



**Course Title: Concepts, Operationalization and Data Sources**

**Lecturer: Prof. Jagodzinski, Romana Careja, PhD**

Course number	1615
Location/Room	See below
Time	See below
Credit Points	6
Type of course	Seminar
Course Language	English

### **1. Objectives**

The course aims at the conceptualization, measurement and estimation of concepts and constructs which are relevant to the research of the participants.

### **2. Prerequisites**

As the course is planned to help students in developing their theoretical framework, it is important that they have one or two relevant concepts, which they will work with during the course.

### **3. Relevance for study programmes**

The course is addressed mainly to SOCLIFE and CGS Ph.D students. However, it is also open for other interested students, depending on the number of places.

### **4. Registration**

Registration is necessary; the maximum number of students is 25. The course will be taught in 2 blocks (in April and July). In between, there will be a series of five regular meetings.

### **5. Organization and Contents**

#### **First Bloc**

Time: Tuesday, 21st April, 12.00: 17.30, and  
Thursday 23rd April 14.00: 19.30 in

Room: Zentralarchiv, Liliencronstr. 6: Conference Room, Third Floor

The first part briefly addresses relevant methodological and statistical topics for the structuring and formation of concepts. Participants are also invited to introduce the concepts which are relevant to their own research.

#### **1. The Classical View on Concepts and Theories (Jagodzinski)**

Recommended Reading: Karl Popper. 1953. The Logic of Scientific Discovery. (14<sup>th</sup> edition: 2001). Routledge: London, Chapter 3. (Other methodological textbooks which explain the differences between definitions, hypotheses, models and theories are suited equally well.)

#### **2. A Slightly Different View on Concepts: The Basic Ideas of Goertz (Jagodzinski)**





- Reading: Gary Goertz. 2005. Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide. Princeton University Press. Chapter 1
3. Structuring and Stretching Concepts (Careja)  
Reading: Goertz (2005) Chapter 2 and 3
  4. Concept Measurement (Jagodzinski)  
Reading: Goertz (2005) Chapter 4 and 5
  5. Selection of Dependent Variables, Cases, and Populations: An Overview (Jagodzinski)
  6. Two-Level Theories (Jagodzinski)  
Reading: Goertz (2005) Chapter 9
  7. Short presentations of the participants

Further Literature for the first bloc:

Giovanni Sartori. 1970 Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics" *The American Political Science Review* 64(4): 1033-1053.

David Collier and Robert Adcock 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and. Quantitative Research. *American Political Science Review* 95(3): 529-546

The **second part** begins on 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 and ends on 30<sup>th</sup> of June. It consists of lectures on specific data sources and measurement problems. We will also invite external domestic and foreign experts to this second part. Reading will be arranged in agreement with the participants and experts. In this interval 5 meetings are scheduled. The first one is will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> of May, from 10 to 11.30, in the Seminarraum 327, Herbert Lewin Str. 2. The schedule for the other meetings will be announced on time, pending on availability of guest lecturers.

The **third part** is again organized as a bloc seminar.

Time: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2009

Room: Zentralarchiv, Liliencronstr. 6: Conference Room, Third Floor

This part is dedicated to the discussion of papers which are prepared by the participants.

## **6. Working requirements and assessment method**

Students have to write a paper, assessing a concept of their choice. These papers present a theoretical and methodological overview of the chosen concept. The paper should also suggest operationalizations. If the concepts have already been estimated the empirical results can also be presented and discussed.





## **7. Teaching staff**

Wolfgang Jagodzinski has earned his PhD in Political Science at the University of Regensburg. He was Professor for Methods and Statistics at the Universities of Bremen and Gießen before he became a Professor of Sociology at the University of Cologne. He was President of GESIS. He is involved in several international survey programs, in particular in the *International Social Survey Programme* and the *European Values Study*.

Romana Careja obtained her PhD at the University of Bern. Her recent research has focused on conditions influencing economic reforms in post-communist countries.

## **8. Co-ordination/Contact**

Romana Careja, email: [careja@wiso.uni-koeln.de](mailto:careja@wiso.uni-koeln.de)

