

- Preview of the next week
 - Basics of data analysis
 - Bring your laptop (or find a friend to share 1 laptop)
 - Bring the homework to class
 - the dataset, the answers to homework questions

- The plan for today

- What are data?
 - Examples of data
 - Few notes on data collection
- What are data – your examples?

Data

- Work in pairs/groups:
 - Why do we, as researchers, need data?
 - What types of data are used in political science?
Come up with as many examples as you can.
 - Only 1 or 2 examples per type of data. That is, don't list 50 examples of macroeconomic indicators.

Data used in BA theses

- Content analysis of text/speeches/media reporting
- Interviews
- Existing country-level statistics
- Existing datasets on the topic of interest
- Historical records (primary and secondary data)

Content analysis

- Text, speeches, tweets, media content, ...
- Qualitative / quantitative
- Content analysis, discourse analysis (various types)
- Sources:
 - chapter 28 from *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations* by Kenneth Benoit (see the IS)
 - HSIEH, Hsiu-Fang – SHANNON, Sarah E. (2005). „Three Approaches to Qualitative Content Analysis“. *Qualitative Health Research*, 15(9)
 - SEMETKO, Holli A. – VALKENBURG, Patti M. (2000). „Framing European politics: a content analysis of press and television news“. *Journal of Communication*, 50(2).

Structured interview question (survey question)

Page 5

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Some people and political parties feel that European unification should go a step further. Others think that European unification has already gone too far. Where would you place yourself on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means that European unification should go further and 0 means that it has already gone too far?

Answer type: Radiobuttons

Categories:

European unification
should go further

1 2

-9 I don't know

3

4

European unification
has already gone too far

5

Semi-structured interview question

- What is your opinion on the idea that the EU should integrate more deeply than it is now integrated?
 - ... respondent answers in their own words

Unstructured interview

- What do you think about the EU?
 - Respondent talks freely on the topic
 - Interviewer gently stirs him/her towards topics that he/she wants to have covered by the interview
 - Close to a naturally flowing conversation

Interview

- Informed consent is essential. Ethics is essential.
 - GDPR – requirement to protect respondents' personal data
 - Research ethics – beyond law, requirement not to harm or traumatize the respondent
 - Requirement to protect respondents' privacy (keep results anonymous, store data safely)
 - Check with your advisor or with the Research ethics committee for research whether your interview design is ok
 - <https://www.muni.cz/en/about-us/organizational-structure/boards-and-committees/research-ethics-committee/about>
 - BA projects don't need ethics approval but **have to comply** with the rules nevertheless

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM (example, online survey)

What is the name of this research study and who conducts it?

This study is called *Childhood political socialization vs. later life learning: How do individuals develop diffuse political support for the European Union?* and it is conducted by Dr. Zuzana Ringlerova from Masaryk University. The purpose of the study is to study people's attitudes towards politics.

What will I do if I choose to be in this study?

You will be asked to complete a short online questionnaire (approximately 5 minutes), which will include questions on political attitudes. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may skip questions that make you feel uncomfortable. You can withdraw your participation at any time.

Will information about me and my participation be kept confidential? Are there any risks or benefits?

Data collected in this study will be anonymous. Information identifying individual participants will not be collected. The risks or discomforts associated with this research are not greater than those ordinarily encountered in daily life. There are no direct benefits. However, you will be financially compensated by [INSERT THE NAME OF THE COMPANY] for your time spent with the surveys.

Who can I contact if I have questions about the study?

If you have questions about this research project, please contact Dr. Zuzana Ringlerova at +420 549 49 7213 or at ringler@fss.muni.cz (or by mail at Zuzana Ringlerova, Masaryk University, Faculty of Social Studies, Jostova 10, Brno, 602 00, Czech Republic). This study has been approved by the Research Ethics Committee of Masaryk University. If you have any concerns about this research study, please, contact the Research Ethics Committee at ekv@muni.cz.

Documentation of Informed Consent

I have had the opportunity to read this consent form and have the research study explained. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the research study, and my questions have been answered. I am prepared to participate in the research study described above.

I agree to participate in this research project

I decline to participate in this research project.

Existing data

- Statistics
 - <https://data.worldbank.org/>
 - <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/browse-statistics-by-theme>
 - and more...
- Datasets
 - Presented in IR and EP journals
 - Replication file vs. dataset
 - Archived on the web or in archives
 - <https://www.eui.eu/Research/Library/ResearchGuides/Economics/Statistics/DataPortal/GESIS>
- Historical records
 - Archives, digital archives. Oral history. Primary documents.

Level of analysis: Group work

- Research question: **Are more educated people more likely to vote?**
- Possible levels of analysis:
 - A. **Countries: A country the unit of analysis**
 - Do countries with higher average level of education have higher turnout than countries with lower?
 - B. **Individuals: An individual as the unit of analysis**
 - Are individuals with higher level of education more likely to vote than individuals with lower level of education?
- **Your task:** Is one of the levels of analysis better for answering the research question? Or are they equally good? Defend your answer.

Your homework: Work in pairs

- Describe your dataset to your partner
 - Using the homework questions
- Brainstorm on the research questions you have come up with
 - Think about hypotheses (what do you expect to see in the results and why), think about independent variables and control variables,
- Be ready to share your work
 - Very brief description of the dataset
 - 1 research question and the ideas for the question you developed in your group work

Further readings on interview as a method

- If you can't find these readings in the library, let me know.
 - HALPERIN, Sandra – HEATH, Oliver (2012). *Political Research. Methods and Practical Skills*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 253-275.
 - KING, Nigel – HORROCKS, Christina (2010). *Interviews in Qualitative Research*. London: SAGE, pp. 6 – 60, 117 – 121, 142 – 174.
 - BURNHAM, Peter – LUTZ, Karin G. – GRANT, Wyn – LAYTON-HENRY, Zig (2008). *Research Methods in Politics*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 231–247.
 - MALICI, Akan - SMITH, Elizabeth, S. (eds.; 2019). *Political Science Research in Practice*. New York: Routledge, pp. 63-81.
 - PIERCE, Roger (2008): *Research Methods in Politics, a practical guide*. London: SAGE, pp. 117-131.