

# Designing Social Inquiry

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the classic work on qualitative methods in political science designing social inquiry presents a unified approach to qualitative and quantitative research in political science showing how the same logic of inference underlies both this stimulating book discusses issues related to framing research questions measuring the accuracy of data and the uncertainty of empirical inferences discovering causal effects and getting the most out of qualitative research it addresses topics such as interpretation and inference comparative case studies constructing causal theories dependent and explanatory variables the limits of random selection selection bias and errors in measurement the book only uses mathematical notation to clarify concepts and assumes no prior knowledge of mathematics or statistics featuring a new preface by robert o keohane and gary king this edition makes an influential work available to new generations of qualitative researchers in the social sciences

designing social inquiry focuses on improving qualitative research where numerical measurement is either impossible or undesirable what are the right questions to ask how should you define and make inferences about causal effects how can you avoid bias how many cases do you need and how should they be selected what are the consequences of unavoidable problems in qualitative research such as measurement error incomplete information or omitted variables what are proper ways to estimate and report the uncertainty of your conclusions

with innovative new chapters on process tracing regression analysis and natural experiments the second edition of rethinking social inquiry further extends the reach of this path breaking book the original debate with king keohane and verba now updated remains central to the volume and the new material illuminates evolving discussions of essential methodological tools thus process tracing is often invoked as fundamental to qualitative analysis but is rarely applied with precision pitfalls of regression analysis are sometimes noted but often are inadequately examined and the complex assumptions and trade offs of natural experiments are poorly understood the second edition extends the methodological horizon through exploring these critical tools a distinctive feature of this edition is the online placement of four chapters from the prior edition all focused on the dialogue with king keohane and verba

james w davis critically examines central claims and assumptions made by proponents of the scientific method in general as well as the specific problems confronting the social sciences in particular developing a middle ground between the uncritical application of the scientific method in pursuit of empirical truths and the postmodernist assertion that there is no foundation upon which to build an edifice of social science

mit der auflösung der sowjetunion und des warschauer pakts wird auch das westliche militärbündnis bald der vergangenheit angehören lautete vor knapp zwei jahrzehnten die einschätzung führender vertreter des neorealismus jener denkschule also welche die diskussion innerhalb der politikwissenschaftlichen teildisziplin der internationalen beziehungen lange zeit dominierte in der folge entwickelte sich eine im grunde bis heute nicht entschiedene debatte über die gründe des fortbestands der nato denn das westliche bündnis löste sich nicht nur nicht auf sondern nahm neue mitglieder vornehmlich ehemalige gegner auf und übernahm neue aufgaben auch jenseits seines vertragsgebiets ulrich franke greift dieses rätsel auf und kommt anhand detaillierter analysen von verlautbarungen der höchsten entscheidungsgremien der nato zu dem ergebnis dass es ein selbstverständnis als wirksamere vereinte nationen ist welches die verbündeten bereits seit der unterzeichnung des nordatlantikvertrages 1949 zusammenhält

this book explores the epistemology and the methodology of political knowledge and social inquiry what can we know and how do we know contributing authors offer answers addressing the purpose and methods of research and analyzing concepts including the relationship of theory and evidence and the importance of medicine to social science

a discussion of the case study method which develops an integrative framework for causal inference in small n research this framework is applied to research design tasks such as case selection and process tracing the book presents the basics state of the art and arguments for improving the case study method and empirical small n research

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do some technologies provoke war do others promote peace offense defense theory contends that technological change is an important cause of conflict leaders will be tempted to launch wars when they believe innovation favors attackers over defenders offense defense theory is perhaps best known from the passionate and intricate debates about first strike capability and deterrence stability during the cold war but it has deeper historical roots remains a staple in international relations theorizing and drives modern arms control policymaking in war and the engineers the first book systematically to test the logical and empirical validity of offense defense theory keir a lieber examines the relationships among politics technology and the causes of war lieber s cases explore the military and political implications of the spread of railroads the emergence of rifled small arms and artillery the introduction of battle tanks and the nuclear revolution lieber incorporates the new historiography of world war i which draws on archival materials that only recently became available to challenge many common beliefs about the conflict the author s central conclusion is that technology is neither a cause of international conflict nor a panacea instead power politics remains paramount

research design the logic of social inquiry is a collection of critical writings on different aspects of social research they have been carefully selected for the variety of approaches they display in relation to three broad styles of research experimental survey and ethnographic all are classic contributions to the development of methodology and excellent expositions of particular procedures the book is organized in sections that detail the methods of a typical experimental research program design data collection and data analysis these five sections include the language of social research research design data collection measurement and data analysis and report each is preceded by an introduction stressing the unique strengths of the different viewpoints represented and reconciling them in one coherent approach to research the volume includes displays of philosophical underpinnings of different methodological styles and important issues in research design data collection methods particularly the problem of systematic bias in the data collected and ways in which researchers may attempt to reduce it are discussed there is also a discussion on measurement in which the central issues of reliability validity and scale construction are detailed this kind of synthesis between such diverse schools of research as the experimentalists and the ethnographers is of particular concern to social researchers the book will be of great value to planners and researchers in local government and education departments and to all others engaged in social science or educational research

please note this is a companion version not the original book sample book insights 1 this book is about research in the social sciences it is not a

guide to specific research tasks such as the design of surveys conduct of field work or analysis of statistical data rather it focuses on the essential logic underlying all social scientific research 2 the styles of quantitative and qualitative research are very different quantitative research uses numbers and statistical methods and it tends to be based on numerical measurements of specific aspects of phenomena qualitative research in contrast covers a wide range of approaches and it relies on intensive interviews or depth analysis of historical materials 3 the difference between quantitative and qualitative research is only stylistic all good research can be understood to derive from the same underlying logic of inference both quantitative and qualitative research can be systematic and scientific 4 the rules of scientific inference are the same for all types of research even nonstatistical research they are often more clearly stated in the style of quantitative research since the abstract and even unrealistic nature of statistical models makes the rules of inference stand out

deindustrialization white flight and inner city poverty have spelled trouble for baltimore schools marion orr now examines why school reform has been difficult to achieve there revealing the struggles of civic leaders and the limitations placed on baltimore s african american community as each has tried to rescue a failing school system examining the interplay between government and society orr presents the first systematic analysis of social capital both within the african american community black social capital and outside it where social capital crosses racial lines orr shows that while black social capital may have created solidarity against white domination in baltimore it hampered african american leaders capacity to enlist the cooperation from white corporate elites and suburban residents needed for school reform orr examines social capital at the neighborhood level in elite level interactions and in intergovernmental relations to argue that black social capital doesn t necessarily translate into the kind of intergroup coalition needed to bring about school reform he also includes an extensive historical survey of the black community showing how distrust engendered by past black experiences has hampered the formation of significant intergroup social capital the book features case studies of school reform activity including the first analysis of the politics surrounding baltimore s decision to hire a private for profit firm to operate nine of its public schools these cases illuminate the paradoxical aspects of black social capital in citywide school reform while offering critical perspectives on current debates about privatization site based management and other reform alternatives orr s book challenges those who argue that social capital alone can solve fundamentally political problems by purely social means and questions the efficacy of either privatization or black community power to reform urban schools black social capital offers a cogent conceptual synthesis of social capital theory and urban regime theory that demonstrates the importance of government politics and leadership in converting social capital into a resource that can be mobilized for effective social change

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charles walcott and karen hult maintain that the organization of the white house influences presidential performance much more than commonly thought and that organization theory is an essential tool for understanding that influence their book offers the first systematic application of organizational governance theory to the structures and operations of the white house office using organizational theory to analyze what at times has been a rather ad hoc and disorganized office might seem quixotic after all the white house office exists within a turbulent political environment that encourages expedient decision making and every four to eight years it must be reinvented by presidents who have their own theories and preferences about how to organize a staff to serve their policy needs but walcott and hult argue that white house staffs are not simply puppets of presidential preference and style yes staff structures evolve primarily from presidents strategic responses to external demands but those structures in turn significantly influence how the executive branch perceives and responds to further demands the first part of their book lays out the theoretical argument the second examines white house outreach congressional liaison press relations personnel selection executive branch oversight and interest group and intergovernmental liaison the third focuses on white house handling of policy development and implementation the fourth analyzes staff structures that facilitate the operation of the presidency itself presidential writing and scheduling staff management and cabinet coordination the book concludes by identifying general patterns in the emergency nature and stability of governance structures in the white house original and instructive governing the white house provides a much needed primer on the inner workings of the white house staff and will be an essential volume for anyone studying the presidency

topless bars casino gambling needle exchange programs for drug addicts there s no question morality issues remain front and center in urban politics presenting a systematic analysis of culture war issues at the local level elaine sharp shows how american cities deal with these ongoing concerns drawing on a sample of ten strategically chosen cities she explains differences in how municipalities respond to controversies surrounding sex business abortion clinics legalized gambling gay rights and drug use by analyzing the relative importance of subculture economics and institutional arrangements in the disputes she points the way toward richer and more complete understanding of

how different cities respond differently to these hot button issues far more than a statistical study morality politics in american cities is a collection of fascinating stories of real people grappling with down to earth issues and real life drama richly informative case studies that will captivate students and interested citizens alike mayors public health directors activists and others speak their minds about the pros and cons of these controversies here are officials in one city confronting the vatican over funding for abortion services those in another battling a local university over its refusal to provide health benefits to gay partners of faculty members and still others mounting a massive community sponsored attack on topless clubs these stories provide detailed evidence to support classifications needed for comparing cities experience with each of the five morality issues they also corroborate inferences drawn from the comparisons by showing what considerations were in play as local officials grappled with these issues overall the study shows that cultural factors usually dominate policymaking in local politics except when specific economic interests are at stake and also observes that county level governments are more important than previously thought in terms of morality issue decisions as provocative as it is informative morality politics in american cities demonstrates that such issues same sex marriage for example are multidimensional and often difficult to resolve its conclusions however contingent mark an important step in the ongoing process of understanding important differences in approaches to these issues and clearly show how moral conflicts continue to define american politics

most americans believe that local school districts are the only means by which citizens may exercise control over public education kathryn mcdermott argues to the contrary that existing local institutions are no longer sufficient for achieving either equity or democratic governance not only is local control inequitable it also fails to live up to its reputation for guaranteeing public participation and citizen influence drawing upon democratic theory and the results of field research in new haven connecticut and three suburbs mcdermott contends that our educational system can be made more democratic by centralizing control over funding while decentralizing most authority over schools to the level of schools themselves while enacting public school choice controlled for racial balance to many people in connecticut and elsewhere the tension between equal opportunity for all students and local control of public education seems impossible to resolve in 1996 the connecticut supreme court ruled in sheff v o neill that local control produces unconstitutional segregation of public schools nearly all of the state's 169 towns operate their own public schools and like the towns they serve the schools are generally homogeneous with respect to race and socioeconomic class in the sheff ruling the court declared that making school districts coterminous with town lines is the single most important factor contributing to the present concentration of racial and ethnic minorities in the hartford public school system at the same time the court also acknowledged that the town based school system presently furthers the legitimate nonracial interests of permitting considerable local control and accountability in educational matters in connecticut and elsewhere it has often seemed necessary to choose between local control and equity in public education and local control has almost always won mcdermott argues that rather than seeing local control and equity as conflicting goals policymakers should regard them as equally important components of democracy in public education in her view a truly democratic system of education should both encourage citizen participation in school governance and contribute to the formation and maintenance of a social order in which equality of opportunity prevails over hierarchies of privilege centralizing distribution of

resources and using controlled choice to end racial isolation would provide greater equality of opportunity while decentralizing management of schools would expand citizen participation mcdermott s conclusions break new ground in our understanding of local school governance itself and call into question the conventional wisdom about local participation these findings should interest those who study school governance and reform especially in an urban setting as well as policy makers administrators teachers students and citizens eager to improve their schools

on the surface the new president seems to inherit an empty house hugh heclo a recognized expert on american democratic institutions has noted in fact he enters an office already shaped and crowded by other people s desires empowering the white house examines how richard nixon entered that crowded oval office in 1969 yet managed to change it in a way that augmented the power of the presidency and continues to influence into the twenty first century how his successors have governed nixon s white house is perhaps best remembered for the growth in the size of the staff which operated under the supposed iron fist of h r haldeman but more important than size and management style to the character of the nixon white house were the assigned tasks complexity and dynamics of the burgeoning staff faced with hostile majorities in congress and executive branch careerists assumed to be committed to a democratic agenda nixon sought to control his political fate by engaging more actively than earlier presidents in public relations and the mobilization of support at the command and under the control of the oval office the staff carried out assignments designed to fulfill nixon s aims this theoretically informed and well researched study explains how nixon changed and expanded the institutionalized presidency and how that affected the ford and carter administrations nixon ushered in a new stage in the modern presidency by organizing and using his increasingly complex staff in new ways that have persisted beyond the 1970s to this day to a greater degree than any predecessor nixon systematized outreach legal advice and policy formulation his white house staffing then has come to be regarded as a standard model that influences incoming presidents regardless of party affiliation leavening this organizational study are revealing accounts of how the nixon ford and carter staffs operated behind the scenes in the west wing anyone needing to know how the white house worked during those presidencies or how it has worked since will find this book invaluable

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