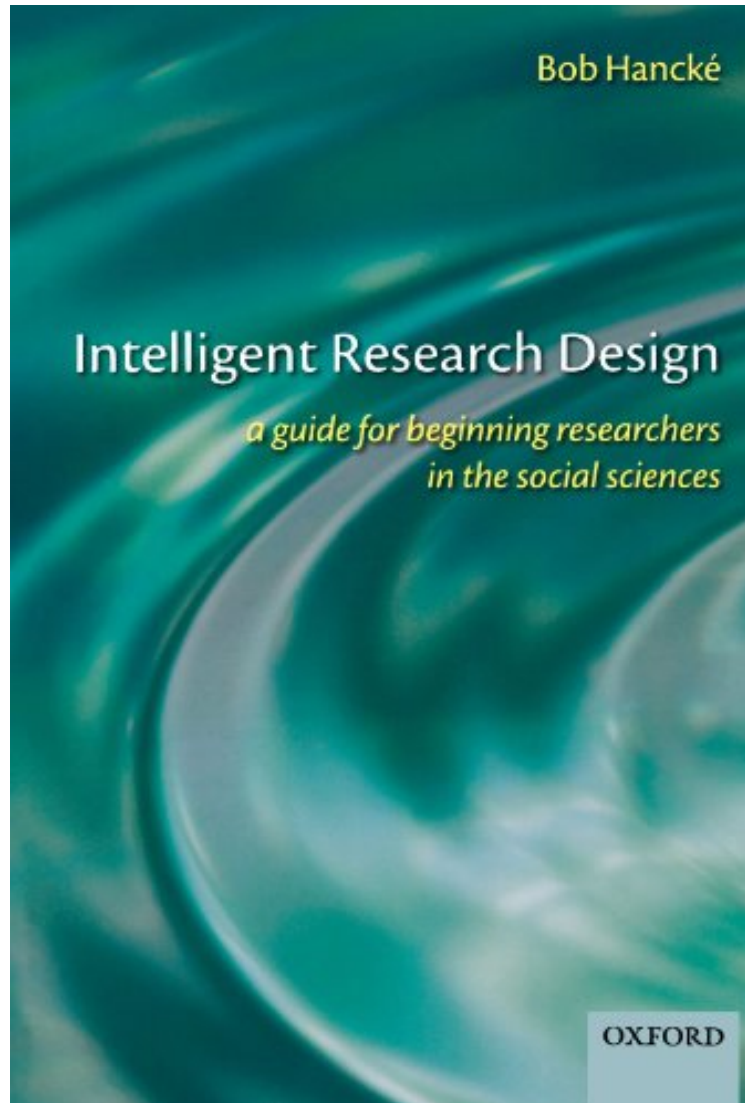


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Intelligent Research Design: A Guide for Beginning Researchers in the Social Sciences

Bob Hanck

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Bob Hanck : Intelligent Research Design: A Guide for Beginning Researchers in the Social Sciences before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intelligent Research Design: A Guide for Beginning Researchers in the Social Sciences:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Solid introduction to research designBy Concoriu!This is a solid introduction to research design for undergrads and graduate students. Hancke uses clear examples of research projects

and ways to modify them in order to strengthen them. This will give you a strong start in academic research, but as he indicates, it's less useful for already-experienced researchers. The chapters are as follows: Introduction 1. Research in the Social Sciences 2. Constructing a Research Design 3. Constructing Case Studies and Comparisons 4. Constructing Data 5. Writing Up Your Research 6. For the Road Appendix: Participating in the Profession A. Presenting a Paper B. Discussing a Paper C. Research Proposals The appendix is short, and it's a short book as a whole. It's easily read but a lot of information is packed into a short space, so it may take a while for you to digest. This book is priced for academic libraries, rather than individual purchase, and that's probably where you'll find it.

This book offers advice to doctoral researchers and graduate and advanced undergraduate students on how to embark on their research. Based on a decade of teaching early-stage researchers in the social sciences at the LSE and other universities, and written with the central problems of beginning researchers in mind, Bob Hanck guides them through the process of thinking about the links between theory, cases and data, and to do so in a way that helps to turn their initial plausible ideas into convincing arguments. This lively book, deliberately jargon-free and with a hands-on, pragmatic approach to research design, addresses the problems that research students face--or ignore, often at their peril--in the course of their first few years. Its central message is that research is a complex and iterative process in which researchers construct every relevant part of their project with one goal in mind: make a persuasive point. They define the question they ask and the debate they engage, construct their cases and data to answer that question, and write it up as an argument that brings out the strengths of their research design. It addresses such key issues as statistical versus configurational approaches, time in social science research, different types of case studies and comparative research, and a critical approach to data. The Appendix gives tips on presenting and discussing papers, and on crafting research proposals.

This is an excellent book. It should be useful for both graduate students and their supervisors (especially those making their first steps in supervising PhD students). The book offers a systematic and reflective guide to empirical research in the social sciences. It can also benefit researchers in other disciplines, such as law * Oren Perez, Political Studies *About the Author Bob Hanck is a Reader in European Political Economy at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He published *Large Firms and Institutional Change* (OUP 2002), *Beyond Varieties of Capitalism: Conflict, Contradiction and Complementarities in the European Economy* (co-edited with Martin Rhodes and Mark Thatcher (OUP 2007), and *Debating Varieties of Capitalism: A Reader*, (OUP 2009). His main interests are: the comparative political economy of advanced capitalist societies, institutions and macro-economic policy in EMU, comparative labour relations and trade union studies.