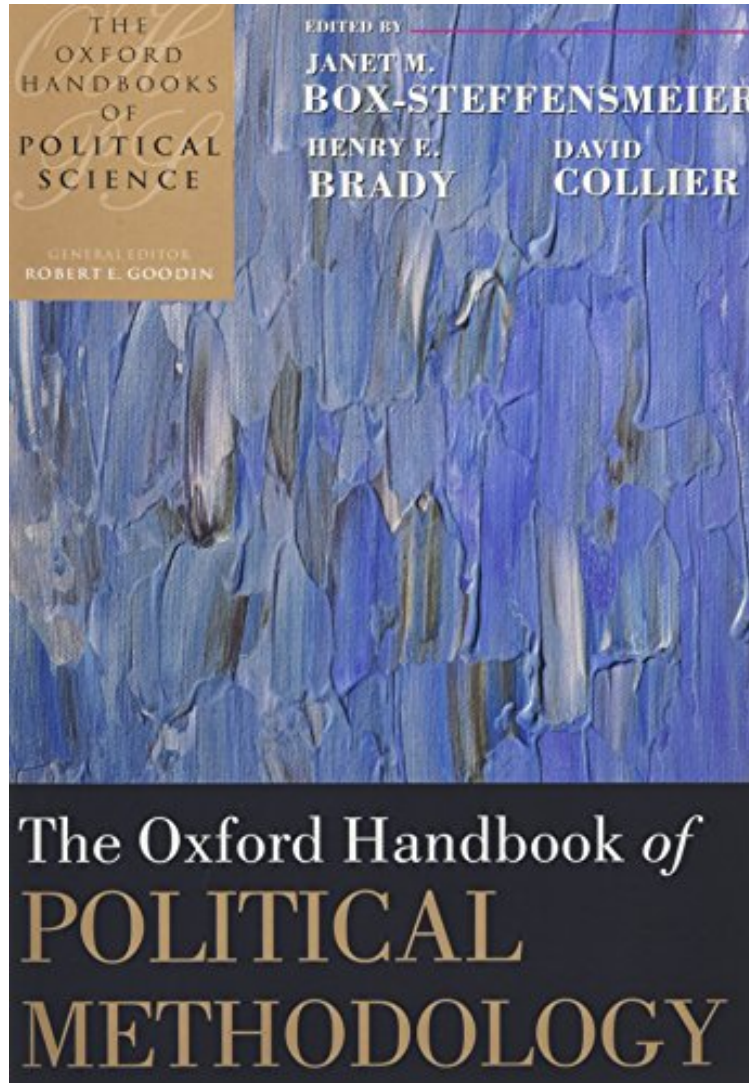


The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology

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#853259 in Books imusti 2010-07-29Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.60 x 2.00 x 9.70l, 3.30 #File Name: 0199585563896 pagesOxford University Press USA | File size: 42.Mb

From imusti : The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Elegant Handbook on Political Science MethodologyBy Steven PetersonThis is not a book that one is apt to speed read or skim through. It is a technical examination of causal thinking in research in political science. How can we assess causality, the extent to which variable A affects variable X?The book is divided into several sections: An introduction; Approaches to social science methodology (e.g., normative methodology, meta-methodology, and agent-based modeling--a new subject for me); Concepts and measurement (improving measurement in political science is a key challenge--and that is the center of this section);

Causality and explanation; Experiments, quasi-experiments, and natural experiments; Two sections assess quantitative tools for causal inference); Qualitative tools for inferring causality; Organizational and institutional aspects of methodology. One case study--structural equation modeling (SEM for short). I have used this technique many times to try to infer causality. It is a powerful method, but one must be careful using it. Chapter 18 examines SEM. It is rigorous and not an easy read. I can use this tool and understand accessible descriptions of "how to do it," but this chapter is difficult for me to go through. The lead author, Kenneth Bollen, is an important figure in this context and his chapter is going to be very useful for high end users. If interested in a rigorous examination of political science methodology and if informed in technical aspects of this, a wonderful resource and a great addition to the Oxford Handbook series. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By msangel2 Purchased for a faculty member and I received no complaints. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, but many alternatives online that won't be outdated as quickly. By Hugh Sansom This is one of the better in the Oxford Handbook series (two other particularly good ones, I think, are the volumes on Political Economy and Comparative Politics). Since the series caught on, Oxford has rushed many more into print and the series has become uneven. Several excellent essays make this volume especially good (including the intro essay by Box-Steffensmeier, et al., and essays by Hardin, Poole, Brady, Freedman, Gerber and Green, Fearon and Laitin, among others). Altogether, the book is more than worthwhile and a great survey and reference. I have a general gripe: I think social scientists would benefit from greater awareness of some more philosophical issues related to problems of causality, but I'm sure I'm in a minority on that. The real drawback might be that things are moving quickly enough to risk making this book outdated quickly maybe. And (importantly), although the essays here are (I believe) all commissioned for this book, a thorough search of the net or of journals will turn up many papers covering these topics, though probably of a more technical kind, and many perhaps less well-vetted. Additionally, there are now many websites, blogs, and online courses (at MIT and Stanford, for example) that deal with these topics. Andrew Gelman at Columbia posts regularly on issues of statistical modeling and causal inference in the social sciences. A search will locate his work quickly. One way or another, a very solid 4 stars, just shy of 5.

Political methodology has changed dramatically over the past thirty years, and many new methods and techniques have been developed. Both the Political Methodology Society and the Qualitative/Multi-Methods Section of the American Political Science Association have engaged in ongoing research and training programs that have advanced quantitative and qualitative methodology. The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology presents and synthesizes these developments. The Handbook provides comprehensive overviews of diverse methodological approaches, with an emphasis on three major themes. First, specific methodological tools should be at the service of improved conceptualization, comprehension of meaning, measurement, and data collection. They should increase analysts' leverage in reasoning about causal relationships and evaluating them empirically by contributing to powerful research designs. Second, the authors explore the many different ways of addressing these tasks: through case-studies and large-n designs, with both quantitative and qualitative data, and via techniques ranging from statistical modelling to process tracing. Finally, techniques can cut across traditional methodological boundaries and can be useful for many different kinds of researchers. Many of the authors thus explore how their methods can inform, and be used by, scholars engaged in diverse branches of methodology.

"This Handbook contains an extraordinary collection of magisterial articles by many of the best methodological minds in political science...The range is broad and substantive, with quantitative, qualitative, formal-theoretic, historical, and mixed methods discussed in relation to all the empirical subfields of the discipline. Every sect will find something to its taste, and those who celebrate the methodological diversity of the profession will have a feast. The articles are written to be accessible, and graduate students will find no better place to begin developing their own methodological judgment. This book is a splendid achievement."--Christopher H. Achen, Roger Williams Straus Professor of Social Sciences, Princeton University "This extraordinary series offers 'state of the art' assessments that instruct, engage, and provoke. No one who is immersed in the discipline's controversies and possibilities should miss the intellectual stimulation and critical appraisal these works so powerfully provide."--Ira Katznelson, Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History, Columbia University "This blockbuster set is a must-have for scholars and students alike. Each volume is crafted by a distinguished set of editors who have assembled critical, comprehensive, essays. These volumes will help to shape the discipline for many years to come."--Theda Skocpol, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology, Harvard University About the Author Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier is the Vernal Riffe Professor of Political Science, Director of the Program in Statistics and Methodology, and courtesy faculty of Sociology at the Ohio State University. She holds a B.A. in mathematics and political science from Coe College and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Texas at Austin. Henry E. Brady is Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at University of California, Berkeley. He received his Ph.D. in Economics and Political Science from MIT, and his areas of interest include Quantitative Methodology, American and Canadian Politics, and Political Behavior. He teaches undergraduate courses on political participation and party systems and graduate courses on advanced quantitative

methodology. David Collier is Professor of Political Science at University of California, Berkeley and former President of the American Political Science Association. His fields are comparative politics, Latin American politics, and methodology. His latest book is *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, of which he is co-editor and co-author with Henry E. Brady.