



Design your research: Skills and methodologies in IR

April – June 2020

Scientific Supervisor: Prof. Alessandro Colombo,
Teachers: Matteo Casiraghi, Valerio Vignoli

N. hours: 20 (90 minutes classes, i.e. 2 hrs each)

N. maximum participants: 30

N. ECTS : 3 ECTS among the 9 ECTS “elective credits” (“a scelta libera”)

Final evaluation: final paper, and attendance (at least 80%)

Eligible participants: students of the Master’s Programme in International Relations (“REL”)

Goals of the course: **Methods are fundamental** to produce rigorous research in academia, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), International Organizations (IOs) and think tanks. We aim to acquaint students with the **necessary skills to work** in the field of International Relations (IR). More specifically, we offer an overview of the most **up-to-date research methods** and highlight useful skills for the job market. Finally, we engage students in a **discussion on their theses** in order to suggest possible adjustments and improvements.

Content of the course: The course consists of three parts. The first section provides an introduction on the different **methodologies** inside and outside academia, highlighting the **critical skills** required in the job market. The second section focuses on the main quantitative and qualitative **methods in IR**. The third section offers some necessary tools to produce a rich, rigorous and engaging M.A. **dissertation**. The course invites students to discuss their **research projects** in the light of the knowledge acquired during the classes. Students will receive the necessary materials by email at the end of every class.

Course structure:

- I. 16/04/20, 12.30-14.30, room 24: *Introduction: doing research in academia, IOs, NGOs and think tanks*
- II. 23/04/20, 12.30-14.30, room 24: *Research design in IR (I)*
- III. 30/04/20, 12.30-14.30, room 24: *Research design in IR (II)*
- IV. 07/05/20, 12.30-14.30, room 24: *Statistics and multivariate analysis (I)*
- V. 14/05/20, 12.30-14.30, room seminari (via Livorno): *Statistics and multivariate analysis (II)*
- VI. 21/05/20, 12.30-14.30, room 24: *Quantitative text-analysis (I)*
- VII. 28/05/20, 12.30-14.30, room seminari (via Livorno): *Quantitative text-analysis (II)*
- VIII. 04/06/20, 12.30-14.30, room 24: *Process tracing (I)*
- IX. 11/06/20, 12.30-14.30, room 24: *Process tracing (II)*
- X. 18/06/20, 12.30-14.30, room 24: *Discussing and structuring your research projects and dissertations*

Registration: Participants should send an email to Matteo Casiraghi (matteo.casiraghi@unimi.it) to register (before April 9, 2019) for the course or to ask for information.