

# Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

## Data Collection and Analysis for Migration Studies

### *Week 1 - Methods in migration research: selecting methods and cases*

**Instructor:** Dr. Evelyn Ersanilli, Departmental Lecturer, International Migration Institute, University of Oxford, [evelyn.ersanilli@geh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:evelyn.ersanilli@geh.ox.ac.uk)

#### **Course outline**

Migration Studies is a highly interdisciplinary field, and migration scholars use a wide range of methods. These can broadly be divided into quantitative and qualitative methods. In recent years mixed method research has become increasingly popular. In the first session we will look at the underlying assumptions of qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods studies. These include assumptions about generalizability, the importance attached to representativeness and number of cases. We will also look at the different ways in which qualitative and quantitative methods can be combined, the challenges that come with mixing methods and two examples of mixed method studies.

The second session will discuss case selection. Researchers rarely have to means to collect data on all people in all countries. Often choices need to be made to collect data in only one or a small group of countries and/or a limited number of groups. A well-selected case can provide the basis for a powerful argument. This session will discuss the different logics that can be applied in selecting cases and the pitfalls of case selection. It will also look at several empirical examples.

Both sessions consist of interactive lectures, interspersed with small group discussions.

#### **Schedule**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Session content</b>	<b>Preparations</b>
7 april	8:30-14:00	Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods in Migration Studies	Castles (2012) Hammersley (1996) Lincoln et al (2011) Gamlen (2012) Ersanilli & Saharso (2011)
8 april	8:30-12:30	Case selection	Gerring (2007) Keman (2011) Seawright & Gerring (2008) Geddes (1990) Bloemraad (2007)

#### **Assessment**

Students will be graded based on their individual participation in class as well as an individual written assignment. For the written assignment students should write a research proposal of no more than 1,500 words outlining a theoretically embedded research

question, and a well-argued choice of methods (quantitative, qualitative or mixed) and case selection. Students can opt to use their dissertation project for this.

The written assignment should be emailed to [evelyn.ersanilli@geh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:evelyn.ersanilli@geh.ox.ac.uk) by noon of Friday April 11th.

### **Course grading** Weighting factor

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1) Participation in class | 20% |
| 2) Assignments            | 80% |

### **Literature**

#### ***Required readings***

- Bloemraad, I. (2007) 'Of Puzzles and Serendipity: Doing Research with Cross-National Comparisons and Mixed Methods', pp. 35-49 in L. DeSipio, M. Garcia y Griego & S. Kossoudji (eds) *Researching Migration: Stories from the Field*. New York: SSRC Books. [http://www.ssrc.org/workspace/images/crm/new\\_publication\\_3/%7B42451838-264a-de11-afac-001cc477ec70%7D.pdf](http://www.ssrc.org/workspace/images/crm/new_publication_3/%7B42451838-264a-de11-afac-001cc477ec70%7D.pdf)
- Castles, S. (2012) 'Understanding the relationship between methodology and methods', pp 7-25 in Carlos Vargas-Silva (ed) *Handbook of research methods in migration*, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar
- Ersanilli, E. & S. Saharso (2011) 'The Settlement Country and Ethnic Identification of Children of Turkish Immigrants in Germany, France, and the Netherlands: What Role Do National Integration Policies Play?', *International Migration Review*, 45(4):907-937. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-7379.2011.00872.x>
- Gamlen, A. (2012) 'Mixing methods in research on diaspora policies' pp 319- 341 in Carlos Vargas-Silva (ed) *Handbook of research methods in migration*, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar
- Geddes, B. (1990) 'How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics', *Political Analysis* 2(1): 131-150.
- Gerring, J. (2007) 'The case study: What it is and what it does', pp 90-122 in Stokes, Susan C. (ed) *The Oxford handbook of Comparative Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University press
- Hammersley, M. (1996) 'The relationship between qualitative and quantitative research: paradigm loyalty versus methodological eclecticism', pp. 159-174 in: John T. E. Richardson (ed) *Handbook of Qualitative Research Methods for Psychology and the Social Sciences*. Oxford: BPS Blackwell.
- Keman, H. (2011) 'Comparative research methods'. in D. Caramani (ed.), *Comparative Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (pp. 50-64). New York: Oxford University Press. (or the same chapter from an earlier or later edition)
- Lincoln, Y.S. S.A. Lynham & E.G. Guba (2011) 'Paradigmatic controversies, contradictions, and emerging confluences, revisited', pp 97-128 in N.K. Denzin & Y.S. Lincoln (eds.) *The Sage handbook of qualitative research*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Seawright J. & J. Gerring (2008) 'Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options', *Political Research Quarterly* 61(2), 294-308

### Further readings

- Bartram, D. (2000) 'Japan and Labor Migration: Theoretical and Methodological Implications of Negative Cases', *International Migration Review*, **34**(1):5-32
- Bryman, A. (2007) Barriers to integrating quantitative and qualitative research, *Journal of mixed methods research*, 1(1):8-22
- Creswell, J. W. (2009) *Research design. Qualitative, Quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Goldthorpe, J. (1997) 'A debate on methodological issues', *Comparative Social Research*, 16:1-26
- Johnson, R. B. and A. J. Onwuegbuzie (2004) 'Mixed Methods Research: A Research Paradigm Whose Time Has Come', *Educational Researcher*, 33(7): 14-26
- Lieberson, S. (1991) 'Small N's and Big Conclusions: An Examination of the Reasoning in Comparative Studies Based on a Small Number of Cases', *Social Forces*, 70(2):307-20.
- Przeworski, A. & H. Teune (1970) *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*. New York etc: Wiley
- Sartori, G. (1991) 'Comparing and Miscomparing', *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 3(3):243-257
- Smith, J. K. & L. Heshusius (1986) 'Closing Down the Conversation: The End of the Quantitative-Qualitative Debate Among Educational Inquirers', *Educational Researcher*, 15: 4-12, <http://dx.doi.org/10.3102/0013189X015001004>
- Teddlie, Ch, & F. Yu (2007) Mixed Methods Sampling: A Typology With Examples, *Journal of Mixed Methods Research* 2007 1: 77, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/2345678906292430>
- Woolley, C. M. (2009) Meeting the Mixed Methods Challenge of Integration in a Sociological Study of Structure and Agency, *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 3(1):7-25, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1558689808325774>