



UiO • **University of Oslo**

# Appraisal and comparative methods

Archidis -

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Introduction by Geir Magnus Walderhaug



# Constructing social research

- Three main strategies:
  - Qualitative methods to study commonalities
  - Comparative methods to study diversity
  - Quantative methods to covariation
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- Many end up using a variety of these methods
  - Handbooks tend to convey a pragmatic approach

# Goals

- Familiarity with cases
- Trying to research diversity
  
- Patterns that may exist within a set of cases
- Unravel different causal conditions connected to different outcomes
- Patterns that separates cases into different subgroups

## Causes and outcomes

- Discerning types of patterns
- Categorise cases according to outcomes (?)
- Unravel causes that generate outcomes
- Matching different causes to different outcomes
- If not –research needs reformulation

## Similarities and differences

- Category most often determined by project
- Looking for patterns of diversity
- Start with an analytic frame
- But will probably have to revise the frame and questions as research goes along – to sharpen the ideas
- Explicitly concerned with causation and causal complexity

## Selecting cases

- Often initiate research with a specific set of cases in mind
- During the process might decide that some cases do not belong in the same category and cannot be compared
- Reformulate the categories that cases divide into
- Set of cases must be coherent (?)

## **Using the comparative method**

- Look for uniformity within categories
- Look for contrasts between categories
  
- In combination of conditions

		Finland	Sweden	Norway	UK	Denmark	Netherlands	Belgium	Germany	
1	<b>Federal structure</b>	0	0	0	0/1	0	0	1	1	
2	<b>Multiple levels of autonomous archives</b>									
3	<b>Law regulates appraisal</b>	1	1	1	0(?)	1	1	1	1	
4	<b>Central regulations for appraisal</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
5	<b>For government</b>									
6	<b>For municipalities</b>									
7	<b>Other public bodies</b>									
8	<b>For private archives</b>									
9										



## Group work

- Students were sent into groups to look at posters again to try to fill in the rest of the form on the previous slide
- In plenary we made a suggestion for completing the form (see next slide)
- Conclusion was that it was difficult to conclude anything from the form. The posters weren't made to answer these questions.
- Back to the drawing board!

		Finland	Sweden	Norway	UK	Denmark	Netherlands	Belgium	Germany	
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2	Multiple levels of autonomous archives	1	1	1	-	1	0	1	1	
3	Law regulates appraisal	1	1	1	0(?)	1	1	1	1	
4	Central regulations for appraisal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
5	For government	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
6	For municipalities	1	-	1	-	1	0	1	0	
7	Other public bodies				0	1		1		
8	For private archives	0	0	1	0	1	0	-	-	
9										

# What did we learn?

- ??

**And now for something completely different...**

## A sociological approach - Pierre Bourdieu

- a '**field**' is an area of structured, socially patterned activity or 'practice,' in this case disciplinarily and professionally defined
- The 'field' and its '**practices**' are inclusive terms referring respectively to the structure and to the characteristic activities of an entire professional world.
- Metaphorically - its analogue would be a magnet

# Influence

- a social field exerts a force upon all those who come within its range.
- those who experience these 'pulls' are generally not aware of their source.
- the power of a social field is inherently mysterious.
- to explain this invisible but forceful influence of the field upon patterns of behavior

## central claim of field

- that any social field, is organized around a body of internal protocols and assumptions, characteristic behaviors and self-sustaining values
- what we might informally term a 'internal culture.'
- key to understanding - accept it has its own incomplete but quite settled autonomy

## Field – profession ?

- term 'politics' in its broadest sense,
- referring to a complexity of factors (economic, cultural, linguistic, and so on) **that determine the forms of relation** within a given social totality,
- an *internal politics of the profession* - exercises its own influence on every aspect of the field's functioning outside the professional body itself.



## *Outline of a Theory of Practice*

- **Habitus**: the habitual, patterned ways of understanding, judging, and acting which arise from our particular position as members of one or several social ‘fields,’
- and from our particular trajectory in the social structure
- The notion asserts that different conditions of existence—different educational backgrounds, social statuses, professions, and regions—all give rise to forms of habitus.

- habitus is what gives groups that individuals compose a consistency
- what tends to cause the group's practices and its sense of identity to remain stable over time
- a strong agent of the group's own self-recognition and self-reproduction

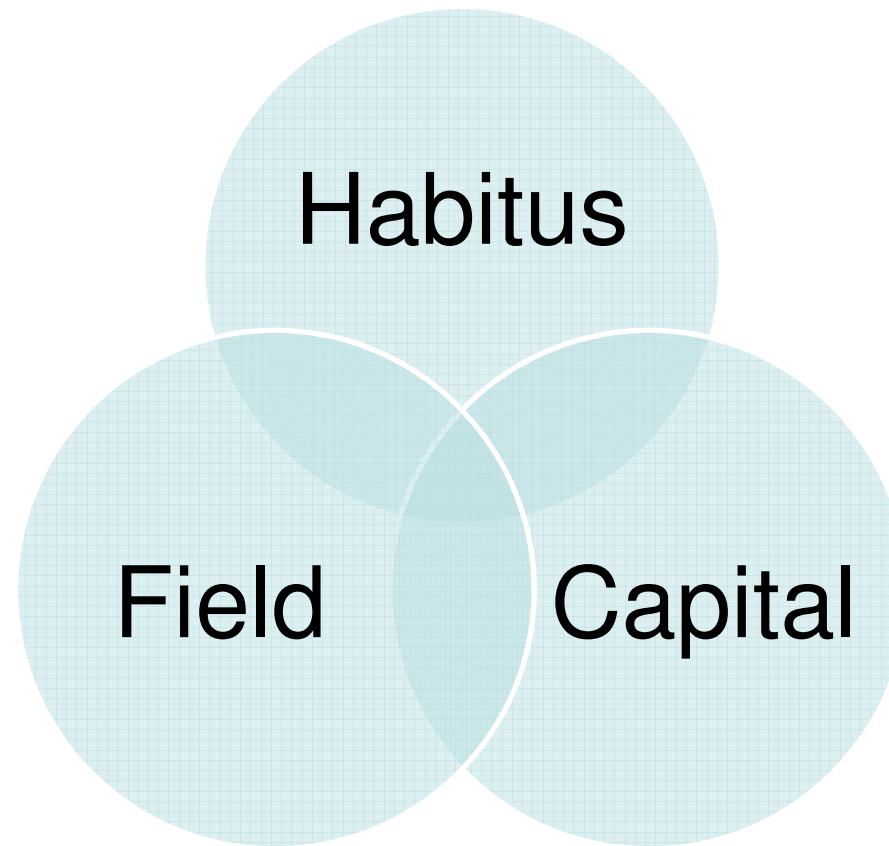
## Borders of field

- a social field is the site of struggle, of competition for control
- the field defines what is to be controlled
- locates the issues about which dispute is socially meaningful
- Identifying where a victory is desirable

## *Symbolic capital*

- designates the wealth (hence implicitly the productive capacity)
- not as money or industrial machinery
- Authority, knowledge, prestige, reputation, academic degrees, debts of gratitude owed by those to whom we have given gifts or favors
- can be readily convertible into the more traditional form of economic capital

# A model?



## J.L. Austin

- emphasis on linguistic and symbolic strategies
- based on ‘speech act theory
- the concept of the ‘performative’
- makes things true *simply by saying them.*

## The field of Law

- The texts of the law are thus quintessentially texts which produce their own effects.
- linguistic and social power of the law ‘to do things with words.’
- Essential to that capacity—to the law's reproduction and continuation is the law's **‘power of form’**

## Which field do we belong to?

- Archives and Records Management probably too small to be separate field
- But a sub-field to what?
- Governance?
- Information?
- Administration?
- NGO's?



## What fields do we relate to?

- We have identified Law
- It must include government
- Other public groups?
  
- What about our cousins – librarians?