

For G 53-0100 : Political Analysis  
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CHECK=LIST OF TECHNIQUES USED IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

A. Direct Observation

Trained observing, including participant observation.

Self-observation, including psycho-drama.

Social milieu of and resistances to observations.

Controlled direct observation; use of precise categories and standardized tools of observation.

The recording of direct observations: alternative methods, units, criticisms, etc. (But not content analysis, q.v.)

B. Interviews--Oral interviewing and oral responses.

Standardized interviews.

Depth interviews: journalistic, psychiatric, psychoanalytic, hypnotic, or with drugs.

Impromptu interview technique.

Social resistances to interviewing.

Recording, systematizing, and analyzing of interviews.

C. Questionnaires--Written interviewing or written responses based on a schedule of questions.

General questionnaires, short or long.

Depth questionnaires, including projective approach.

Semantics and social problems of questionnaires.

Systematizing and analyzing questionnaires.

Futurology: prediction of future events from already known facts.

G. Communication Content Analysis

Quantitative content analysis: objective, systematic, and quantitative description of the manifest content of communication.

Conventional analysis of content: records, research, documentary analysis.

Myth analysis: psychological and historical dissevering of fables and accepted falsehoods.

H. Information Storage and Retrieval

Coinage of new terms and concepts.

Conventional systems: libraries, books, records, tape, film, as well as the human brain.

Artifacts and material evidence handling.

Mechanical and electronic developments: for information retrieval.

I. Graphics and Audio-Visual Techniques--Used in the research and/or in the presentation.

Film and sound (including photographs).

Graphs, charts, diagrams, and maps. (But not ORG/CHARTS, q.v.)

Exhibits.

Programmed instruction (with or without teaching machines).

D. Tests and Scales--Methods of distinguishing among objects (or individuals) by the degree to which they possess a given characteristic, and with problems of scoring and ranking the aggregate.

Theory and uses of test and scales.

Aptitude tests.

Tests for factual knowledge, discrete beliefs, or abilities.

Personality tests: tests for data on behavior motivation, morale, etc.

Projective tests.

E. Universes and Sampling--A sampling is a smaller representation of a larger whole called a "universe." Methods of quantifying and sampling universes and analyzing the results include:

Census: enumeration of a population by classified social and economics statistics.

Sizes and techniques of sampling; Includes "area" and "probability" type samples, etc.

Network theory, systematic group-member connections analysis.

F. Analysis of Temporal Sequences--(data derived from time sequences of a collective or individual case):

Personal history: biography, personality development, and psychoanalysis.

The methods of writing valid history; historiography.

Chronology and genetic series: origins and temporal careers of men, institutions, processes, etc. (except the individual case).

Projection of historical trends: including individual and social.

J. Comparative Analysis

Of methods, approaches, techniques, and styles.

Of ideas, methods, ideologies.

Of persons.

Of groups.

Of governments.

Of nations.

K. Experimentation--Arrangement of conditions under which a phenomenon to be studied will take place, with a view toward ascertaining the influences of these conditions on that phenomenon.

Laboratory experiments.

"Social" experimentation under uncontrolled conditions or situations in which repetition is impossible.

Hypothetical experimentation: intellectual constructs.

L. Models--Intellectual representations of objects or processes, for instructional or analytic purposes.

Scientific models: the properties and interactions of the real object or process are abstracted and expressed as a set of mathematical equations of other logical relationships.

Blueprints and organization charts.

Planning: model construction of a proposed event, structure, or system, phrased, with specifications and instructions for its completion.

Ideological analysis: analysis of sets of unconscious propositions which purport to explain, justify and prescribe action.

Utopias: wholesale social schemes to induce thought and action.

Game theory and decision theory.

M. Logic, Mathematics and Linguistics

Logic: validity, semantics, pragmatics.

Computation.

Mathematics: symbolic analysis of shape, arrangement, quantity, sequence; equations.

Statistics: actual quantitative ordering of data.

Probability, chance.

Modal types; fashions; conventions.

Correlations (statistical) and associations.

Sociometry.

Classification, typology, set theory.

Numerical indices and indicators, index weights.

Linguistics.

Terminology.

Styles of communications.