



Panel's title: Quantitative Data and Statistical Analysis
Titre du panel : Analyses quantitatives et statistiques

Coordinator (Affiliation, University...) : Sébastien Lechevalier (EHESS)

Language : English

Topics : Research methodologies

Panel presentation :

This panel is part of a set of four panels dealing with methodological issues. These panels aim to engage further reflection on new conceptual and methodological approaches dedicated to the study of Asian countries. Every panel will be focused on theoretical and practical feedbacks from young researchers regarding their own research experience, questions, and findings. This panel will focus on statistical analyzes, quantitative data and software to understand the political, diplomatic, cultural or media aspects of China and the two Koreas.

Résumé du panel :

Ce panel fait partie d'un ensemble de quatre panels traitant de questions méthodologiques. Ces panels visent à poursuivre la réflexion sur les nouvelles approches conceptuelles et méthodologiques consacrées à l'étude des pays asiatiques. Chaque panel sera axé sur les commentaires théoriques et pratiques de jeunes chercheurs sur leur propre expérience de recherche, les questions et les résultats. Ce panel traitera particulièrement les analyses statistiques, les data quantitatives et les logiciels pour comprendre les aspects politiques, diplomatiques, culturels ou de média de la Chine et des deux Corées.

Key words : Quantitative Data; Statistical Analysis; Methodology; Asia

Participants :

1) **Name(s)** : Jan Blinka (PhD Candidate in International Relations, Masaryk University, République Tchèque)

Communication's title : Application of Event Data Analysis and Stimulus-Response Theory to the Relations on the Korean Peninsula

Language : English

Presentation :

When focusing academically on the Korean Peninsula, we come across always changing nature of the relations between the main involved actors. It seems like seesaw: threats are followed by offerings to the negotiation and declaration of good will, which are subsequently interrupted by another missile and nuclear devices testing. So how should the researches approach the relations between North Korea, South Korea, the United States, and other relevant actors? How can we study what has been happening in the Korean Peninsula security complex?

So-called Event Data Analysis offers one of the possibilities how to deal with this methodological problem. It studies bilateral, as well as trilateral, relations between the states from the empirical point of view, when only observable data are taken as relevant for foreign political behavior analysis. Thus, researcher chooses a period, relevant actors, and the type of actions, which he will study; then he collects relevant data, which he will code and assign a



numerical value according to the selected scheme (for example WEIS, KEDS, or COPDAB). Thanks to the numerical value, he can create a graph representing overall level of confrontational and cooperative actions directed by one actor towards another one. We have a data, but how we can interpret them? The solution can be found in Stimulus-Response Theory, which states that actors behave towards each other in reciprocal manner – that means that good is returned with good and bad is responded by bad. In the contrast with the reciprocity is the bullying strategy, which explain the behavior when the states “abuse” positive offers coming from their counterparts.

However, limitation of Stimulus-Response Theory’s explanation is in its behavioral and mono-causal approach – it explains actors’s behavior only by precedent impulse sent by his opponent. By doing that, it falls short of explaining changes in cooperation/confrontation pattern or in deviances from reciprocity.

This paper presents the research using above-mentioned methodology and theory applied on the bilateral as well as trilateral relations between North Korea, South Korea, and the United States in post-Cold-War period. It focuses predominantly on methodological and theoretical aspects of the research, and it tries to address all related problems from the “user” point of view offering a solution when possible. Finally, it aims at providing guidelines and “do’s and don’ts” to fellow-researchers, who wishes to use the same methodology and theory.

Key words : North Korea ; South Korea ; United States ; post-Cold-War ; Stimulus-Response Theory’s

2) Name(s) : Jukka Aukia, Juho Heimonen (PhD Candidate in Political Sciences, University of Turku, Finland)

Communication's title : What about “Western” Media Slant Against China? Automated Quantification of Reuters Data through an AUC Analysis

Language : English

Presentation :

To question the conventional assumption of “Western” media slant against China, this study proposes an automated dictionary method to analyze two Reuters news article corpora covering the years 1996–1997 and 2008–2009 (n=1,400,000). Using automated content classification, the data is first categorized into China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong related coverage and then further to cultural, political and economic topics. An automated sentiment analysis is applied to each category to quantify the tendency of the articles regarding one region to have a more positive or negative tone than those regarding the others. The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC) is employed as an appropriate measure and its development from one corpus to another is statistically analyzed. The examined large-n data does not support the findings of prior small-n studies or the policy assumption of Chinese public diplomacy: In comparison to other East Asian regions, no indication of media slant against China was found.

Key words : China ; Media ; statistics ; data; public diplomacy

3) Name(s) (Affiliation) : Oul Han (PhD Candidate in Political Sciences, Freie Universität Berlin)

Communication's title : Empirical demonstration of domestic polarization for the study of comparative politics

Language : English



Presentation :

The causal role of ideas on politics remains difficult to prove, but at least, it is possible to understand politics via the mapping of ideas. This paper contributes a method for understanding political polarization by measuring ideas as indicators. Consequently, its aim is as follows: How can we map ideas, preferably over time as well as ideological space, and thereby understand competing actor interests in comparative politics? In order to illustrate the method, its utility, and its implications, I select South Korea as a country case and investigate how its domestic politics since democratization in 1987 are “extremely polarized”, as claimed by many domestic scholars. With a theoretical model of discursive polarization as basis, newspaper text (1990-2014) poses data to show which ideas constitute polarization. Further, I demonstrate that the implementation of this method enables to suggest causal effects of polarization on political ideas. As a whole, this approach mixes qualitative discourse analysis and quantitative text-as-data for the study of comparative politics, which results in an ideational focus. Thus, the methodological implication of this paper is to join a cultural approach with the political framework of ideas, or in other words, to integrate political research with domestic accounts of political phenomena.

Key words : comparative politics ; South Korea ; discursive polarization ; polarization