PPOL 5160 Evidence in Public Policy
Spring 2022

Date and Time: Monday and Wednesday

9:00-10:20 AM (L1)

https://hkust.zoom.us/j/98339529596?pwd=cXZLUnJtZlFnOCt2dXBqV052RzZyZz09
Meeting ID: 983 3952 9596
Passcode: 229842

10:30-11:50 AM (L2)

https://hkust.zoom.us/j/96502553557?pwd=V1NCMjB5OVhnZVdzVGxhZ3d6MGcxUT09
meeting ID: 965 0255 3557
Passcode: 892080

Instructors:
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Course Description:
This course introduces students the basic concepts and methodologies in social science research and their applications in public policy research. It focuses on the development of students' professional skills in research design, data collection techniques, data analysis, and presentation of research findings. Main topics for the course include validity of research, measurement, experiments, sampling, survey research, qualitative data collection techniques and impact assessment. Cases and examples are used to facilitate discussions in the class on the actual applications of the concepts and methodologies for policy making.

Course Objectives:
The objectives of the course are to:
1) familiarize students with key research methodologies commonly used in public policy research;
2) enable students to formulate a general research strategy for a given policy problem;
3) enable students to design and implement field work for policy research; and
4) enable students to conduct evaluation for a particular policy or program.

Textbook

O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). *Research Methods for Public Administrators*, 6th Edition, Routledge.

Grading

In determining course grades, the following weights will be used:

Assignments(90%):

• Review report (5%)	Due on 14 March
• Analysis of quantitative data (10%)	Due on 28 March
• Analysis of qualitative data (10%)	Due on 11 April
• Impact assessment (15%)	Due on 27 April
• Class enrichment exercise (group project) 20%	Due on 16 May
• Research proposal or research paper (30%)	Due on 23 May

Class participation (10%)

Course outline with readings

(Class 1) Introduction to Policy Research
(9:00-10:20 AM, Monday, 7 February)

Readings:

- Etzioni, Amitai (1971). Policy Research. *The American Sociologist* , Jun., 1971, Vol. 6, Supplementary Issue (Jun., 1971), pp. 8-12
- Garret, J.L., and Islam, Y. (1998), 'Policy Research and the Policy Process: do the twain ever meet?' Gatekeeper Series no 74. International Institute for Environment and Development
- Productivity Commission (2010), *Strengthening Evidence-based policy in the Australian Federation*, *Volume 2: Background Paper*, Productivity Commission, Canberra. Chapter 1: Evidence-based Policy

(Class 2) Fundamental Concepts for Policy Research
(9:00-10:20 AM, Wednesday, 9 February)

Readings:

- Babbie, Earl (2010). *The Practice of Social Research*, 12th Edition, Cengage Learning, Inc. Chapter 1: Human Inquiry and Science, Chapter 2: Paradigms, Theory, and Research, pp 44-61, and Chapter 4: Research Designs, pp 91-112
- Wu, Xun (2005). Corporate Governance and Corruption: A Cross-Country Analysis, *Governance: An International Journal of Policy, Administration and Institutions*, 18 (2), pp. 151-170.

(Class 3) Process for Conducting Policy Research
(9:00-10:20 AM, Monday, 14 February)

Readings:

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). *Research Methods for Public Administrators*, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 1: Beginning a Research Project.
- Rudestam, K. E, and R. R. Newton (2015) *Surviving Your Dissertation*. Chapter 1 The Research Process
- Booth, W. C., G. G. Colomb, and J. M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. The University of Chicago Press. 2008. Chapter 3 From Topics to Questions; Chapter 4 From Questions to Problems
- Babbie, Earl (2010). *The Practice of Social Research*, 12th Edition, Cengage Learning, Inc. Chapter 4: Research Designs, pp 112-120
- Glover, David (2002). What Makes a Good "Policy Paper"? Ten Examples. EEPSEA.

(Class 4) Literature review
(9:00-10:20 AM, Wednesday, 16 February)

Readings:

- O'Leary, Z. (2010) *The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project*. Sage, London. Chapter 6: Reviewing Literature

(Class 5) Quality of Policy Research
(9:00-10:20 AM, Monday, 21 February)

Readings:

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). *Research Methods for Public Administrators*, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 3: Designs for Explanation" pp. 82-94

(Class 6) Research Designs for Policy Research and Evaluation: Experimental Designs
(9:00-10:20 AM, Wednesday, 23 February)

Readings:

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). *Research Methods for Public Administrators*, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 3: Designs for Explanation, pp. 94-104
- Tan, J. P., J. Lane and G. Lassibille (1999). Student Outcomes in Philippines Elementary Schools: An Evaluation of Four Experiments, *The World Bank Economic Review*, Vol. 13, No. 3, 493-508.
- King, G. et al (2007). A politically robust experimental design for public policy evaluation, with application to the Mexican Universal Health Insurance program**,** *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 26 (3), 479-506.

(Class 7) Research Designs for Policy Research and Evaluation: Quasi-experimental Designs
(9:00-10:20 AM, Monday, 28 February)

Readings:

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). *Research Methods for Public Administrators*, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 3: Designs for Explanation" pp. 104-115
- Card, D. and A. Krueger (1994). Minimum Wages and Employment: A Case Study of the Fast-Food Industry in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, *American Economic Review*, 84(4).
- Zhang, Zhuoni, Song, Shige, & Xiaogang Wu (2017). Exodus from Hunger: The Long-Term Health Consequences of the 1959–1961 Chinese Famine. *Biodemography and Social Biology*, 63(2), 148-166.

(Class 8) Research Designs for Policy Research and Evaluation: Non-experimental Designs
(9:00-10:20 AM, Wednesday, 2 March)

Readings:

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). Research Methods for Public Administrators, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 3: Designs for Explanation, pp. 115-120 and Chapter 2: Designs for Description, pp. 49-63
- Butcher, K. F., and A. M. Piehl (1998) Cross-city evidence on the relationship between immigration and crime, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 17 (3), pp. 457-493
- Wu, Xun. Determinants of Bribery in Asia: Evidence from Business Environment Survey, *Journal of Business Ethics*, 87(1), 2009

(Class 9) Measurement in Policy Research
(9:00-10:25 AM, Monday, 7 March)

Readings:

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017).

Research Methods for Public Administrators, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 4: Measuring Variables, and Chapter 10 Combining Indicators and Constructing Indices

(Class 10) Workshop on measurement
(9:00-12:00 AM, Wednesday, 9 March)

(Class 11) Quantitative Data Collection Techniques
(9:00-10:20 AM, Monday, 14 March)

Readings:

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). *Research Methods for Public Administrators*, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 5: Sampling, and Chapter 7: Collecting Data with Questions and Questionnaires

Review report due

(Class 12) Workshop on Survey Design
(9:00-10:20 AM, Wednesday, 16 March)

(Class 13) Techniques for Analyzing Quantitative Data (1)
(9:00-10:20 AM, Monday, 21 March)

Readings:

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). Research Methods for Public Administrators, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 13: Examining Relationships between and among Variables

- Miller, Gerald and Kaifeng Yang (eds) (2007). *Handbook of Research Methods in Public Administration*. CRC Press. "Chapter 28: Multiple Regression Analysis by Elizabeth A. Graddy and Lili Wang" and "Chapter 29: Multivariate Techniques for Dichotomous Dependent Variables: An Application to Public Policy by Mack C. Shelley, II."

- Zeng, Donglin, Xiaogang Wu and Zhuoni Zhang (2021). Residential and industrial enclaves and labor market outcomes among migrant workers in Shenzhen, China. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (about OLS, Logit, and MLogit).

(Class 14) Techniques for Analyzing Quantitative Data (2)
(9:00-10:30 AM, Wednesday, 23 March)

Readings:

- Miller, Gerald and Kaifeng Yang (eds) (2007). *Handbook of Research Methods in Public Administration*. CRC Press. "Chapter 32: Introduction to Panel Data Analysis: Concepts and Practices by Tae Ho Eom, Sock Hwan Lee, and Hua Xu" and "Chapter 33: Forecasting Methods for Serial Data by Dan Williams."

- Zhang, Zhuoni, & Xiaogang Wu. 2017. Occupational segregation and earnings inequality: Rural migrants and local workers in urban China. *Social Science Research*, 61, 57-74 (about OLS regression, decomposition, and propensity score matching)

(Class 15) Qualitative Data Collection Techniques
(9:00-10:30 AM, Monday, 28 March)

Readings:

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). Research Methods for Public Administrators, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 6: Contacting and Talking to Subjects.
- Darlington, Yvonne and Dorothy Scott (2002). *Qualitative Research in Practice: Stories from the Field*. Allen & Unwin, Australia. "Chapter 3: In-depth Interviewing," pp. 48-73
- Mack, N., Woodsong, C., MacQueen, K., Guest, G. and Namey, E. (2005) *Qualitative Research Methods: A Data Collector's Field Guide*. Family Health International (FHI), USA. Chapter 2-4

Analysis of quantitative data due

(Class 16) Workshop on Qualitative Data Collection
(9:00-10:30 AM, Wednesday, 30 March)

(Class 17) Techniques for Analyzing Qualitative Data
(9:00-10:20 AM, Monday, 4 April)

Readings:

- Yin, Robert (2018). *Case Study Research and Application: Design and Methods*. 6th Edition. Sage Publications. Chapter 1, 2 and 5.
- Miller, Gerald and Kaifeng Yang (eds) (2007). *Handbook of Research Methods in Public Administration*. CRC Press. "Chapter 35: Content Analysis by Chieh-Chen Bowen and William M. Bowen."
- Wu, Xun, and Nepomuceno A. Malaluan (2008). A Tale of Two Concessionaires: A Natural Experiment of Water Privatization in Metro Manila, *Urban Studies*, 45(1) pp. 207-229.

(Class 18) Workshop on Qualitative Data Analysis
(9:00-10:20 AM, Wednesday, 6 April)

(Class 19) Impact Assessment in Policy Evaluation (1)
(9:00-10:20 AM, Monday, 11 April)

Readings:

- Lindenburg, M. (1990). *Public Sector Program Evaluation* (B), KSG, Harvard.
- Ravallion, Martin. The Mystery of the Vanishing Benefits: An Introduction to Impact Evaluation, *The World Bank Economic Review*, Vol. 15, No. 1, 115-140.
- Rossi, Peter H., Mark W. Lipsey, and Gary T. Henry (2019). *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach*, Eighth Edition, Sage Publications. "Chapter 5: Measuring and Monitoring Program Outcomes" and "Chapter 6: Impact Evaluation: Isolating the Effects of Social Programs in the Real World."

Analysis of qualitative data due

(April 13-18   Mid-semester break)
(Class 20) Impact Assessment in Policy Evaluation (2)
(9:00-10:20 AM, Wednesday, 20 April)

Readings:

- Rossi, Peter H., Mark W. Lipsey, and Gary T. Henry (2019). *Evaluation: A Systematic Approach*, Eighth Edition, Sage Publications. "Chapter 7: Impact Evaluation: Comparison Group Designs," "Chapter 8: Impact Evaluation: Designs with Strict Controls on Program Access," and "Chapter 9: Detecting, Interpreting, and Exploring Program Effects."

(Class 21) Workshop on Impact Assessment
(9:00-10:20 AM, Monday, 25 April)

(Class 22) Communicating Research Findings
(9:00-10:20 AM, Wednesday, 27 April)

Readings:

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). *Research Methods for Public Administrators*, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 15: Completing the Project and Communicating Findings.
- Miller, Gerald and Kaifeng Yang (eds) (2007). *Handbook of Research Methods in Public Administration*. CRC Press. "Chapter 42: Presenting Quantitative Research Results by Jane E. Miller."
- Boswell, C., and Smith, K. (2017) 'Rethinking Policy 'Impact': Four Models of Research-Policy Relations', *Palgrave Communications*, 3: 44.

Impact assessment due

(Class 23) Ethical Issues in Policy Research
(9:00-10:20 AM, Wednesday, 4 May)

Readings

- O'Sullivan, Elizabethann, Gary Rassel, Maureen Berner, and Jocelyn DeVance Taliferro (2017). *Research Methods for Public Administrators*, 6th Edition, Routledge. Chapter 8: Protection of Human Research Subjects and Other Ethical Issues.

Group Presentations: the week of May 9

Group project due on May 16

Research proposal (research paper) due on May 23

Appendix I: List of Class Enrichment Exercises

1. Constructing Indices for Policy Research
2. Time-seiries analysis
3. Panel data analysis
4. Meta-analysis
5. Qualitative Data Analysis: Case Study
6. Qualitative Data Analysis: Boolean Approaches
7. Qualitative Data Analysis: Fuzzy-set Methods
8. The Use of Discrete Choice Models in Policy Research
9. Framing Effects in Policy Research
10. Optimization Models in Policy Research
11. Decision Tree Analysis
12. Contingent valuation
13. Simulation
14. Dynamic modelling
15. Social network analysis
16. Machine learning