P74: QUALITATIVE METHODS OF CIVIL WAR RESEARCH
WS 2013/14

Date: Every Friday 14-16
Room: IfP, Kleiner Seminarraum 021
The first session: 25 October 2013

Requirements and credits:

- Students without module requirements:
  - Regular participation
  - Reading of the literature (at least three articles for every session) including preparation of three questions concerning the literature
  - Presentation at least 15 min. in a given session, hand-out (graded, 30%)
  - Paper about a given session of the course, maximum 6000 words (graded, 70%); deadline 23 March 2014

- Students with module requirements: (max. 6 LP/ECTS)
  - Regular participation
  - Reading of the literature (at least three articles for every session) including preparation of three questions concerning the literature (2LP; no grade)
  - Presentation at least 15 min. in a given session, hand-out (2LP graded)
  - Paper (about a topic of the seminar, maximum 6000 words) or exam possible as the Modulprüfung (4LP; graded)
Short outline of the course:

This course is an introduction to the qualitative methods of civil war research, providing students a robust set of tools for explaining and understanding the dynamics of civil war. However, the course does not offer a laundry list of techniques; rather it asks students to think about how particular methods are more or less suited at particular types of research questions.

The course is composed of following five sections: (1) a general discussion on causality and evidence in social science; (2) an overview of the contemporary civil war research, intentionally casting its epistemological net broadly; (3) the knowledge on qualitative methods inspired by positivism (case studies, process tracing) and additionally those more interpretative in nature (such as mixed methods); (4) analyses and discussions on the three very known applications (Kalyvas, Weinstein, Wood); and (5) (if there is…) methodological discussion on the given student projects.

Some important points to be aware of:

1. The main structure and the duration of each session are both based on the readings and questions that you provide. Please, be sure that you are not motivationally dispossessed or deficient.

2. Please, do not provide any text, question, hand-out, term-paper or exam paper, which includes academic dishonesty (no Wikipedia, or texts without citation etc.).

3. Rights granted under copyright law matter! Please, do not distribute the given free material for public usage.

4. First and foremost, this is a course, which seeks to improve your abilities and knowledge on scientific inquiry. Please, concentrate on the methodological perspective of any given literature, at the first place.

5. during this course, your language skills is not a criterion for grading, at all. Please, try to be clever, creative, innovative and motivated, but not necessarily stylish. You let me get your point, than it would be fine.

6. If you have not dealt with any literature on social science methodology (especially in English), yet, it is fine that you could not get every point exactly. Please, let me know, what you are not able to understand, so we can work on these points extensively.

7. Please, get in touch with me personally and inform me about the content of your presentation, at least one week before the given date. I offer preliminary support for structuring your hand-outs and presentations.

Short Bio of the instructor:

Ibrahim-Can Sezgin has studied international law, international relations, sociology, political science, and peace & conflict studies in Turkey, England, Germany and Norway. Since February 2011, Sezgin is a PhD. candidate in Political Science at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen. His research focuses on the theories of civil war & domestic violence, political theory and qualitative methods of social science research.
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<th>Nr.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Focus</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>25.10.13</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>“Brainstorming on collective violence and civil war”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>15.11.13</td>
<td>Causal Mechanisms and Scientific Inference (1): A General View</td>
<td>• What is a causal mechanism?</td>
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<td>• Why do we need those mechanisms?</td>
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<td>• How to use them in social sciences?</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>22.11.13</td>
<td>Causal Mechanisms and Scientific Inference (2): In the Context of Civil War Research</td>
<td>• What are the contemporary theories of civil war research?</td>
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<td>• Which causal mechanisms are in play? How to identify them?</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>29.11.13</td>
<td>Case Studies: Principles, Methods and Practices in Civil War Research</td>
<td>• What is a case study?</td>
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<td>• How to use case study methods in order to deal with any given civil war case?</td>
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<td>• Which logic lies behind this method?</td>
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<td>• How to define and trace a process?</td>
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<td>• How to evaluate and use any empirical evidence?</td>
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<td>• How to develop an empirical test?</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>20.12.13</td>
<td>Mixed Methods: Nested Analysis and Multi-Method Research</td>
<td>• How to combine qualitative and quantitative methodologies?</td>
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<td>• Is that really necessary and why?</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10.01.14</td>
<td>Ethnography and Field Research</td>
<td>• What is ethnography and how to deal with field research in the context of civil war studies?</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>17.01.14</td>
<td>Kalyvas: The Logic of Violence in Civil War</td>
<td>• Presentation and open discussion</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>24.01.14</td>
<td>Weinstein: Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence</td>
<td>• Presentation and open discussion</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>31.01.14</td>
<td>Wood: Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador</td>
<td>• Presentation and open discussion</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>07.02.14</td>
<td>Wrap up &amp; Conclusion</td>
<td>• Evaluation and challenges for further research (No Readings.)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>19.02.14</td>
<td>the Final Exam (take home exam 48 hours)</td>
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## SYLLABUS AND READINGS

Students may access all the assigned articles and book chapters on the course page at ILIAS (https://ovidius.uni-tuebingen.de/ilias3/). Please register the course at ILIAS with the following password: QMCR2013.

### WEEK 2  (15.11.2013)

**Causal Mechanisms and Scientific Inference (1): A General View**

**Readings (The Baseline):**

### WEEK 3  (22.11.2013)

**Causal Mechanisms and Scientific Inference (2): In the Context of Civil War Research**

**Readings (The Baseline):**

**Application:**

### WEEK 4  (29.11.2013)

**Case Studies: Principles, Methods and Practices in Civil War Research**

**Readings (The Baseline):**


**Application:**


**Readings (The Baseline):**


**Application:**


**Readings (The Baseline):**


**Readings (The Baseline):**


**Application:**


### WEEK 8 (10.01.2014) Ethnography and Field Research

**Readings (The Baseline):**


**Applications:**


### WEEK 9 (17.01.2014) Kalyvas: The Logic of Violence in Civil War

**Readings:**


**Readings:**


### WEEK 11 (31.01.2014)  
Wood: *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*

#### Readings:


### WEEK 12 (07.02.2014)  
Wrap up & Conclusion

No Readings.