



IRE 111

Week 10: Project workshop

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Research fundamentals revisited

- 4 phases of research:
preliminary, preparatory, analysis, reporting
- First step is to build background knowledge
- Extensive reading (aka - reviewing the literature) is the means
- Doing so will inspire your research...
- & help you to situate your research in the field –
e.g. the CARS model

Research fundamentals & the final project

- 4 phases of research:
preliminary, (preparatory), analysis, reporting
- Building background knowledge through...
- Extensive reading (aka - reviewing the literature)
- Hopefully you will gain inspiration for your future research...
- As well as useful output to be used therein

What output?

- **Primary:** a literature review
 - *Definition of literature*
 - a: writings in prose or verse
 - *especially: writings having excellence of form or expression and expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest*
 - b: the body of writings on a particular subject

- **Secondary:** a research “proposal”

What output?







Common mistakes in previous years

- Weak justification of the topics relevance to IR/PoliSci + not supported with sources
- Lit review focuses on particular research question/case
- No discussion of operationalization
- Limited range of literature is covered
- Proposed application is insufficiently explained:
 - *Justification of case selection/research question*
 - *Connection with particular conceptualization + operationalization is unclear*
 - *Data sources are not discussed*
 - *Other particular aspects are unclear, e.g. time period*

Conceptualization & operationalization

- AKA definition & measurement
- How would you define “democracy”?
- Based on that definition, how can we measure “democracy”?
- Is Russia a democracy?


Your final projects & your bachelor studies/ thesis

- 4 phases of research:
preliminary, preparatory, analysis,
reporting
- Building background knowledge through...
- Extensive reading (aka - reviewing the literature)
- Inspiration & useful outputs for your future research
- Skills development

Remember, this is
a continuous
process.

Your bachelor studies & future you

- Skills development
- Extensive background knowledge
- In-depth knowledge of a particular topic
- And (hopefully) inspiration and useful output



Remember,
continuous
processes.

Some books

- Kristin Luker, *Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences: Research in an Age of Info-glut*
- James Hayton, *PhD: An uncommon guide to research, writing & PhD life*
- Cal Newport, *So Good They Can't Ignore You: Why Skills Trump Passion in the Quest for Work You Love*

Questions?