University of Catania

Master Programme in Data Science for Management

Methodology of political science

Guest seminar by Prof Dimiter Toshkov, Leiden University

Research design in political science. Within-case and small-N research designs

Do case studies have a place in contemporary social science? How can we approach case studies with the same rigour we expect from experimental and statistical studies? In this talk I argue that while the 'case study' label is vague and often misused, the analysis of individual cases has an important role to play both for descriptive and explanatory research goals. I outline the logic of within-case analysis, I discuss how it can be fruitfully combined with cross-case research designs, and I illustrate the added value of mixed designs with examples from political science and public policy.

16th December 2020
17.00-19.00
Link to Teams meeting

Dimiter Toshkov (website, University website) is Associate Professor at the Institute of Public Administration at Leiden University, The Netherlands and a former Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute, Italy. His main fields of research are European Union politics, comparative public policy, and research methodology. He teaches courses on public policy and research design and regularly gives talks on game theory, research methodology, data visualisation and European integration. He obtained a PhD degree from Leiden University in 2009 with a dissertation on the implementation of EU law in the post-communist countries from Central and Eastern Europe. His research has won prizes for best article in European Union Politics for 2011 and Public Administration (2013), and his data visualization work won the 2019 World Data Visualization Prize at the World Governance Summit. Dimiter Toshkov is the author of *Research Design in Political Science* (2016, Palgrave Macmillan).