

Abstract

Politics is a fundamental aspect of human life and society. Over time, both politics and political science have changed, inevitably impacting students and their understanding of the world. On the other hand, political research is an interesting aspect of study that every student has to encounter in one way or another. This guidebook therefore explores fundamental research methodologies when studying political science in a simplified presentation so that students can gain insight and understanding when working on their research.

Presented with the author's own experience borne from years of lecturing and research, it is hoped that students will know and learn how to approach diverse political issues with critical thinking and analysis. This guidebook's purpose is therefore to explore three key methods, under the quantitative, qualitative and mixed research approaches, which can be used to make informed choices when researching diverse concepts and issues surrounding the ever-evolving fields of politics and political science.

Under the quantitative research approach, laboratory, field experiments and other methods that are known in the field of political science are elaborated. These are time series analysis (TSA), dynamic systems of equations and multilevel analysis.

For the qualitative research, interview, focus group and case study designs were discussed. Readers will also learn about writing a political science research paper.

This guidebook does not claim to have exhausted the key fundamental research methods when studying political science; however, it is hoped that a foundation for further in-depth research on fundamental methods when studying political science is set.