**Process Tracing**

**Overview:** This two-day seminar introduces students to a key method – process tracing - used in much qualitative research. We begin - Sessions I & II - with conceptual preliminaries. What is a causal mechanism? Why do we need a technique like process tracing to measure it? Most important, we discuss the underlying logic and best practices of process tracing. In Sessions III & IV, we address practical and operational issues, as applied to deductive and inductive variants of the method. Session V highlights the cutting edge, including the debate over formalization, and research-transparency/ethics.

**Format & Requirements:** The course will be run as a seminar, where debate and discussion are the norm. Written discussion questions will serve as the starting point for each session. For this format to be successful, students need to do the readings prior to our first meeting on 6 June.

For each of the five sessions, students should prepare 2-3 discussion questions and comments; these should be based on the readings and will be distributed to all other class participants. (Please make sufficient copies [20] for distribution.) Your questions/comments should reflect a critical assessment of those readings. What are their strong and weak points? What are their meta-theoretical, theoretical, methodological, ethical, or empirical contributions?

**Syllabus and Class Schedule**

**Day #1: Thursday, 6 June**

**Session I (0900 – 1100): The Social (Science) World and Process – The Role of Causal Mechanisms**


**Session II (1115 – 1315): Measuring Mechanisms – Process Tracing**


Day #2: Friday, 7 June

Session IV (0900 - 1100): Process Tracing in Action – Inductive/Theory-Development and Interpretive Applications


Session V (1115 - 1315): Process Tracing – Formalization and Research-Transparency/Ethics


