ECPR Methods Café

When & where
Date Sunday 16 February
Time 18:20 – 19:30
Location DO2A Aula
Dominikanerstraße 2a, 96049
in the city centre

What’s on the menu?
The Methods Café brings together a broad range of Instructors who specialise in various methods and approaches. Its informal setting – a ‘café’ – provides a forum for one-to-one and group discussions in a non-intimidating environment. In particular, it’s a great opportunity for doctoral students and junior scholars, as well as established researchers, who might be looking for help with any aspect of their research project, from design to execution to writing.

Please attend only if you intend to participate in a discussion.

How do I find my way around the Café?
To help you navigate the space, we’ve posted maps around the Aula, listing the topic for each table, along with a poster containing descriptions of each topic, pictures and biographies of the Instructors.

A host stands at the entrance, ready to help people figure out who is sitting where, to explain the process, and to hand you a list of table topics and specialists.

What kind of questions should I ask?
Absolutely any methods related questions; for example:

What is X method?
I’m in the midst of analysing my data and I’ve run into [describes a specific problem]. How should I handle it?

One of my committee members doesn’t believe that X method is valid. How can I respond to this challenge?

I have a student who wants to do X method, but I have no training in that myself. What can I advise him or her?

Don’t worry that your query might seem too elementary – our Instructors welcome questions on anything about a method or approach, at any level!

How is the space set up?
Ten tables, headed up by Instructors specialising in particular methods and techniques. See the other side of this leaflet for details. Help yourself to a drink, and choose from the menu of topics to join. You can choose to spend all your time at one table, or move from place to place, as you wish.
To indicate their area of expertise, instructors are listed alongside their respective courses. To read full biographies, search for names under the ‘Course List’ tab of the Winter School page at www.ecpr.eu

Table 1 – Interpretive
Ethnographic, conceptual analysis, qualitative interviewing
Frederic Schaffer Working with Concepts in the Social Sciences
Lea Sgier Interpretive Interviewing
Dvora Yanow Writing Ethnographic and Other Qualitative-interpretive Research
Ask them Questions relating to their courses; also broader questions relating to interpretive designs and methods.

Table 2 – Variance-based
Regression
Constantin Manuel Bosancianu Linear Regression with R/Stata: Estimation, Interpretation and Presentation
Michal Kolenowski Logistic Regression and General Linear Models
Levente Littvay Multilevel Regression Modelling
Ask them Questions about regression models, and how to use them properly in your own research.

Table 3 – Case-based
Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)
Carsten Q. Schneider Advanced Topics in Set-Theoretic Methods and QCA
Eva Thomann Introduction to QCA
Ask them Questions relating to QCA and how to use it in your own research.

Table 4 – Variance-based
Making causal inferences in variance-based approaches
Michael Gebel Methods of Modern Causal Analysis Based on Observational Data
Susumu Shikano Introduction to Bayesian inference
Florian Weiler Introduction to Statistics for Political and Social Scientists
Ask them Questions related to logics of inference (e.g., Bayesian), and modern techniques for making causal inferences using observational data.

Table 5 – Variance-based
Quantitative text analysis and social media data, survey research
Kostas Gemenis Introduction to Quantitative Text Analysis
Taeha Kim Python Programming for Social Sciences: Collecting, Analysing and Presenting Social Media Data
Kathrin Thomas Survey Design
Ask them Questions related to quantitative text analysis, and how Python can be used to work with social media data. Also questions relating to survey research, including how to design surveys, and work with panel data.

Table 6 – Case-based
Process tracing and comparative historical methods
Kim Sass Mikkelsen Introduction to Process Tracing
Marcus Kreuzer Comparative Historical Analysis
Derek Beach Advanced Process-tracing
Ask them Questions relating to case study methods and how to use them in relation to your own research.

Table 7 – Variance-based
Network analysis
Silvia Fierăscu Introduction to Applied Social Network Analysis
Philip Leifeld Inferential Network Analysis
Ask them Questions relating to the uses and types of network analysis, and how they could be used in your project.

Table 8 – Interpretive
Working with qualitative / interpretive data
Marie Østergaard Møller Introduction to Qualitative Interpretive Methods
Marie-Hélène Paré Advanced Qualitative Data Analysis
Bojana Lobe Online Qualitative Methods and Virtual Ethnography
Ask them Questions relating to qualitative / interpretive research design, how to work with different types of qualitative / interpretive data, and online ethnographic methods.

Table 9 – Variance-based / Advanced topics
Structural equation modelling, machine learning, time series, event history / survival analysis, advanced sequence analysis
Philippe Blanchard Advanced Sequence Analysis
David Pupovac Time Series Analysis
Bruno Castanho Silva Machine Learning for the Social Sciences
Janez Stare Event History and Survival Analysis
Ask them Questions ranging from ‘What is method X?’ to very focused topics related to applying a particular technique to your own research.

Table 10 – Case-based
Comparative research design and multi-method research
Leonce Röth Advanced Multi-Method Research
Benoît Rihoux Comparative Research Designs
Ask them A broad range of design-related questions.