

HISTORICAL METHODS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (SAGE BENCHMARKS IN SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS SERIES) pdf

1: SAGE Reference - The SAGE Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods

Historical methods are at the foundation of research in the social sciences. This synthesizing and integrative project on the methodology of historical social science addresses programmatic objectives, interpretive principles, explanatory logic, and substantive applications to form a unique contribution to the field.

Major researchers[edit] Some commentators have identified three waves of historical comparative research. For PhD dissertations this can be an approach used. One example is comparing communities and minorities and social groups. Mordechai Zaken compared two non-Muslim minorities in Kurdistan, the Jews and the Assyrian Christians in their relationships with their Muslim rulers and tribal chieftains during the 19th and 20th centuries. His comparative study gave a much clearer picture on the status of the minorities and their relationships with the ruling elites in and around Kurdistan. His PhD dissertation and the online book upon which it was based have been widely spread and translated into the local languages in Kurdistan and the surrounding. These are archival data, secondary sources, running records, and recollections. The archival data, or primary sources, are typically the resources that researchers rely most heavily on. Archival data includes official documents and other items that would be found in archives, museums, etc. Secondary sources are the works of other historians who have written history. Finally recollections include sources such as autobiographies, memoirs or diaries. Historical data is a difficult set of data to work with due to multiple factors. Historical data regardless or whether it may or may not be biased diaries vs. Time can destroy fragile paper, fade ink until it is illegible, wars, environmental disasters can all destroy data and special interest groups can destroy mass amounts of data to serve a specific purpose at the time they lived, etc. Hence, data is naturally incomplete and can lead social scientists to many barriers in their research. Often historical comparative research is a broad and wide reaching topic such as how democracy evolved in three specific regions. Tracking how democracy developed is a daunting task for one country or region let alone three. Here the scale of the social system, which is attempting to be studied, is overwhelming but also the complexity is extreme. Within each case there are multiple different social systems that can affect the development of a society and its political system. The factors must be separated and analyzed so that causality can be attained. It is causality that brings us to yet another key issue in methods for historical comparative research, the nature of the questions which are asked is attempting to propose causal relationships between a set of variables. Determining causality alone is a difficult task; coupled with the incomplete nature of historical data and the complexity and scale of the social systems being used to examine causality the task becomes even more challenging. Identifying features[edit] The three identifying issues of historical comparative research are causal relationships, processes over time, and comparisons. Schutt discusses the five criteria, which must be met in order to have a causal relationship. Of the five the first three are the most important: Association simply means that between two variables; the change in one variable is related to the change in another variable. Time order refers to the fact that the cause the independent variable must be shown to have occurred first and the effect the dependent variable to have occurred second. Nonspuriousness says that the association between two variables is not because of a third variable. The deterministic causal approach requires that in every study, the independent and dependent variable have an association, and within that study every case nation, region the independent variable has an effect on the dependent variable. Difficulties[edit] There are several difficulties that historical comparative research faces. James Mahoney, one of the current leading figures in historical comparative research, identifies several of these in his book "Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences. Both Kiser and Hechter employ models within Rational Choice Theory for their general causal principles. Historical researchers that oppose them Skocpol, Summers, others argue that Kiser and Hechter do not suggest many other plausible general theories, and thus it seems as though their advocacy for general theories is actually advocacy for their preferred general theory. They also raise other criticisms of using rational choice theory in historical comparative research. Two of the main players in this debate have been

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Edgar Kiser and Michael Hechter. They have argued that it is important to use a general theory in order to be able to test the results of the research that has been conducted. They do not argue that one specific theory is better than the other just that a theory needs to be used. Their chosen theory is rational choice. One of the main problems is that everyone has a different concept of what a theory is and what makes something a theory. Some of their opponents feel that any theory can be tested and they are arguing that some cannot be. Kiser and Hechter do acknowledge that this is a growing field and that their perspective may change in the future. The comparative-historical method can be seen in *The Familial State*: Researcher Julia Adams draws on both original archival work and secondary sources to analyze how merchant families contested with noble families for influence in the early modern Dutch Republic. Her use of feminist theory to account for elements of the Dutch Republic, such as patriarchal kinship structures in the ruling families, expanded on earlier theories of how modern states came to be. This is an illustration of how comparative-historical analysis uses cases and theories together.

2: Benchmarking - SAGE Research Methods

Appearing in the Benchmarks in Social Research Methods series being produced by Sage, this four-volume set lays out the case for a fully integrated historical social science, critically addressing the core issues of ontological grounding, epistemological coherence, theoretical cogency, methodological rigor, and research accomplishment.

3: Social Research Methods

The Future of Online Social Research The SAGE Handbook of Online Research Methods, Second Edition is an essential resource for anyone interested in the contemporary practice of computer-mediated research and scholarship.

4: SAGE Knowledge - Search Results

Historical methods are at the foundation of research in the social sciences. This work is a guide to the epistemological and ontological bases of historical-sociological inquiry, explores the logic of historical-sociological analysis, and pinpoints legacies and examines contemporary applications.

5: SAGE Reference - The SAGE Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods

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7: Historical Research and Methods - History - Research Guides at Southern New Hampshire University

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8: Comparative historical research - Wikipedia

Benchmarking is a method used by organizations to compare their performance, processes, or practices with peer organizations or those in other business sectors.

9: Benchmarking - SAGE Research Methods

The SAGE Handbook of Social Research Methods is a must for every social-science researcher. It charts the new and evolving terrain of social research methodology, covering qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods in one volume.

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