

# IPRES Tutorial 3:

## Asking the right questions and getting answers



Milan Babic

[m.babic@uva.nl](mailto:m.babic@uva.nl)

Department of Political Science - Political Economy and Transnational Governance

22 February 2019



# Agenda

- 1.) Check-in and recap
- 2.) Research questions and how to ask them - group work
- 3.) Answers and how to find them: The role of theory
- 4.) Checklist

# Check-in (also Google doc)



# Recap Tutorial 2

Last groups from last weeks group exercise:

- 1.) ~~What is the ontological/epistemological position of the author (positivist, interpretivist, realist)?~~
- 2.) ~~What kind of methods are used? Qualitative/quantitative/something else?~~
- 3.) Does the text meet quality criteria?

<b>Positivist criteria</b>	<b>Interpretivist criteria</b>
Internal validity	Credibility
External validity	Transferability
Reliability	Dependability
Objectivity	Confirmability

# Where we are

## We talked about:

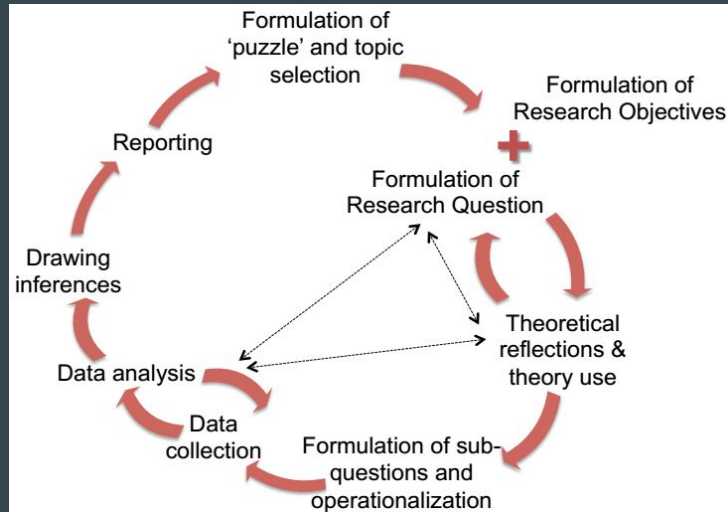
- the researcher, the research object and their relation (**Tutorial 1**)
- the quality criteria of research (**Tutorial 2**)

## Today:

- (prerequisites of) the research process: questions and answers (**Tutorial 3**)

## Next time(s):

- The research process itself (assignment!) (**Tutorials 4,5 and 6**)



See slides lecture 1

Your ideas (30sec):

What is the most difficult part in doing research?



# Research questions and how to ask them

Hochschild 2016 and Hanegraaff 2016 (Exercise 3):

- What are the research questions?
- What type?
- What is the societal and theoretical relevance?
- Where they researchable? Why?

# Types of research questions (Heath&Halperin, p. 96)

Type of question	What you want to know	What you will do	Example
Descriptive			
Explanatory			
Predictive			
Prescriptive			
Normative			

# Types of research questions (Heath&Halperin, p. 96)

Type of question	What you want to know	What you will do	Example (not always good)
<b>Descriptive</b>	Characteristics or working mechanisms	Describe or model behaviour	<i>How does state capital integrate into the global economy?</i>
<b>Explanatory</b>	Causes of phenomenon	What is the independent variable? (in short)	<i>What caused World War I?</i>
<b>Predictive</b>	Future outcome	Predict based on current knowledge	<i>Will China become the new hegemon?</i>
<b>Prescriptive</b>	Instrumental: what to do to get X?	Prescribe what (not) to do	<i>How to achieve sustainable growth?</i>
<b>Normative</b>	What is good (or not) and how to achieve it?	Give or proof arguments for what is to be achieved	<i>Are there just wars?</i>

# Fallacies aka bad questions (H&H, p. 100)

- Begging another question
- Presenting a false dichotomy
- Asking about fictional events
- Being metaphysical
- Being a tautology

# Group work

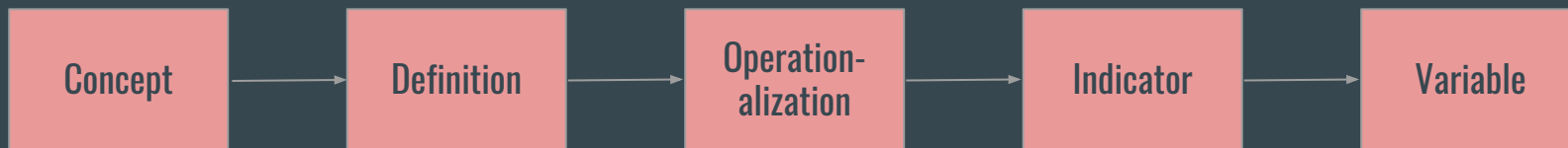
- Research topic: *Political consequences of fake news*
- 5 groups - 5 types of questions
- Formulate 1 *researchable* and *relevant* research question
- Present your question
- Assess the type of questions of other groups and their 'fallacies' (H&H)

# How to give (good) answers? - Role of theory

- Theory: “skeletal version of reality” (H&H, p. 117)
- Three ways of using theory (Le Gall & Langley 2015):
  - deduction
  - induction
  - abduction

# How to give (good) answers? - Concepts

- Building blocks of theories



- Milan's research:





# How to give (good) answers? - Checklist

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# Sources (all pictures CC license)

Image Wave Emoji: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/48/Emojiione\\_1F44B.svg/2000px-Emojiione\\_1F44B.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/48/Emojiione_1F44B.svg/2000px-Emojiione_1F44B.svg.png)

Image research cycle: Presentation A. Loeber, lecture 1 (see Canvas)

Image kid questions: [https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2017/01/09/12/49/mistake-1966448\\_960\\_720.jpg](https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2017/01/09/12/49/mistake-1966448_960_720.jpg)