## Intelligent Research Design

A Guide for Beginning Researchers in the Social Sciences

Bob Hancke

UNIVERSITAT LIECHTENSTEIN Bibliothek



## CONTENTS

Pl	REFACE	ix
LI:	ST OF TABLES	xiii
In	troduction	1
1	Research in the Social Sciences	10
	Social science is a debate	12
	From puzzling and falsifying to research design	21
	What is a research question?	27
	Conclusion	33
2	Constructing a Research Design	35
	Variables, cases, and configurations	36
	Observations and the relevant universe	46
	Time and history in the social sciences	51
	Conclusion	58
3	Constructing Case Studies and Comparisons	60
	A case of what?	62
	Critical case studies: challenging a theory	68
	Comparative research: Mill's methods of difference	
	and of agreement	72
	Qualitative comparative analysis: studying cases	
	as configurations	77
	Conclusion	83
4	Constructing Data	85
	The key problems: validity, reliability, and replicability	87
	Public databases	93
	Constructing your own data and database	99
	Interviews, data, and triangulation	103
	Conclusion	106

## viii CONTENTS

5	Writing Up Your Research	108
	Rules of logic to help you write	109
	Writing a paper	114
	Writing a thesis	121
	Conclusions	125
6	For the Road	128
A	ppendix: Participating in the Profession	132
A	ppendix: Participating in the Profession A Presenting a paper	132 132
A		
A	A Presenting a paper	132
	A Presenting a paper B Discussing or reviewing a paper C Research proposals	132 134 136
	A Presenting a paper B Discussing or reviewing a paper	132 134