Course outline *Mixed Methods*

Mixed-methods research (MMR) comes with the promise of generating more and more valid insights than single-method research. In our workshop, we will review this promise by discussing advantages and disadvantages of MMR. We begin with sorting the field of Mixed-Methods Research that originated in the 1960s and 1970s. We introduce a typology of mixed-method designs and the different purposes for which they can be employed. These purposes include, for example, causal inference based on complementary qualitative and quantitative methods and the validation of quantitative measures by qualitative means such as focus groups. Each type is illustrated with an empirical example.

In the second part of the workshop, we turn to the more recent innovation of multi-method research (i.e., nested analysis) in the social sciences and political science in particular. We situate multi-method research in the framework of mixed-methods research and discuss it with regard to its synergistic value for integrated inferences on causal effects and causal mechanisms. We also consider fundamental arguments against multi-method research and a framework that allows one to combine cross-case and within-case methods without frictions. Finally, we deal with specific challenges of mixed-methods research related to concept formation and case selection based on results derived from regression analyses and Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA).

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