

Causally Orientated Case Study Methods (Advanced methodology course – collection, treatment and analysis of data)

Title	Causally Orientated Case Study Methods (Advanced methodology course – collection, treatment and analysis of data)
Semester	F2023
Master programme in	Global Studies / Internationale udviklingsstudier / Virksomhedsstudier / Social Entrepreneurship and Management / International Public Administration and Politics / Politik / Politik og forvaltning / Virksomhedsledelse / Business Administration and Leadership / Global and Development Studies / International Politics and Governance / Politik og Forvaltning / Social Entrepreneurship and Management / Virksomhedsledelse / European Master in Global Studies
Type of activity	Course
Teaching language	English
Study regulation	

REGISTRATION AND STUDY ADMINISTRATIVE

Registration	
Number of participants	
ECTS	5
Responsible for the activity	Kim Sass Mikkelsen (ksass@ruc.dk)
Head of study	Carina Saxlund Bischoff (carinasb@ruc.dk)
Teachers	
Study administration	ISE Registration & Exams (ise-exams@ruc.dk)
Exam code(s)	U60387

ACADEMIC CONTENT

Overall objective	Overall objective An advanced course in social scientific methodology aims to equip students to competently select and apply a given method for the collection, treatment and analysis of data, for the purpose of illuminating an academic problem. The course enables students to argue for the applicability and relevance of the method to the problem, and to master the techniques of the method at a professional level.
-------------------	---

Detailed description of content

In depth studies of one or a few cases are indispensable tools for the study of international politics and governance. This course introduces intermediate to advanced techniques for doing case studies of organisations, countries, events, and other macro and meso level phenomena. It does so with a particular emphasis on the study of causal mechanisms – providing techniques for developing and testing arguments about processes leading to outcomes of interest empirically.

In the course, students are introduced to the central notion that causation can be thought of as a system of parts which together comprise causal mechanisms linking one or more conditions to their associated outcomes. For instance, democracy is widely believed to cause peace through a mechanism involving agitation by liberal elites against war and institutional constraints on government. Following on this notion, students expand their existing knowledge of a series of techniques – including process tracing, congruence analysis, and small-n comparisons – that can help develop and test mechanisms for their projects.

Central questions of the course include: How can we conceptualize a causal mechanism for a particular research question? How can we best select cases to examine such a mechanism? How can we utilize case knowledge and evidence to examine mechanisms empirically? And what role do quick pattern matching and comparisons play in doing so?

The techniques taught in the course are applicable to any research question with an interest in examining empirical relationships in the real world. Whether theories and mechanisms centre on incentives, norms, ideas, structures, actors, or combinations of these is immaterial, so long as the implications of those theories are possible to examine empirically.

Course material and Reading list

The course syllabus consists partly of methodological writings about core case study themes such as understanding causal mechanisms, using evidence, and case selection; partly of a series of exemplary case studies from a variety of academic literatures. Students must purchase Derek Beach and Rasmus Pedersen's *Causal Case Study Methods* (cited below) ahead of the course.

Examples of readings include:

Beach, D. and Pedersen, R.B., (2016). *Causal case study methods: Foundations and guidelines for comparing, matching, and tracing*. University of Michigan Press (can be purchased in the campus bookstore).

Brast, Benjamin. (2015) 'The Regional Dimension of Statebuilding Interventions'. *International Peacekeeping* 22(1): 81-99.

Rohlfing, I. and Zuber, C.I., 2021. Check your truth conditions! Clarifying the relationship between theories of causation and social science methods for causal inference. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 50(4), pp.1623-1659.

Waldner, D., Cyr, J., Koivu, K. and Goertz, G., 2019. Review symposium: multimethod research, causal mechanisms, and case studies. *European Political Science*, 18(1), pp.157-169.

Overall plan and expected work effort

The course gives 5 ECTS points, corresponding to an expectation that students spend 135 hours in relation to it.

The course comprises 8 double sessions.

It is expected that students have read and worked on syllabus materials prior to each session. It is expected that students will spend around 90 hours on this work.

The exam is an oral exam based on a short, written synopsis in which students present their own causally oriented case study design. Some of the work on this synopsis is done through exercises throughout the semester. The expectation is that work on the exam will total 25 hours, including preparation.

Teaching sessions depart from readings and short lectures by the teaching team. Sessions can include the following elements:

Questions for the teaching team related to the session's readings.

Lectures by the teaching team explaining and expanding on course materials for the session

Exercises in ad hoc groups based on discussions of exemplary case studies included in the syllabus

Brief individual writing exercises in class, reflecting on a theme presented during the session or working on students' own causally oriented case study design.

Common discussions of syllabus materials, group work, or individual writing exercises.

In-class exercises are small sets of questions concerning syllabus or other materials provided by the teaching team. Examples might include discussing the design of a published case study or the applicability of a particular technique to a particular research question.

Writing exercises are short analyses conducted in class, in which students are asked to think and write for a few minutes on a topic related to the content of the session – for instance how a technique might apply to the design they are planning to submit for the exam.

Format

Evaluation
and feedback

The activity are evaluated regularly regarding the study board evaluation procedure. The activity responsible will be orientated about a potential evaluation of the activity at semesterstart. Se link to the study board evaluation praxis here <https://intra.ruc.dk/nc/for-ansatte/organisering/raadnaevn-og-udvalg/oversigt-over-studienaevn/studienaevn-for-internationale-studier/arbejdet-medkvalitet-i-uddannelserne/>

Programme

The plan for each course session is available on the course Moodle site.

ASSESSMENT

Overall
learning
outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain and assess, using appropriate terminology, the advantages and disadvantages of collecting and analysing data using the given methodology
- Apply the given method confidently and independently to a specific academic issue
- Reflect on research ethical issues relating to the method

	Communicate the results obtained through the application of the method in an academically precise manner.
Form of examination	Individual oral exam based on a written product. The character limit of the written product is 2,400-4,800 characters, including spaces. The character limits include the cover, table of contents, bibliography, figures and other illustrations, but exclude any appendices. Time allowed for exam including time used for assessment: 25 minutes. The assessment is an overall assessment of the written product(s) and the subsequent oral examination. Permitted support and preparation materials for the oral exam: Course material and own notes. Assessment: 7-point grading scale. Moderation: Internal co-assessor.
Form of Re-examination	Samme som ordinær eksamen / same form as ordinary exam
Type of examination in special cases	
Examination and assessment criteria	After the course, students are expected to have the ability to... Assess and discuss advantages and disadvantages of causally oriented case study designs. Independently build and communicate causally oriented case study designs, including working existing theory into a viable causal mechanism. Compare and discuss the utility of different variants of causally oriented case study designs for concrete research questions. Discuss and assess the impact of case selection, data quality, and data availability on the strengths and weaknesses of particular causally oriented case study designs.
Exam code(s)	Exam code(s) : U60387

Course days:

Hold: 1

Causally Orientated Case Study Methods (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time 10-02-2023 12:15 til
10-02-2023 14:00

location 25.2-035 - auditorie 25 (145)

Teacher Oda Bagøien Hustad (ohustad@ruc.dk)

Causally Orientated Case Study Methods (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time 24-02-2023 12:15 til
24-02-2023 14:00

location 05.2-032 - teorirum (65)

Teacher Kim Sass Mikkelsen (ksass@ruc.dk)

Causally Orientated Case Study Methods (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time 03-03-2023 12:15 til
03-03-2023 14:00

location 05.2-032 - teorirum (65)

Teacher Oda Bagøien Hustad (ohustad@ruc.dk)

Causally Orientated Case Study Methods (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time 10-03-2023 12:15 til
10-03-2023 14:00

location 05.2-032 - teorirum (65)

Teacher Alexander Linyu Qian Chen (alq@ruc.dk)

Causally Orientated Case Study Methods (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time 17-03-2023 12:15 til
17-03-2023 14:00

location 05.2-032 - teorirum (65)

Teacher Alexander Linyu Qian Chen (alq@ruc.dk)

Causally Orientated Case Study Methods (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time 31-03-2023 12:15 til
31-03-2023 14:00

location 05.2-032 - teorirum (65)

Teacher Alexander Linyu Qian Chen (alq@ruc.dk)

Causally Orientated Case Study Methods (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time 14-04-2023 12:15 til
14-04-2023 14:00

location 05.2-032 - teorirum (65)

Teacher Kim Sass Mikkelsen (ksass@ruc.dk)

Causally Orientated Case Study Methods (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time 21-04-2023 12:15 til
21-04-2023 14:00

location 05.2-032 - teorirum (65)

Teacher Kim Sass Mikkelsen (ksass@ruc.dk)

Casually Orientated Case Study Methods - Submission of assignment (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time 01-06-2023 10:00 til
01-06-2023 10:00

forberedelsesnorm ikke valgt

forberedelsesnorm D-VIP ikke valgt

Casually Orientated Case Study Methods - Oral exam (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time 14-06-2023 08:15 til
16-06-2023 18:00

forberedelsesnorm ikke valgt

forberedelsesnorm D-VIP ikke valgt

Casually Orientated Case Study Methods - Resubmission of assignment (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time	04-08-2023 10:00 til 04-08-2023 10:00
forberedelsesnorm	ikke valgt
forberedelsesnorm D-VIP	ikke valgt

Casually Orientated Case Study Methods - Oral reexam (BAL, GDS, IPG, PF, VL)

time	11-08-2023 08:15 til 11-08-2023 18:00
forberedelsesnorm	ikke valgt
forberedelsesnorm D-VIP	ikke valgt