Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Professur für Empirische Politikwissenschaft
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Sieberer

Winter Term 2017/2018

Research Design in the Social Sciences

Venue:	FG1 00.06
Start Date:	Oct. 18, 2017
Instructor:	Prof. Dr. Ulrich Sieberer

Dates:	Wednesday **9-11** on Oct 18
	Wednesday **9-13** on Oct 25, Nov 8, Nov 22, Nov 29, Dec 13, Jan 10, Jan 24
	One-day mini conference at the end of the semester (date tba)

Participants
Required course for all incoming BAGSS students

Program
This course introduces PhD students to the fundamentals of developing a research design in the Social Sciences. The course will cover the essential steps of designing a research project such as finding and specifying a research question, the role of theory, conceptualization and measurement, and different types of research designs. The main focus will be on how to draw valid causal inferences from different types of empirical data. Practical issues of planning and writing a PhD, publication strategies, and applications for funding will also be discussed.

The course will combine lecture-style elements with open discussion and give students the opportunity to discuss and get feedback on the specific challenges they face in developing their PhD project. At the end of the semester, all students will present and get feedback on the research designs for their dissertations.

Introductory Readings
A detailed syllabus and list of readings will be distributed in the first session.

The course assumes familiarity with basic topics of research design. If did not take a research design course covering these topics in your previous studies, please take a careful look at one of these introductory texts:

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry. Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Toshkov, Dimiter. 2016. *Research Design in Political Science*. London: Palgrave Macmillan Education.

De Vaus, David A. 2001. *Research Design in Social Research*. Los Angeles: Sage.