

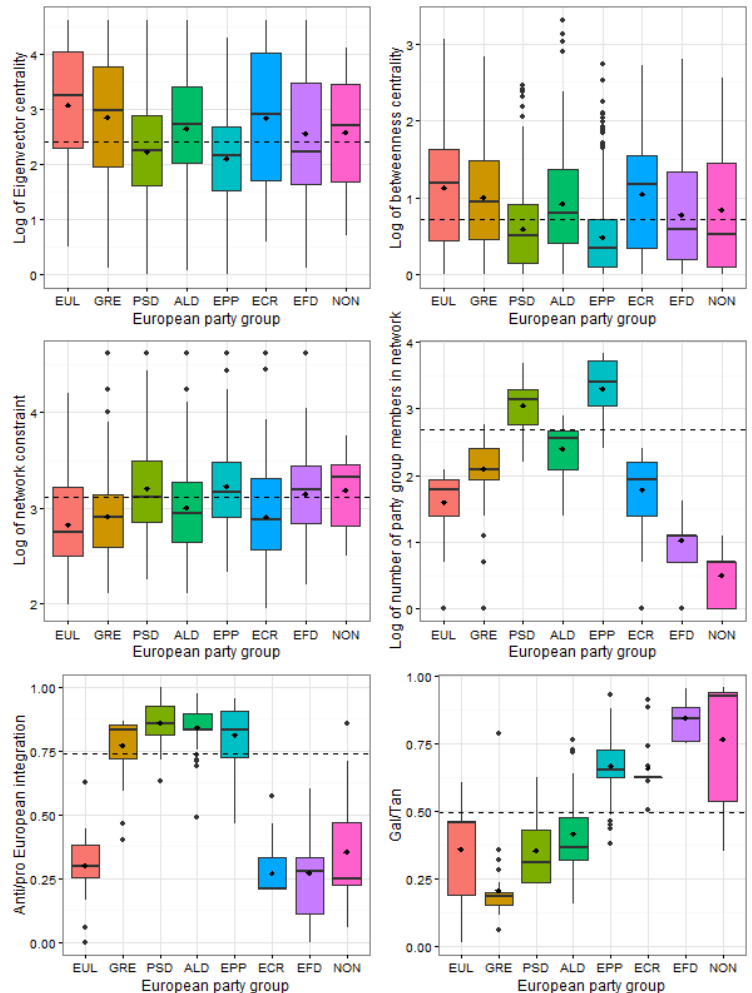
PO 4102 Methods and Research in Political Science

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Aims and Objectives

This module introduces students to quantitative methods and research in Political Science. On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Understand what variables are and conceptually define, operationalise, and measure them
- Identify and distinguish the measurement scales of variables and use appropriate tabular and graphical methods to describe their distributions
- Formulate theoretically derived hypotheses
- Describe different research designs and assess their ability to generate sound causal inferences
- Understand the logics of statistical control and statistical inference
- Conduct and interpret bivariate and simple multivariate statistical analyses
- Demonstrate proficiency in computer-assisted quantitative data analysis using SPSS



Contents

Module topics include the definition, operationalisation, and measurement of variables, the development of theory and the formulation of hypotheses, the role of research design and statistical control in making claims about causality, as well as the use of bivariate and multivariate statistical methods to assess theoretically expected relationships between variables. In the computer labs, the module also provides a thorough introduction to the practical application of quantitative methods through the statistical software package SPSS.

Core Readings

The core reading consists of a text book and an accompanying work book for the computer lab exercises:
 Pollock, Philip H. (2016) *The Essentials of Political Analysis*. Fifth Edition, Washington: CQPress.
 Pollock, Philip H. (2016) *An SPSS Companion to Political Analysis*. Fifth Edition, Washington: CQPress.