

CALL FOR PAPERS

SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL *EUROPEAN POLITICAL SCIENCE*

“Quantitative Approaches to Comparative Analyses: Data properties and their implications for theory, measurement and modeling”

Even when the amount but also the opportunity to get secondary data for conducting social science studies is constantly increasing, the attention to the sources or the construction of data is insufficient. Since there are still only specific data sets or items for certain social phenomena, researchers most often apply the “available data at hand”, giving less weight on consideration regarding the measurement properties of the various indicators. Given the well-known “publication bias”, one may even be enticed to incorporate even qualitatively inferior indicators for the sake of statistically significant results.

This call for papers aims at assembling theoretical and empirical contributions that enhance a missing debate about criteria of assessing aggregate data for comparative analyses. The pitfalls of applying biased indicators or using instruments with unknown methodological characteristics are biased estimates and incorrect statistical inferences. As a consequence, misleading reports of research result may even carry over to false policy recommendations. Any paper submission is welcomed which address and identify criteria that will improve the comparability of different indices, whether via new forms of parameter estimation and statistical inference (e.g. Bayesian approaches) or through procedures for assessing the measurement quality (for instance structural equation models evaluating the validity and reliability of data). As most phenomena of interest on the aggregate level are measured indirectly, papers which contribute to the “latent” properties of variables or items are highly appreciated, altogether with contributions that show the applicability of measurement criteria in research fields dealing with aggregate-data (democracy, governance, conflicts or values).

Timetable for Submissions

30th April 2014 – Submission of extended abstracts (up to 500 words) stating the title and the summary of your research article

15th May 2014 – Invitation to submit full research article for review process

30th Sep 2014 – Submission of final manuscript for peer review process

After that, all submitted proposal will be subject to the standard peer review process of the journal. Decisions on all manuscripts will be communicated as soon as possible (around December 2014).

Proposals should be sent to pgraeff@soziologie.uni-kiel.de

or to

robert.neumann@tu-dresden.de

Best regards

Peter and Robert