Quantitative Historical Analysis

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Instructor: James Oberly, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (and past Official Representative from UW-Eau Claire to ICPSR, 1994-2007).
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Office Hours, during the workshop: by appointment at the ICPSR offices in Perry Bldg

Teaching Assistant: William Hobby, Rice University
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Office Hours during the workshop: by appointment

Workshop Meetings: June 26—July 20, 9:00—11:00 a.m. daily.

Required Textbooks for purchase:


Suggested Textbook for purchase


Other Readings:

See details under “Workshop Outline and Assignment Schedule” for assigned journal articles.
Note: assigned readings should be completed before a workshop meeting.

Shared Drive: In place of a course web page, we will work with a Workshop shared drive. All participants will have 24/7 access to all the Workshop text and data files on the shared drive.

What you should bring to the workshop: Your enthusiasm and willingness to apply yourself diligently as an individual and as part of a workshop team.

What you will take from the workshop:

• If you are a graduate student…
  ✓ this workshop can earn you three graduate credits from the University of Michigan.
 ✓ Readings in key books and articles in quantitative historical studies, and more importantly, the ability to read, understand, criticize and contribute to this literature; this should prove helpful as you prepare for your doctoral exams

 ✓ a strong preparation in quantitative methods as a substitute for a foreign language competence (in some graduate programs)

 ✓ a working knowledge of the datasets available for your use from ICPSR

 ✓ a named credit in the “acknowledgements” section of a forthcoming report and possible future book

 ✓ a first draft of a presentation poster, intended for publication based on your own critical reading of the literature and your own analysis of an ICPSR dataset.

 ✓ Participation in assembling a scholarly panel(s) to present your research notes to the profession.

 ✓ Memories, friendships, and collegial partnerships from a productive and fun summer spent at one of America’s premier universities (and in a great college town).

 • If you are a faculty member or independent scholar…

 ✓ All of the above (except the graduate credits and the part about substituting quantitative methods for a foreign language)!

 **Work Expected of Participants:**

 ✓ Attendance at all Workshop meetings

 ✓ your participation in a “mock court” as part of a scholarly team on a future scholarly article (due Friday, July 5th);

 ✓ your participation in helping revise a research poster for presentation to the fall 2007 ICPSR Bi-Annual Meeting;

 ✓ your development of a prospectus for a poster suitable for presentation at a conference (due Thursday, July 19)

 **Workshop Outline and Assignments Schedule**

 **Monday, June 25—ICPSR Registration**
Tuesday, June 26—Introduction: The literature of Quantitative Historical Analysis.


Assignment: Each participant will take a recent presidential address to a scholarly association. Starting with the presidential address, ask yourself what are the leading historical questions considered by the association president? How does the scholar use quantitative historical analysis to answer those questions? What data sources are used? What other key studies does the scholar cite?

Wednesday, June 27—Workshop Discussion: what we learned from the presidential addresses.


In the lab: Introduction to Academic Computing at ICPSR and Michigan; Introduction to SPSS and SDA as the main software packages of the workshop.

Thursday, June 28—Descriptive Statistics (and the troubles historians have with them):
The measurement of a distribution within a dataset; frequencies, central tendencies, outliers and standard deviations;


Friday, June 29—Working with primary source manuscript texts to create a dataset

Reading: Hagen v. Utah, 510 U.S. Reports, 399 (1994), and City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York, 544 U.S. Reports, 197, both available online via www.findlaw.com or via Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe.
In class, I will pass out some manuscript copies of U.S. Census and Bureau of Indian Affairs census returns. We will divide into two teams and take opposite sides in a hypothetical legal dispute and prepare draft testimony for presentation in “mock court” on Friday, July 6th.

Also: Class Field Trip to Hatcher Library Government Publications Department
Monday July 2—American Population History, Part I

Reading: Klein, *Population History*, Chapters 1 and 2;
Suggested reading in Field, *Discovering Statistics*, Section 2.1-2.12;


Tuesday July 3—American Population History, Part II

Reading: Klein, *Population History*, Chapters 3, 4, and 5;

In the Lab: Introduction to IPUMS

Wednesday, July 4—No Workshop Meeting...ICPSR Picnic

Thursday, July 5—American Population History, Part III

Reading: Klein, *Population History*, Chapters 6 and 7;
Suggested Field, *Discovering Statistics*, Section 3.1-3.11;

In the Lab: teams may work on their mock court presentations for Friday the 6th.

Friday, July 6—Mock Court: The Social Science Historian presents evidence

Note: we will convene court and hear presentations from the two teams in class. Judges Oberly and Hobby, and a third judge to be named will form a three-judge panel and will declare a winner. There is no appeal from their wise rulings.

July 9....poster presentation (and workshop critique): “The Climate in June will Force the Enemy to Retire,” or why the South lost the Civil War.

Reading: on our shared drive, poster “The Climate in June will force the Enemy to Retire”

In the lab: Robert W. Fogel, “Aging of Veterans of the Union Army, 1820-1940,” ICPSR Study # 6836; also, using MS-PowerPoint to build a research poster

July 10: American Political History, Part One

Class Field Trip: Visit to Special Collections Department of the Bentley Historical Library to view treasures of the “Michigandia” collection of political artifacts. Note that we will travel by free campus bus from Central Campus to North Campus.
July 11: American Political History, Part Two


Suggested reading: Field, Discovering Statistics, Section 5.1—5.14

In the Lab: The American National Election Study, 1948-2004

July 12: American Social History, Part One


In the Lab: “Homicides in Chicago, 1965-1995”

July 13: American Social History, Part Two


In the Lab: The General Social Survey, 1972-2004

July 16: Selecting a topic and an ICPSR dataset for a poster project and a scholarly paper

Meeting with ICPSR General Archive and User Services directors

Reading: Field, Discovering Statistics, Section 16.1-16.15.

July 17: World Population History


In the Lab: Introduction to IPUMS--International

July 18: World Social History

Reading: Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005); chapter 1.

In the Lab: Introduction to the World Values Survey
July 19: Poster Project Presentations, Part One

July 20: Poster Project Presentations, Part Two
End of Summer Workshop
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