

Scheme for Academic Papers

1. Working Title

An example from comparative government studies: Spain's democratic transition

2. Relevance (the "Puzzle")

- a. Empirical example: Spain's transition into a democracy appears as a success. Therefore it could provide helpful findings for other cases.
- b. Theoretical example: Transformation theories provide many criteria for a "successful democratic transformation". It would be relevant to examine the compatibility of the Spanish case.

3. Research Question

Example: To what extent did the civil participation during the Franco regime change compared to today?

4. Connection with a Model or a Theory

- a. General theories: e.g. Transformation theory, classification of political authority
- b. Specific theories: e.g. Political culture (Almond and Verba: civic culture)

5. (Hypo-)Thesis

Example: The increase of civil participation did significantly influence Spain's successful transformation.

6. Level of Analysis

Example: Individual level (1st image)

7. Methods

Example: Examination of the citizens' behaviour right after Franco's death, during the 1990's as well as today.

8. Sources

- a. Example: Evaluation of surveys and statistics
- b. Example: Secondary literature on the Franco regime

9. Possible Problems

Example: Are the surveys comparable? Can the civic culture model be applied? Can the sources be researched within the available time?