

ASSIGNMENT 1A & 1B

To be submitted: Wednesday October 29, 2014, 21:00 to Harry.Ganzeboom@vu.nl.

On Inkeles 1969

Next Thursday we will spend part of the seminar on reconstructing and assessing Inkeles (1969). If you have not read the article closely yet, this is your chance to make up... There is also a question to be answered by all:

A. Locate a testable proposition from Inkeles' text. Cite it with page number.

[A testable (or: informative, falsifiable) proposition is a statement that CAN be shown to be NOT true with data (more generally: empirical observation) . We will discuss the logical form of such propositions and compare it to non-informative statements.]

On Verba, Nie & Kim (1978)

The text is the beginning of a book on a well-known classical international comparative project on political participation, a subject that will occupy us much in this course. The text to be read is the Introduction itself, but I have added additional materials from the beginning of the book, because it provides some historical insights into the Civic Culture project (also by Verba) that gave rise to this research tradition. I chose this Introduction also because it contains empirical data on political participation in the Netherlands in 1960s.

The Introduction is not a proper research article, but exposes general research problems and sketches a theory that guides the subsequent cross-national research project reported in the book. So there is no proper testing of the theory (research) in this part of the book...

Try to reconstruct the text in particular in terms of research problems asked and propositions could answer these problems. Identify a core research problem in the text that you would expect to be answered by the subsequent reported research and formulate it explicitly, either in your own words or by locating it in the text.

The assignment is to submit two questions:

B. Ask an informative question about something in the text you do not properly understand.

C. Submit a critical comment on the approach that the authors propose.