



Workshop on research methods for doctoral researchers and advanced postgraduate students

Date: 22-24 April 2026

Location: Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, 136 Syngrou Av., 17671, Athens

Room: Νέο Κτίριο (New Building), ΣΤ-12 (6th floor)

Schedule and Program

Wednesday 22 April (10.00-13.00)

1. Welcome remarks (10.00-10.15)
2. Research design fundamentals (10.15-11.15)

Description: The seminar covers the process of identifying research questions for different types of projects including doctoral theses, monographs and articles. It then delves into research design, engaging with questions related to case selection, data and methods of analysis. Following this, participants will be asked to reflect on their projects' research design and discuss them with the group.

Presenter: Dimitra Panagiotatou, Post-doctoral researcher in the Centre for Political Research

Suggested reading:

- Della Porta, D. and Keating, M. (2008) 'How many approaches in the social sciences? An epistemological introduction', in *Approaches and methodologies in the social sciences: a pluralist perspective*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 19–39. doi: 10.1017/CBO9780511801938.003. Available at: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/approaches-and-methodologies-in-the-social-sciences/how-many-approaches-in-the-social-sciences-an-epistemological-introduction/0EE1D4B21157E059C44A9A2CEC3FCC84>
- Goertz, G. and Mahoney, J. (2012) *A tale of two cultures: qualitative and quantitative research in the social sciences*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Available at: <https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691149707/a-tale-of-two-cultures?srsId=AfmBOooyCbN3aaTKXG1CAiiXCYyDWpbyxSnbK37hKsXJ5tCDBbRx1hxj> (Chapter 1)
- Gustafsson, K. and Hagström, L. (2018) 'What is the point? Teaching graduate students how to construct political science research puzzles', *European Political Science*, 17(4). doi: 10.1057/s41304-017-0130-y. Available at: <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1057/s41304-017-0130-y.pdf>

- Hancké, B. (2009) *Intelligent research design: a guide for beginning researchers in the social sciences*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. doi: 10.1093/oso/9780199570782.001.0001. Available at: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/intelligent-research-design-9780199570782?cc=gr&lang=en&#> (Chapter 1)
- Héritier, A. (2008) 'Causal explanation', in Della Porta, D. and Keating, M. (eds.) *Approaches and methodologies in the social sciences: a pluralist perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 61–79. doi: 10.1017/CBO9780511801938.005. Available at: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/approaches-and-methodologies-in-the-social-sciences/causal-explanation/D8EB21F939A30CF2AD1878122860B7C7>
- King, G., Keohane, R.O. and Verba, S. (1994) 'The Science in Social Science', in *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Available at: <https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691224633/designing-social-inquiry?srsId=AfmBOop8L8Ukv6qxkVL0BlkGBQLpRSnKPzm4GmrJcenvlhEKqoQm5GirN> (Chapter 1, 3)
- Yin, Robert K. (2018) *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods*. 6th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Available at: https://opac.atmaluhur.ac.id/uploaded_files/temporary/DigitalCollection/YTE3NDImYTY0ZjE2MDA5ODE4NGI1Y2FhMjdkMjRmYWNkMDA2MTVhOQ==.pdf

3. What is Greece a case of? A roundtable discussion (11.30-13.30)

Description: This workshop aims to help students frame research projects on Greece in a way that allows them to contribute to broader scientific discussions and publish in general-interest journals. In advance of the workshop, students will be asked to submit a 400-word abstract of a research project on Greece that they are actively working on or may want to work on in the future. The abstract should specify the broader literature and research questions that their project aims to contribute to. Students will be asked to briefly present their abstract during the workshop and will receive feedback. The presenters will share their reflections about the kinds of political science topics that the study of Greece has contributed to during the last twenty years and will discuss the research questions that the Greek case may help us answer in the future.

Discussants:

- Angelos Angelou, Assistant Professor, Department of International and European Studies, Panteion University
- Georgios Giannakopoulos, Senior Lecturer in Modern History at the Department of International Politics, City St George's, University of London (?)
- Kira Gartzou-Katsouyanni, Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow in the Department of Politics and International Relations and Non-Stipendiary Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford University
- Vasiliki (Billy) Tsagkroni, Senior Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics at the Institute of Political Science in Leiden University

Suggested reading:

- Jason Seawright and John Gerring. "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options." *Political Research Quarterly* (June 2008) 61 (2): 294-308.

- Rohlfing, Ingo (2012): *Case Studies and Causal Inference: An Integrative Framework*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan: chapters 2 and 3
- David Collier and James Mahoney. "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research." *World Politics*, vol. 49, no. 1, 1996, pp. 56–91
- Dietrich Rueschemeyer, *Can one or a few cases yield theoretical gains?* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), chapter 9

Thursday 23 April (10.00-13.00)

4. From design to analysis: A practical guide on interviews in Social Science (10.00-11.15)

Description: The session offers practical guidance on the interview process, from its initial stages through to data coding. It is designed for postgraduate and doctoral candidates who intend to collect research data through interviews. Participants will gain knowledge and confidence in conducting their own interviews through a concise presentation of the core elements of the method. They will learn what needs to be done before the start and after the completion of an interview and will be prepared to address some of the most common challenges that arise during the interview process.

Presenter: Sofia Tipaldou, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and History, Panteion University

Suggested reading:

- DiCicco-Bloom, B. & Crabtree, B.F., 2006. *The qualitative research interview*. *Medical Education*, 40(4), pp.314–321. Available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2929.2006.02418.x>
- Knott, E., Rao, A.H., Summers, K. & Teeger, C., 2022. Interviews in the social sciences. *Nature Reviews Methods Primers*, 2, Article no. 73. Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43586-022-00150-6>

5. Employing AI for academic writing and research (11.30-13.00)

Description: The seminar discusses how AI tools have affected academic writing, both in terms of analytical clarity and with regard to the risk of plagiarism through third-party tools. Consequently, the seminar makes the case for employing AI tools in a constructive, transparent, and ethical manner.

Presenter: Angelos Angelou, Assistant Professor, Department of International and European Studies, Panteion University

Suggested reading:

- Giugliano, A. (2025) Ethical use cases of AI in academic writing: a 2025 guide for students and researchers. Thesify, 13 Mar. Available at: <https://www.thesify.ai/blog/ethical-use-cases-of-ai-in-academic-writing-a-2025-guide-for-students-and-researchers>
- Khalifa, M. and Albadawy, M. (2024) 'Using artificial intelligence in academic writing and research: an essential productivity tool', *Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine Update*, 5, article 100145, pp. 1–11. doi: 10.1016/j.cmpbup.2024.100145. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666990024000120>

- Mewburn, I. (2023) Using ChatGPT (ChattieG) to write good, The Thesis Whisperer, 2 May. Available at: <https://thesiswhisperer.com/2023/05/02/usingchatgpt/>
- Wolfson College Academic Skills (2025) *Using AI for academic purposes*. University of Cambridge Library. Available at: <https://libguides.cam.ac.uk/wolfsoncollege/academic-ai>

Friday 24 April (10.00-12.00)

6. AI for Social Science Research: A deeper view on Generative AI and Large Language Models (LLMs)

Description: The seminar introduces students to the practical use of Generative AI and Large Language Models (LLMs). As the availability of digital documents (e.g. PDFs, books, reports, archival material) continues to grow, AI tools offer new ways to extract, structure, and assess textual information. The session provides an intuitive overview of how LLMs work and how they can be responsibly integrated into academic research. By the end of the session, students will be able to explain in intuitive terms how Large Language Models (LLMs) work; identify research tasks in social science where AI can be appropriately applied and design a simple AI-assisted research pipeline (data collection → extraction → coding → validation).

There are no prerequisites for this seminar. No prior experience with LLMs is required. Some prior familiarity with R would be helpful but not essential. Bringing your laptop is optional as demonstrative examples will be shown live.

Presenter: Iakovos Makropoulos, Postdoctoral Researcher, ESRC Impact Champion, University of Strathclyde

Suggested reading:

- K. Benoit (2020). "[Text as Data: An Overview](#)". *Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*. Ed. by L. Curini and R. Franzese. Thousand Oaks: Sage: 461–497.
- K. L. Nielbo, F. Karsdorp, M. Wevers, A. Lassche, B. R. B., M. Kestemont, and N. Tahmasebi (2024). "[Quantitative Text Analysis](#)". *Nature Reviews Methods Primers* 2(24).
- F. Gilardi, M. Alizadeh, and M. Kubli (2023). "[ChatGPT Outperforms Crowd-Workers for Text-Annotation Tasks](#)". *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 120(3): e2305016120.
- K. Benoit, S. De Marchi, C. Laver, M. Laver, and J. Ma (Forthcoming). "[Using Large Language Models to Analyze Political Texts Through Natural Language Understanding](#)". *American Journal of Political Science*.