

## EPIC

### Recommended Methodology Reading

#### Quantitative Methods

##### **A few overviews of the research process:**

C.E. Lindblom, "What Can Social Scientists Do?", Ch. 9 in *INQUIRY AND CHANGE* (1990). (A broad but succinct overview of the varying objectives of social science.)

\*\* M. Mann, "Socio-logic," *SOCIOLOGY* (1981). (A short, powerful, characterization of the core of "research design.")

R.K. Merton, "The Bearing of Sociological Theory on Empirical Research," and "The Bearing of Empirical Research on Sociological Theory," chs 4 and 5 in *SOCIAL THEORY AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE* 1968. (Classic, famous, statements on the inter-relations of theory and research.)

Wayne Booth, *THE CRAFT OF INQUIRY* (Chicago)

Robert Alford, *THE CRAFT OF INQUIRY: THEORIES, METHODS, EVIDENCE* (Oxford).

##### **On the derivation of specific explanatory hypotheses from broad theories:**

\*\* A. Stinchcombe, *CONSTRUCTING SOCIAL THEORIES*, ch. 2, "The Logic of Scientific Inference." (A central and masterful overview.)

Examples of such derivation in practice:

A. Stinchcombe, "Some Empirical Consequences of the Davis-Moore Theory of Stratification," *AMER. SOC. REV.* 1963: 805-808.

A. Stinchcombe, "Marxist Theories of Power and Empirical Research," in L. Coser and O. Larsen (eds.), *THE USES OF CONTROVERSY IN SOCIOLOGY*

R. Collins, "Functional and Conflict Theories of Educational Stratification," *AMER. SOC. REVIEW* (1971) 1002-1019.

##### **Some concerns and traps:**

\*A. Abbott, "Transcending General Linear Reality," *SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY* (1988).

S. Lieberman, *MAKING IT COUNT* (1985), esp. Ch. 5 and pp. 212-215.

Overviews of broad epistemological issues involved in establishing objectives and aspirations for social science theory and research:

A. Giddens, "Positivism & its Critics," in idem., *STUDIES IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THEORY* (1977), pp. 44-89 (esp. 71-89).

P. Cohen, "Is Positivism Dead?" *SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW* 28 (1980).

S. Lieberman, "Einstein, Renoir, and Greeley: Some Thoughts about Evidence in Sociology," *AMER. SOC. REVIEW* (1992).

##### **Useful overviews of the broad range of contemporary research methods:**

Rodney Stark & Lynne Roberts, *CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS* (Microcase)

Emily Stier Adler & Roger Clark, *HOW IT'S DONE: AN INVITATION TO SOCIAL RESEARCH* (Wadsworth)

Charles C. Ragin, *CONSTRUCTING SOCIAL RESEARCH* ( Pine Forge)

H. Russell Bernard, *RESEARCH METHODS IN ANTHROPOLOGY* (Altamira)

David Britt, A CONCEPTUAL INTRODUCTION TO MODELLING (Lawrence Erlbaum)

**Quantitative approach: usefulness and limitations**

\* Thomas Janoski (1994). *The Comparative Political Economy of the Welfare State*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Hans Keman, ed., (1992). *Comparative Politics. New Directions and Methods*. Amsterdam: V U University Press.

Little, D. (1995). 'Economic Models in Development Economics.' In Little, D., ed., *On the Reliability of Economic Models*. Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Kritzer, H. (1996). 'The Data Puzzle: The Nature of Interpretation in Quantitative Research.' *American Journal of Politics*, (40) 1: 1-32.

Jackman, R. (1987). 'The Politics of Economic Growth in the Industrial Democracies, 1974-80: Leftist Strength or North Sea Oil?' *Journal of Politics* (49), 1: 242-56.

Freeman, John et al. (1989). 'Vector Autoregression and the Study of Politics.' *American Journal of Political Science*, (33), 4: 842-77. Abbott, A. (1988). 'Transcending General Linear Reality.' *Sociological Theory*.

Amit Ron (1999). 'Regression Analysis and the Philosophy of the Social Sciences -- a Critical Realist View.' Manuscript.

Bartels, L. and Brady, D. (1993). 'The State of Quantitative Political Methodology.' In Finifter, S, ed., *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*. Washington: APSA, 121-162.

**Alternative mechanisms-based 'evolutionary' approaches.**

\* Herbert Simon (1969/1996). *The Science of the Artificial*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Robert Axelrod (1984). *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books.

Thomas Sargent (1993). *Bounded Rationality in Macroeconomics*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

\* Jon Elster (1998). 'A Plea for Mechanism.' In Hedstrom P. and Swedberg R., eds., *Social Mechanisms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Brian Arthur (1994). 'Positive Feedbacks in the Economy.' In Brian Arthur, *Increasing Returns and Path Dependence in the Economy*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

**Fun readings -- or the future of 'historical' social science:**

Peter Coveney and Roger Highfield (1995). *Frontiers of Complexity. The Search for Order in a Chaotic World*. New York: Fawcett Columbine.

Douglas Kiel and Euel Elliott, eds., (1996). *Chaos Theory in the Social Sciences*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.