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Doing Research in Political Science: An Introduction to Comparative Methods and Statistics, by Paul Pennings, Hans Keman and Jan Kleinnijenhuis.

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refined where possible. The area identified above is one possibility, i.e., to attempt to improve the integration of ideology or value considerations. Since the focus of all the case studies is on decisions taken at a national level, it might also be useful to extend the application of the framework to sub-national coalition negotiations. In this way it would be possible to examine the impact of national-level factors on more local situations. For instance, when local party leaders are deciding whom to include or exclude from coalition bargaining at the sub-national level, to what extent are their choices delimited by the preferences of national-level elites or by considerations of possible conflicts with national-level party goals. The possibilities of further application (and refinement) of Müller and Strom's framework are many, and it is to be hoped that other scholars will take the opportunity to do so.

Overall, this is a worthwhile read. It is not perfect – it doesn't claim to be – but it certainly moves us a number of steps further forward in our understanding of how parties behave.

Craig Robertson

Paul Pennings, Hans Keman and Jan Kleinnijenhuis, *Doing Research in Political Science: An Introduction to Comparative Methods and Statistics*. London: Sage 1999. ISBN 0-761-951024, USD 31.00.

'Comprehensive' is this book's own description of its coverage of the theory, techniques, and application of the comparative method in political science. In this 369 page work, Pennings, Keman and Kleinnijenhuis have certainly earned this label. The text's span is broad: it starts with a concise history of the theory and method of the comparative approach, covers the material from at least four courses in quantitative research methods, and finishes with a brief examination of at least five great works from the past few decades of political science. Sometimes a broad span is good, especially when the work is intended for teaching or for use as a reference book. *Doing Research in Political Science* may be a bit overwhelming as a first text on comparative methods, but as a reference or as a teaching tool for linking topics and treatments usually gathered from disparate sources, it is a valuable and extremely useful work.

The approach in *Doing Research in Political Science* is to discuss not just the theory of the comparative method, but also to survey the practical techniques used to carry it out and to examine in practice a number of applications of the method to actual research. Aimed at the student, the text emphasizes organization and clarity, striving to be comprehensive in both its treatment of comparative approaches as well as applications.

The book is divided into three parts, each clearly identified with one of the authors. In Part I, Hans Keman identifies, and carefully outlines, the comparative approach to social and political science. The last chapter of this section discusses the problem of interpreting variables and cases, and focuses on the practical issues of developing a

research design. Part 2 is written by Jan Kleinnijenhuis. He provides a survey of statistical techniques used in quantitative applications of the comparative method, including inferential multivariate methods leading up to multiple regression. Part 3, by Paul Pennings, provides numerous concrete applications of the research design issues and methods introduced in the first two parts of the book. These themes, drawn from well-known political science examples, illustrate the practical challenges and solutions that are involved in conducting comparative research in political science.

The integration of the three authors' sections is good although the difference of styles is obvious. Kleinnijenhuis's section tends to get to the point quickly – and often – in contrast to Keman's more measured elaboration of the comparative method. Part I covers much rich and important material, but seems at times to be overly burdened with typologies and definitional concerns rather than getting to the heart of the matter: the guiding principles of sound research design. Instead of setting out an underlying principle of causation or inference (as have some recent works on research design, such as King, Keohane and Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* 1994) and developing research strategies derived from these fundamental principles, most of Chapter 3 remains a discussion of the general elements of research designs – such as the 5-level typology of what constitutes a 'definition' – rather than providing concrete guidelines for putting these elements together into a sound research design. Nonetheless, there is much material in these first three chapters that will be valuable to the student of research techniques, primarily the systematic tour of concepts and various approaches to research.

The second part of the book takes a more well defined, but possibly far more ambitious, task as its objective: to provide a systematic coverage of every major quantitative technique from basic measurement and descriptive statistics up to multiple regression and exploratory factor analysis. Needless to say the pace of the coverage is swift, but the approach and treatment of each technique is cleanly executed. The first chapter in this section deals with measurement issues and surveys several leading techniques for measuring political phenomena quantitatively, such as scaling and factor analysis. The next chapter covers descriptive statistics and includes a discussion of variables and their underlying distributions. The final chapter in the section deals with causal inference, although it characterizes 'causal statements' rather than attempting to define causation itself. The causal models covered start with contingency tables and conclude with ANOVA and some rather advanced variations on the OLS multiple regression model. While the sheer scope of the section makes in-depth coverage of any particular issue or technique impossible, the three chapters in this section are highly useful in putting the various techniques into perspective for students who are easily confused about the overall picture of the many quantitative elements when they have been gathered from diverse sources. The treatment is also solid and clear enough to make the section useful as a reference to quantitative techniques commonly used in political science.

The final part of the book examines a number of well known – although overwhelmingly European – published studies in political science to see how the

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building blocks and techniques of the previous two sections are applied in practice. Such a systematic treatment is novel and it is perhaps the most useful contribution of the book, especially for students wishing to see how problems are approached in practice and how they are overcome. In addition, because the datasets used in every example are available on the Internet, the examples provide excellent teaching materials for methods courses. In less than five minutes, I was able to download the archive of the book's data from Pennings's web site and reproduce some of the results from Chapter 6. Anyone who has faced the problem of organizing his or her own datasets for exercises in a quantitative methods course will welcome the availability of the datasets used in Parts II and III of the book, especially given the clear way they are employed as examples in the text.

Kenneth Benoit

Paolo Ignazi and Colette Ysmal (eds.), *The Organization of Political Parties in Southern Europe*. Westport & London: Praeger 1998. ISBN 0-275-956121, USD 72.95

Almost twenty years ago, Kenneth Janda began a much quoted article arguing that party organizations were the "leprechauns of the political forest, legendary creatures with special powers who avoid being seen" and complaining about the lack of empirical studies on the topic.

Things have changed a lot since then. The organization of political parties has increasingly attracted scholarly attention and research has been carried out at both the national and cross-national level, leading also to a growth in theoretical analysis. Today, two alternative, but certainly complementary, approaches are available to the students of party organizations. The first perspective tries to single out the predominant party model in each historical phase. Building on categories such as Duverger's mass party, Kirchheimer's catch-all party and Epstein's electoral party, some scholars have explored political parties in order to identify prevailing party types, taking account of their relationship with their members, electorates, and the state. Katz and Mair's cartel party is the most recent attempt to discern the organizational model that has become prevalent in consolidated democracies. The second perspective on party organization is less interested – albeit not uninterested – in the spread of specific party types and more focused on the internal organizational complexity and power relationships. Attention to a party's dominant coalition, level of institutionalization and inner power exchanges are at the core of this approach, which was first presented by Panebianco and later re-proposed by Harmel and Janda and their research group.

In this panorama the volume edited by Paolo Ignazi and Colette Ysmal is important because it makes a twofold contribution to the literature on party organization. On the one hand it focuses on the political parties of Southern Europe (Italy, France, Spain and Greece), a geopolitical area that was not included in the