

Global Citizenship Education in comparative perspective: epistemology, methodology and politics

DR. APRIL R. BICCUM

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

What I want to do today

- Highlight the range of sub-disciplines within political science for which GCE is relevant;
- Highlight why researching GCE is a peculiar exercise;
- Highlight what's at stake in GCE research and practice in the context of the methodological turn in political science;
- Highlight what's at stake for research intended to strengthen the success of GCE;
- Suggest some ways forward for comparative research on GCE in Europe in the face of current challenges

Why Researching GCE is a peculiar exercise

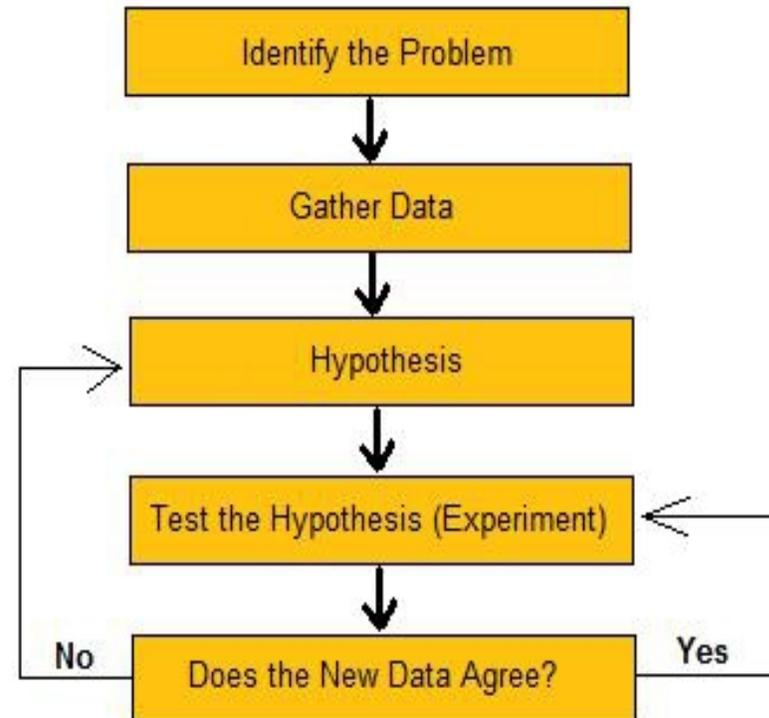
Positivism

Methodological
Individualism
(Vienna School & Karl
Popper)

Individuated and autonomous units of analysis (and/or variables) which interact.

Humans are rational actors and choice makers;
-politics, institutions and society are the aggregate of these choices.

First Order Observation



The Methodological Turn in
Political Science

Interpretivism

Hermeneutics
“Discourse”
“Constructivism”

Complex contexts: Discourse, norms & ideas, communications, institutions, structures and agents.

Humans are meaning makers of meaning;
- politics, institutions and society are the aggregate of discourses

Second Order Observation

Why should political science care about GCE?

Public Opinion Research;

Social movement and political participation research;

Political communication and Mobilisation research;

Development studies, globalisation and global civil society;

International political economy, particularly the knowledge economy;

What's at stake in GCE research and practice in the context of the methodological turn

A cross or post disciplinary partnership;

What can be quantified and what cannot;

Making use of a range of research methods and partners while maintaining a self-reflexive view of limits and epistemological assumptions;

Keeping at the forefront of our investigation the *politics* of attempts to shape “mindsets” in Europe and orient them toward globalisation;

Adapting practice to broader based disciplinary research (in public opinion, state society relations, political communication);

What's at stake for research intended to strengthen the success of GCE?

Globalisation has not resulted in democratisation;

GCE sits within a context of a range of organic grassroots political mobilising, not all of it progressive;

Orienting political allegiances away from the local and nation and toward the global at a time when global development has lost legitimacy;

State/society/private sector relations– mapping out constituencies, aims and intensions and conceptualisations (hegemony);

The combination of GCE with education for development in the SDGs;

Its elevation as a PVE-E strategy;

Some ways forward in light of current challenges

Assess any correlations between DEA/GCE activity and other trends which might impact upon public opinion;

Conduct a comparative within and across case *mapping* of the activities of DEA/GCE historically and assess the structural dimensions of delivery (Thank you GENE!);

The archive of in house and online educational materials comprises an extremely valuable data set for analysis;

Compare DEA/GCE activities with political communication and mobilization strategies of nationalist, populist and far right groups in Europe to devise appropriate responses;

Investigate contemporary and historical contexts for the practices of GCE (don't just collect data on the dependent variable)

April Biccum

LECTURER, SCHOOL OF POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

CANBERRA AUSTRALIA

APRIL.BICCUM@ANU.EDU.AU