Übung Methoden der Vergleichenden Regierungslehre II:
Using Statistical Simulations and Graphs to Improve Interpretation
Spring 2015

Time	**Tuesday, 8:30 – 10:00**
Place	**C 108 – Methodenlabor groß**
Office Hours	**Wednesday, 10:00-11:00**

Course Description
Students (as well as many scholars) do not take full advantage of the information available to them in their statistical analysis. As a consequence, they miss opportunities to learn more from them. A regression table is not the most efficient and reader-friendly summary of their estimation results. We will learn how to program statistical simulation and how to make effective graphical presentations in Stata, to extract more information from a regression output and present it in a reader-friendly manner. We will replicate the results of several published works in comparative politics using seemingly complicated (i.e., non-linear) models or interaction effects to demonstrate that conclusions can be expressed more informatively.

The following is the list of topics I plan to cover in this course. Because the pace of the course will vary throughout the semester, I have chosen not to assign dates for the topics below. We will approach the material as slowly, or as quickly, as necessary, and will cover as much, or as little, as possible. Each week after class the readings for the following week will be assigned and can be downloaded from the course website (ILIAS). A list of topics we will cover includes the following:

- Working with do-files in Stata
- OLS Interpretation
- Interpretation of Interaction Effects
- Simulation
- How to simulate quantities of interests?
- Interpretation of non-linear and non-additive models
- Effective graphs to present results

Course Requirements
Grading will be based on the following components:

Attendance and class preparation (30%)
Attendance is mandatory in this class. This includes coming to class on time. Since not everything I discuss in class will be in the course reading material, you will be at a significant disadvantage if you miss class. You are also responsible for preparing all of the assigned chapters and articles prior to each class. Doing so will considerably increase the value to you of the class meetings.

Data Analysis Project (70%)
Given that we will learn various different tools, I will split-up the traditional data analysis project into several short homework assignments that will require you among other things to write Stata do-files. The particular assignments will be handed out in or right after class and will be due at the beginning of class a week later. I will not take late assignments.

Woche 1 (10. Februar 2015):

Woche 2 (17. Februar 2015):

Woche 3 (24. Februar 2015)

Woche 4 (3. März 2015):

Woche 5 (10. März 2015):

Woche 6 (17. März 2015):

Woche 7 (24. März 2015):

Osterferien vom 30.03. – 10.04.2015

Woche 8 (14. April 2015):

Woche 9 (21. April 2015):

Woche 10 (28. April 2015):

Woche 11 (5. Mail 2015):

Woche 12 (12. Mai 2015):

Woche 13 (19. Mai 2015):

Woche 14 (26. Mai 2015):