

WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Historical Analysis and Historical Methods

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May 22-23, 2018

9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

This workshop offers an introduction to historical analysis and methods in the social sciences with a special emphasis on historical case studies. Social scientists working in different disciplines and different research programs often have varying, sometimes competing, assumptions about what it means to be historical. Rather than take sides, the workshop pluralistically surveys a wide variety of contemporary self-avowedly historical research programs that use case studies: new institutional economic history, comparative historical analysis, historical institutionalism, international history, and historical sociology. As we move across these we follow cross-disciplinary contrasts and connections to see how historical cases have been used by an array of economists, political scientists, and sociologists.

In our readings we engage reflective and prescriptive pronouncements about the substantive and methodological orientation of research programs alongside concrete examples of historical work. The aim is to examine and evaluate both the framing and the actual research practices of each program. Our workshop sessions will be seminars in which I provide an organizational outline and introductory remarks, but the bulk of class time is devoted to active discussion of the readings. The goal of the sessions is to help students to identify and understand the premises, preaching, and practices of diverse contemporary research programs in historical social science, and to spur students who wish to do historical case studies themselves to identify and articulate the particular variant of historical analysis that best fits their commitments and interests. This workshop may be taken as a freestanding survey, or supplemented with the one-day workshop on archival research.



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Schedule of Sessions

Day I. Tuesday, May 22

Session 1. Comparing Approaches to Comparative Historical Social Science 9.00-10.30

- Theda Skocpol, and Margaret Somers, "The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 22, no. 2 (1980): 174-97. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?u-http%3A%2F%2F0-www.jstor.org.mercury.concordia.ca%2Fstable%2F178404>
- James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, "Comparative Historical Analysis: Achievements and Agendas, in *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, eds. Mahoney and Rueschemeyer (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), chap. 1. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF8D2>

Session 2. New Institutional Economic History 10.45-12.00

- Johan Myrman, and Barry R. Weingast, "Douglass C. North's Contributions to Economics and Economic History," *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* 96, no. 2 (1994): 185-93. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?u-http%3A%2F%2F0-search.ebscohost.com.mercury.concordia.ca%2Flogin.aspx%3Fdirect%3Dtrue%26db%3Dbth%26AN%3D5917574%26site%3Ddehost-live%26scope%3Dsite>
- Douglass C. North and Barry R. Weingast, "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England," *The Journal of Economic History* 49, no. 4 (1989): 803-32. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?u-http%3A%2F%2F0-www.jstor.org.mercury.concordia.ca%2Fstable%2F2122739>

Session 3. Why Nations Fail: Historical Origins 1.30-2.45

- Daron Acemoglu, and James A. Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (New York: Crown Business, 2012), chap. 1., chap. 3 (p. 70-87), chap. 15 (p. 428-46). Available at Webster Course Reserve Room (3 hour loan) chap. 4, (96-123): <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF8EA>

Session 4. The Comparative Study of Colonial Legacies: Alternative Methods 3.00-4.30

- James Mahoney, *Colonialism and Post-Colonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), xiii-xv, chap. 1(1-32), chap. 8 (253-264). <http://0-quod.lib.umich.edu.mercury.concordia.ca/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=acls;cc=acls;rgn=full%20text;idno=heb31640.0001.001;didno=heb31640.0001.001;view=image;seq=0000019;node=heb31640.0001.001%3A4>
- Ajay Verghese, *The Colonial Origins of Ethnic Violence in India* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2016), introduction and appendixes <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF8E7>



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Day 2. Wednesday, May 23

Session 1. CHA and Historical Institutionalism in Contemporary Political Science

9.00-10.30

- Kathleen Thelen and James Mahoney, “Comparative-Historical Analysis in Contemporary Political Science,” in *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis*, eds. James Mahoney and Kathleen Thelen (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2015), chap. 1. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF8E6>
- Orfeo Fioretos, Tulia G. Falletti, and Adam Sheingate, “Historical Institutionalism in Political Science,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism*, eds. Orfeo Fioretos, Tulia G. Falletti, and Adam Sheingate (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2015), chap. 1. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll?Action=10&Type=14&Value=14EEF865>

Session 2. Critical Junctures

10.45-12.00

- Giovanni Capoccia, “Critical Junctures,” in *Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2015), chap. 5. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF818>
- Thomas Ertman, “The Great Reform Act of 1832 and British Democratization,” *Comparative Political Studies* 43, no. 8/9 (2010): 1000-1022. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?u-http%3A%2F%2F0-journals.sagepub.com.mercury.concordia.ca%2Fdoi%2F10.1177%2F0010414010370434>

Session 3. International Relations Theory and International History

1.30-2.45

- Marc Trachtenberg, *The Craft of International History: A Guide to Method* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006), chap. 2. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EEF8A4>
- Austin Carson, “Facing Off and Saving Face: Covert Intervention and Escalation Management in the Korean War,” *International Organization* 70, no. 1 (2016): 103-31. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF21EC>

Session 4. Historical Sociology after the Cultural Turn

3.00-4.30

- Julia Adams, Elisabeth S. Clemens, and Ann Shola Orloff, “Social Theory, Modernity, and the Three Waves of Historical Sociology,” in *Remaking Modernity: Politics, History, and Sociology*, eds. Adams, Clemens, and Orloff (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2005), chap. 1. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF21F1> <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF21FA>
- William H. Sewell, Jr., “Historical Events as Transformations of Structures: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille,” *Theory and Society* 25, no. 6 (1996): 841-81. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?u-https%3A%2F%2F0-link-springer-com.mercury.concordia.ca%2Farticle%2F10.1007%252FBF00159818>
<https://0-link-springer-com.mercury.concordia.ca/article/10.1007%2FBF00159818>

*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to access these readings, please send us an email at wssr@concordia.ca and we will do our best to assist you.

