UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM
School of Social Sciences

CHAIR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
QUANTITATIVE METHODS
IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Mannheim, 10. Januar 2019

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

Spring 2019

Time	**Tuesday, 08:30 – 10:00 h**
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

Attendance and class preparation

Not everything we discuss in class will be in the course reading material. Thus, you will be at a significant disadvantage if you miss class altogether (or come to class late). You are also responsible for preparing all of the assigned chapters and articles prior to each class. Doing so will considerably increase the value of the class meetings to you personally and to everyone participating in class. Remember, learning is a collective experience.

Data Analysis Project

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 Sunday before the next class (by email). I will not take late assignments.

Week 1 (12 February 2019)

Week 2 (19 February 2019)

Week 3 (26 February 2019)

Week 4 (5 March 2019)

Week 5 (12 March 2019)

Week 6 (19 March 2019)

Week 7 (26 March 2019)

Week 8 (2 April 2019)

Week 9 (9 April 2019)

Easter Recess

Week 10 (30 April 2019)

Week 11 (7 May 2019)

Week 12 (14 May 2019)

Week 13 (21 May 2019)

Week 14 (28 May 2019)