

# Contents

## *Preface*

### **PART I COMPARATIVE METHODOLOGY**

*Hans Keman*

1	THE COMPARATIVE APPROACH AND POLITICAL SCIENCE	
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	The comparative approach to political and social science: theory and method	6
1.3	Developing empirical-analytical comparative analysis	15
1.4	How you can use the book	18
1.5	Endmatter	19
2	THE COMPARATIVE APPROACH: THEORY AND METHOD	
2.1	Introduction	21
2.2	Delineating the comparative approach: scope of comparison and research questions	23
2.3	Comparative research and the relation between politics and society	26
2.4	Modes of explanation by means of comparative analysis: the need to control the context	31
2.5	The core subject and the comparative approach: politics and society	33
2.6	Endmatter	39
3	THE ART OF COMPARING: DEVELOPING A RESEARCH DESIGN	
3.1	Introduction	41
3.2	The problem of variables, cases and interpretations	43
3.3	The role of space and time	49
3.4	Developing a Research Design	55
3.4.1	<i>Concepts, definitions and operationalization</i>	59

## vi CONTENTS

3.4.2	<i>Conceptual and operational definitions</i>	60
3.4.3	<i>Extensional and intensional definitions</i>	62
3.4.4	<i>Levels of measurement</i>	66
3.5	Organizing and collecting data	68
3.6	Conclusion	70
3.7	Endmatter	70

## PART II STATISTICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

*Jan Kleinnijenhuis*

4	CONCEPTS, CASES, DATA AND MEASUREMENT	
4.1	Data and data collection in political science	75
4.1.1	<i>Data obtained from official statistical agencies</i>	75
4.1.2	<i>Verbal and visual accounts, content analysis</i>	76
4.1.3	<i>Questionnaires and surveys</i>	78
4.2	Sampling and the basics of statistical testing	79
4.2.1	<i>Statistical inference from a random sample</i>	80
4.2.2	<i>Random samples and non-random samples</i>	81
4.3	Operationalization and measurement: linking data with concepts and units	82
4.3.1	<i>Handling missing data</i>	84
4.4	Criteria to evaluate the quality of operationalization and measurements	85
4.4.1	<i>Multiple indicators: the scalability (reliability) problem</i>	88
4.5	Scalability analysis and cluster analysis	90
4.5.1	<i>The cumulative scale: Guttman scale and Loevinger's H</i>	93
4.5.2	<i>Likert scale and Cronbach's alpha</i>	96
4.5.3	<i>Principal components: differently weighted indicators to increase discriminatory power</i>	98
4.5.4	<i>Factor analysis</i>	101
4.5.5	<i>Digression: an unknown number of dimensions</i>	104
4.5.6	<i>Unfolding analysis</i>	107
4.5.7	<i>Hierarchical cluster analysis</i>	109
4.5.8	<i>Summary</i>	111
4.6	Summary	112
4.7	Endmatter	112
5	EXPLORATIVE AND DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS	
5.1	The univariate distribution of a nominal variable	116
5.1.1	<i>Measures of central tendency for nominal variables: the mode</i>	117

5.1.2	<i>Measures of dispersion for nominal variables: entropy and the Herfindahl-index</i>	117
5.2	The univariate distribution of ordinal, interval and ratio variables	119
5.2.1	<i>Measures of central tendency</i>	119
5.2.2	<i>Measures of dispersion</i>	121
5.2.3	<i>The shape of the entire distribution of a variable with interval measurement</i>	123
5.3	Relationships between variables with nominal measurement levels	124
5.3.1	<i>The Chi-square measure of association in a cross table</i>	127
5.4	The bivariate distribution of two ordinal, interval or ratio variables	128
5.4.1	<i>Exploring the bivariate distribution: the scattergram</i>	129
5.4.2	<i>Bivariate regression analysis</i>	131
5.5	The relation between an interval or ratio variable and a nominal variable	139
5.5.1	<i>An interval variable and a bivariate nominal variable: the comparison of two means</i>	140
5.5.2	<i>Analysis of variance: an interval variable by a nominal variable with <math>j</math> values</i>	141
5.6	Populations, samples and inferential statistics	145
5.6.1	<i>The urn model</i>	145
5.6.2	<i>Unbiasedness, efficiency and robustness of an estimator</i>	147
5.6.3	<i>The general procedure used in hypothesis testing</i>	149
5.6.4	<i>Four common probability distributions of test statistics: <math>z</math>, <math>t</math>, <math>\chi^2</math> and <math>F</math></i>	150
5.6.5	<i>Degrees of freedom</i>	153
5.7	Commonly used statistical tests	154
5.7.1	<i>The univariate nominal distribution</i>	154
5.7.2	<i>The univariate interval distribution</i>	155
5.7.3	<i>The bivariate distribution of two nominal variables</i>	159
5.7.4	<i>The bivariate distribution of two interval variables</i>	160
5.7.5	<i>The bivariate distribution of an interval variable by a nominal variable</i>	161
5.7.6	<i>Sense and nonsense of statistical tests</i>	162
5.8	Summary	163
5.9	Endmatter	164

## viii CONTENTS

6	MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS AND CAUSAL INFERENCE	
6.1	Causality and multivariate relations	168
6.1.1	<i>Pure additivity, intervention, spurious correlation and interaction</i>	169
6.1.2	<i>Association and causal effect</i>	170
6.1.3	<i>Endogeneous and exogeneous variables and the identification of causal models</i>	171
6.2	An overview of multivariate data analysis techniques	172
6.3	The case-oriented approach	173
6.4	Nominal dependent and independent variables: cross table elaboration	177
6.4.1	<i>Cross table elaboration</i>	179
6.5	Nominal dependent variable, interval independent variables	181
6.5.1	<i>Discriminant analysis example: explaining the type of government</i>	181
6.6	Interval dependent variable, nominal independent variables: analysis of variance	186
6.7	Interval dependent and independent variables: regression analysis	188
6.7.1	<i>The multiple regression model</i>	189
6.7.2	<i>Assumptions of the Ordinary Least Squares estimation method</i>	192
6.7.2.1	<i>The outlier problem</i>	195
6.7.2.2	<i>Heteroscedasticity</i>	197
6.7.2.3	<i>Multicollinearity</i>	199
6.7.3	<i>Direct causes, intervening variables and antecedent variables</i>	200
6.7.4	<i>Interactions in the multivariate regression model: multicollinearity</i>	201
6.7.5	<i>Time series analysis: the autocorrelation problem</i>	204
6.7.6	<i>Pooled time series analysis: autocorrelation and heteroscedasticity</i>	212
6.7.7	<i>Reciprocal causal relations: linear structural equation models</i>	218
6.8	Epilogue	220
6.9	Endmatter	220

## PART III DOING POLITICAL RESEARCH

*Paul Pennings*

7	HOW PROBLEMS ARISE	
7.1	Processes of electoral change	227

7.1.1	<i>The problem of change</i>	227
7.1.2	<i>Measuring electoral change</i>	229
7.1.3	<i>Modeling change</i>	232
7.2	Processes of party change	237
7.2.1	<i>The role of parties</i>	237
7.2.2	<i>Parties and ideology scales</i>	239
7.2.3	<i>Parties and issues</i>	244
7.2.4	<i>Public opinion and party responsiveness</i>	247
7.3	Conclusions	251
7.4	Endmatter	252
8	HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE	
8.1	Introduction	256
8.2	Types of democracies	259
8.3	Party systems	264
8.4	Cabinet formation and duration	267
8.5	Institutions, economic growth and the public sector	278
8.6	Interest intermediation	283
8.7	Federalism, centralism and institutional autonomy	287
8.8	Presidentialism	290
8.9	Conclusions	296
8.10	Endmatter	298
9	HOW PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED	
9.1	Introduction	302
9.2	Welfare-related outputs and performance	304
9.3	Actors and socio-economic problem-solving	307
9.4	Institutions and socio-economic problem-solving	313
9.5	Electoral cycles and macro-economic policy	322
9.6	Democratic performance	325
9.7	Parties and accountability	331
9.8	Outputs and outcomes in the international arena	336
9.9	Conclusions	339
9.10	Endmatter	341
	<i>Appendix: Statistical tables</i>	345
	<i>Bibliography</i>	351
	<i>Index</i>	363