



Designing Case Studies

Explanatory Approaches in
Small-N Research

Joachim Blatter & Markus Haverland



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'No other book on the market offers a broader treatment of case study research in political science. A great resource for teaching and case study design.'

— **Frank Schimmelfennig**, *Professor of European Politics, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich*

'Markus Haverland and Joachim Blatter have made a significant contribution to the growing literature on qualitative methods in the social sciences. They have provided a perspective on case study research that is both thorough and innovative, and can be recommended to any one interested in case methodology.'

— **B. Guy Peters**, *Maurice Falk Professor of American Government, University of Pittsburgh, USA*

'A welcome addition to the methodological literature on case studies. It gives an insightful discussion of the logic of case studies and how they fit in the larger research enterprise. Sure to become a widely used text in the field.'

— **Gary Goertz**, *Professor, School of Government and Public Policy, University of Arizona, USA*

'Blatter and Haverland's book is an excellent overview of the challenges and prospects of case study design in the social sciences. It goes beyond the usually adopted co-variational perspective and offers a broad, pluralistic and application-oriented insight into what a case study design can mean. As a particularly interesting novelty, the authors describe causal-process tracing as being characterized by configurational thinking PLUS temporality, which makes this within-case analytic approach especially suited for combinations with cross-case configurational methods such as Qualitative Comparative Analysis.'

— **Claudius Wagemann**, *Professor of Qualitative Methods, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany*

Designing Case Studies explores three different ways of conducting causal analysis in case studies: co-variational analysis, causal-process tracing, and congruence analysis. It is an inclusive account of case study methodology which covers all the major explanatory approaches, and is also the first book to present congruence analysis in detail as a distinct case study approach. Differentiating the three approaches to case study research allows the authors to present each as a coherent and consistent way of drawing causal inferences by studying one or a few cases in-depth. The authors highlight the core features of each approach and provide helpful advice for each step of the research process, including: formulating research questions and goals, selecting theories and cases, data generation, and data analysis. They also show how to draw conclusions beyond the cases under investigation and show how case studies can fruitfully be combined with statistical analysis and Qualitative Comparative Analysis.

Joachim Blatter is Professor of Political Science at the University of Lucerne, Switzerland. He has previously held positions at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands, the University of Konstanz, Germany, Free University Berlin, Germany, and the University of St Gallen, Switzerland. His research interests include transformations of governance, citizenship, and democracy.

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