

Development Studies 2010: Theory and Research in Development II

Barbara Stallings
Watson Institute, Room 138

Spring 2012
Thursday, 9:30-11:45

Understanding and promoting economic, social, and political development is one of the primary challenges for the world in the twenty-first century. Despite the tremendous efforts over the last fifty years, a large share of the world's population – in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and some of the Transition Economies – still lives in abject poverty. And while many countries have made the transition to democracy, pervasive inequalities, weak political institutions, and fragile civil societies continue to pose significant challenges to the exercise of genuine democratic freedoms. Moreover, the “problem” of development has become an increasingly global challenge as issues of security, governance, economic stability, and environmental sustainability have become internationalized. Recent cases of economic collapse, political upheaval, civil war, and resurgent nationalism provide jarring reminders that we still have much to learn. Success stories that defy traditional trajectories of development – rapid and sustained growth in East Asia, cases of social development without growth, and waves of democratic transitions – call for new explanatory models. Coming to terms with these complexities requires modes of thinking, forms of knowledge, and tools of research that borrow from all the social sciences.

DS 2010 is the second half of a two semester course. It is designed to assist PhD students in preparing research proposals. The course will be organized around presentations by Brown and external faculty on a range of development topics.

Requirements:

- * Do all the readings and be active in class participation. Course readings will be posted electronically on the MyCourses website.
- * Attend and participate in the Colloquium on Comparative Research (CCR), which meets every other Wednesday, 5-6:30pm, in the McKinney Seminar Room at the Watson Institute.
- * A “research proposal” paper. The paper should frame a substantive research question, explain why it is worth studying, and then outline the steps that should be taken to answer the question. A short 2-3 page statement of the topic of the paper, including a preliminary bibliography, is due on **March 1, 2011**. The paper itself is due at the end of the semester; it must be turned in online.
- * Two short (3-5 page) observation and research design papers.
- * An in-class presentation on your research proposal paper.
- * Written comments and presentations on two other students' research proposals.

January 26: Introduction: Course Logistics

Method, Research Design, and Proposals re the Study of Development

February 2: Issues of Method and Research Design I

Richard Snyder, "The Human Dimension of Comparative Research," in Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, eds., *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007): pp. 1-31.

Gerardo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen, "Research Designs," in Kimberly Kempf-Leonard (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Social Measurement Vol. 3* (San Diego.: Academic Press, 2005), pp. 385-95.

Thad Dunning, "Natural Experiments," Draft entry for the International Encyclopedia of Political Science, Yale University, Department of Political Science, 2010.

Evan S. Lieberman, "Nested Analysis as a Mixed Method Strategy for Comparative Research," *American Political Science Review* 99 (Aug. 2005): 1-18.

Richard Snyder, "Scaling Down: The Subnational Comparative Method," *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 36:1 (Spring 2001): 93-110.

John Comaroff, "Notes on Anthropological Method mainly in the key of e."

February 9: Issues of Method and Research Design II

Gerardo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen, "Research Designs," in Kimberly Kempf-Leonard (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Social Measurement Vol. 3* (San Diego: Academic Press, 2005), pp. 385-95.

Evan S. Lieberman, "Nested Analysis as a Mixed Method Strategy for Comparative Research," *American Political Science Review* 99 (Aug. 2005): 1-18.

Thad Dunning, "Design-Based Inference: Beyond the Pitfalls of Regression Analysis?" in Henry Brady and David Collier, eds., *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, 2nd edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010).

John Comaroff, "Notes on Anthropological Method mainly in the key of e."

Gary Alan Fine. "Ten Lies of Ethnography: Moral Dilemmas of Field Research," *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 22, 3 (2003): 267-294.

February 16: Issues of Method and Research Design III

“On Dissertations and First Books: Perspectives from Leading Comparativists,” in Munck and Snyder, excerpts.

“On Fieldwork: Perspectives from Leading Comparativists,” in Munck and Snyder, excerpts.

Elisabeth Jean Wood, “Field Research,” in Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, eds., *Handbook of Comparative Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007).

Michael Burawoy, “The Extended Case Method,” *Sociological Theory* 16 (March 1998): 4-33.

James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, “Comparative Historical Analysis: Achievements and Agends,” in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003): 3-40.

Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, “The Experimental Approach to Development Economics,” *Annual Review of Economics* (2009): 151-78.

February 23: The Craft of Writing Research Proposals

Adam Przeworski and Frank Salomon, “The Art of Writing Proposals: Some Candid Suggestions for Applicants to Social Science Research Council Competitions,” (http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/art_of_writing_proposals.page).

Philippe C. Schmitter, “The ‘Ideal’ Research Proposal,” 2002.

Graduate student panel: Angelica Duran-Martinez (Political Science), Susan Ellison (Anthropology), and Jennifer Costanza (Sociology).

From Method to Practice in the Study of Development (Readings will be assigned for each presentation)

March 1: Presenter: Andrew Foster, Professor of Economics, Brown

March 8: Presenter: Fotini Christia, Assistant Professor of Political Science, MIT

March 15: Presenter: Dan Smith, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Brown

March 22: Presenter: Joanna Davidson, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, BU

April 5: Presenter: Peter Evans, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, UC-Berkeley

***April 12: Presenter:** Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Brown

April 19: Presenter: Akhil Gupta, Professor, Anthropology, UCLA

Student Presentations

April 26: Student Presentations

April XX (date to be negotiated): Student Presentations