Brings together resources on conducting both qualitative and quantitative research on law and politics in the EU, presenting a critical discussion of research design and methodology while at the same time offering a compendium of practical research tools. Includes research tips, such as how to gain access to EU organizations in Brussels and Luxembourg, and a list of quantitative resources, including databases such as the Eurobarometer surveys and EuroStat. After an introduction, the chapter is organized in five further sections. The second section offers some observations about the wealth of research questions that could be asked about the EU, and suggests that the nature of the question can and should guide researchers in the identification of relevant theories, the formulation of testable hypotheses, and the design of a research project. The third section reviews the availability of both qualitative and quantitative data, including both official EU sources and innovative datasets compiled by EU scholars, the fourth and fifth sections offer some ‘nuts-and-bolts’ advice for scholars undertaking fieldwork at the Brussels and Luxembourg headquarters of the primary EU institutions, and the last offers conclusions.

Biotechnology Dilemma 1: Patented Research Tools and Experimental Use

Michael A. Carrier

in Innovation for the 21st Century: Harnessing the Power of Intellectual Property and Antitrust Law
Research tools used by scientists are essential for innovation in the biotechnology industry. In recent years, the patenting of such tools has skyrocketed with many scholars and organizations lamenting this development. They have focused, in particular, on reduced access to research tools and an “anticommons” characterized by multiple patentees exercising rights to exclude. This chapter addresses the question of whether scientists are able to use patented research tools. It argues that industry and academia have forged a relationship that, at least at the present time, has displaced the need for changes to the law. The chapter offers three proposals that could be implemented if the situation changes. First is to protect “experimentation” on the invention, which uses the invention to study its technology or design around the patent. Second, it offers an amendment to the Bayh–Dole Act (which encouraged the commercialization of nonprofit inventions) that would require universities and nonprofit institutions to reserve the right to use the invention for non-commercial research. Third, it recommends empirical study of user innovation among research tool innovators.

Research Gets Organized, 1880s–1930s
John B. Nann and Morris L. Cohen
in The Yale Law School Guide to Research in American Legal History
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Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the creation of a better-organized world of legal research through the development and refinement of several legal research tools. The federal government made its first attempt at codification in 1873. At roughly the same time, West Publishing Company began producing a comprehensive collection of state and federal case reporters, which came to be known as the National Reporter System. West also applied the concept of case law digests to the National Reporter System, thus offering legal researchers a comprehensive collection of cases and tools that provided a consistent topical arrangement of case law. By listing every reported case that cited a given case and indicating how the subsequent treated the earlier, citators became a valuable research tool for attorneys. The era reached its climax of successful federal law codification with the publication in 1925 of the United States Code, using the organization developed for the federal government by West.
Looking into how knowledge flows from both government and academic laboratories to the industrial companies initiates the study of another aspect of the knowledge that companies use in RD&D efforts that would result to innovation. The research design that has been formulated for exploring STI entails the conceptualization of how the knowledge used in innovation is of a different type, and suggests that the sources of these types of knowledge should also be examined. This chapter builds on the empirical and theoretical threads introduced in Chapter 3 and integrate this with empirical investigation into STI. Through these measures, the chapter will be able to propose a research tool for more thorough investigation of the knowledge for innovation. The chapter considers some of the epistemological or cognitive aspects as well as some economic dimensions of such matters.

“Dear Collective Brain …”

Mike Cronin

This chapter explores the potential of social media as a research tool. There are three key uses of social media: gaining assistance from fellow sport historians and researchers, collecting data, and accessing already-collected data through the social media archive of posts. However, there are some practical issues in using social media, the biggest of which is “simply getting the message out there.” This was a particular issue with Facebook, where the reluctance of individuals to extend their usage beyond their own social relationships and networks of friends frustrated attempts to engage the public in participating in the research projects. Twitter, the chapter proposes, has the greater potential as a research tool because of its more open access and focused style of engagement.
Ultimately, for all forms of social media, accessing previously collected data is simpler than generating or “harvesting” new data.

Research Methods
Antony Bryant

in Grounded Theory and Grounded Theorizing: Pragmatism in Research Practice

The terms methodology, approach, and strategy are discussed as distinct but related; similarly, for method, tool, technique, model. The author’s Framework for Thinking about Methods is then introduced, against which GTM is exemplified. The framework focuses specifically on aspects such as the preconceptions and perceptions that underlie methods, as well as their process and procedures, products and presentation; also the practical aspects in implementing methods. The chapter ends with an extended, but accessible, account of key issues around the terms epistemology and ontology, that is aimed specifically at assisting PhD students in discussing these matters in their dissertations. The term Methodological Sensitivity is introduced and explained.

What is the Fear of Crime? A Rhetorical Question with No One Clear Answer
Stephen Farrall, Jonathan Jackson, and Emily Gray

in Social Order and the Fear of Crime in Contemporary Times

This chapter presents arguments — supported by empirical data — which underpin a number of claims in this chapter. These revolve around the design and interpretation of survey questions, the frequency with which basic human emotions (such as fear) are encountered, and the nature of the fear of crime when it comes visiting. This chapter suggests that fear is an infrequent emotion in response to crime, and there is, unsurprisingly, an enormous complexity and diversity of human emotion in general and about crime in particular. This chapter further elaborates that while it may be difficult to produce precise evidence about the frequency or intensity of fear of crime, there is considerable room for methodological improvement in order to capture important detail and
describe the significant characteristics of these responses. The chapter concludes that more work needs to be done if one has to tease out the reality of this social phenomenon and such empirical study promises to produce more valid and reliable research tools that will facilitate more theoretically sophisticated modes of explanation of this important social and political issue of the day.

How we did the research
Catherine Donovan and Marianne Hester

This chapter outlines the development of the COHSAR survey questionnaire and interview schedule. It explains the feminist epistemological approach used to design the survey and to explore how processes of gendering and power might operate in similar or different ways in abusive female and male same sex or heterosexual relationships. Combined with interviews this allowed exploration of the intersection of gender, sexuality, ‘race’, ethnicity, age, disability, class, income and education. A national community survey was used, as a representative approach was not possible in the UK. The survey, asked those in same sex relationships about experiences and perpetration of violence and abuse as well as impacts and motives for using them. The interview schedule was based around an exploration of a best and a worst relationship experience in same sex and/or heterosexual relationships. The demographic profiles of the final data set of 746 survey and 67 interview respondents are given.

Summary: Carbon Taxes for 2013–2020
Chris P. Nielsen, Mun S. Ho, Jing Cao, Yu Lei, Yuxuan Wang, and Yu Zhao

This chapter examines a number of carbon policy options for China, applying the integrated research framework introduced in the last chapter and described in the rest of the book. The research tools were
first developed by evaluating emission control policies set in the recent past; in this chapter, they are used to analyze policy alternatives set in the future, to 2020. The focus is narrowed to policies designed to limit China's carbon emissions, but making full use of the breadth of the book's integrated framework. This allows the chapter to assess the effects of future policies not only on carbon emissions, but also on China's economy, energy use, air pollution emissions, domestic air quality, and the damages to public health and agricultural productivity that result.

Methods of Analysis
Istvan Kecskes
in Intercultural Pragmatics

There have been a great variety of research tools, data collection methods and data analysis used in intercultural pragmatics research. They all have at least three features in common. Firstly, the main focus of intercultural pragmatics is language use in oral, written and computer-mediated settings, and researchers select methods accordingly. Secondly, intercultural pragmatics is an inquiry that is discourse segment-centered rather than utterance-centered. Thirdly, the methodological approach should be reconstructive in nature that reconstructs the process through which interlocutors have successfully achieved their communicative goals. Intercultural pragmatics research encourages mainly four forms of data collection and analysis; conversational analysis, corpus methods, discourse segment analysis and computer-mediated communication. They are discussed and demonstrated in the chapter.

Stink or swim: techniques to meet the challenges for the study and conservation of small critters that hide, swim, or climb, and may otherwise make themselves unpleasant
Roger A. Powell, Stephen Ellwood, Roland Kays, and Tiit Maran
in Biology and Conservation of Musteloids
The study of musteloids requires different perspectives and techniques than those needed for most mammals. Musteloids are generally small yet travel long distances and many live or forage underground or under water, limiting the use of telemetry and direct observation. Some are arboreal and nocturnal, facilitating telemetry but limiting observation, trapping, and many non-invasive techniques. Large sexual size dimorphism arguably doubles sample sizes for many research questions. Many musteloids defend themselves by expelling noxious chemicals. This obscure group does not attract funding, even when endangered, further reducing rate of knowledge gain. Nonetheless, passive and active radio frequency identification tags, magnetic-inductance tracking, accelerometers, mini-biologgers and some GPS tags are tiny enough for use with small musteloids. Environmental DNA can document presence of animals rarely seen. These technologies, coupled with creative research design that is well-grounded on the scientific method, form a multi-dimensional approach for advancing our understanding of these charismatic minifauna.

Sir Thomas Elyot as Lexicographer

Gabriele Stein

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This book is a study of Sir Thomas Elyot’s contribution to lexicography and the English lexicon in the Renaissance. In a period when Latin was the universal language in European culture, learning, and diplomacy, Elyot’s work reflects the growing role of the vernacular, not only in such books as The Governour, but even more so in the Latin–English dictionary which plainly envisages English being used in some of the key areas dominated by Latin and which equips his countrymen for this change. Using the Oxford English Dictionary and the OED Online as research tools, the study documents Elyot’s enrichment of the English lexicon and the impact which his lexicographical approach and method had on contemporary and later dictionary-making.