CAPOD Funding Report

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<th>Event /Course Title</th>
<th>Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR)</th>
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1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):

The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) is a two-week intensive summer immersion course on the use of qualitative and multi-method research methods in political science. IQMR is associated with the Consortium on Qualitative Research Methods (QORM) of the American Political Science Association (APSA). Every summer, IQMR brings together around 140 graduate students and 20 instructors from around the world (mainly the US) at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY to learn about the application of qualitative research methods, such as process-tracing, ethnography, small-n comparative studies, historical and interpretivist approaches.

2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.

I benefitted from attending IQMR in at least three major ways. First, I got a unique opportunity to present and discuss my own research and the research design of my thesis. While at conferences it is more common to present final research papers, it was a great experience to present solely on the methodology of my project. This presentation and the feedback I got will considerably strengthen my PhD project, and moreover gave me the opportunity to improve my presentation and discussant skills. Second, I learned a lot about alternative methodologies and methods to apply to future research projects. In addition to research-specific skills, I for example learned about ways to secure research funding and how to successfully carry out a research project in practice (specific training on how to do fieldwork, interviewing, survey analysis, etc.). As a result of attending IQMR, I have many new ideas, and am excited that I have learned about new ways of approaching social- and political science research. Finally, I considerably extended my academic network, and got the opportunity to meet, exchange and plan future collaborations with colleagues from top-tier institutions (University of Oxford, University of California, Columbia University) around the world.

3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

As a result of attending IQMR, I will re-frame and strengthen parts of my methodology chapter as I am working towards completing a first draft of my PhD thesis. I will moreover speak to the relevant people at the School of IR at St Andrews about how methods training could be strengthened at our own institution. In terms of collaboration and networking contacts, I have already started thinking about developing joint research projects with a number of people that I met, such as co-authoring papers, and putting together panels for the big IR/political science conferences (APSA, International Studies Association (ISA)) in the coming years.
4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials).

Yes. As stated under point 3, I will approach members of staff in the School of IR in order to talk about how we could add to existing methods training at the School. It would be great, for example, if we could organise a small conference/workshop/seminar (this could be School / University internal or external) on how to conduct field research, on how to interview, or carry out participant observation. I have some very valuable material from IQMR that I could bring to the development of such initiatives. Other resources that I got access to include reading lists on specific methodologies / methods, and the feedback I got from other participants and instructors on my own presentation.

The IQMR website can be accessed under the following link:

https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/moynihan/cqrm/Institute_for_Qualitative_and_Multi-Method_Research/

5. Tips/experience learned from the event

It has been a very useful event to attend and I would very much recommend it to any research student in the social/political sciences wishing to get more grounding in research methodology and multi-method research. Overall, the environment of the workshop was more than conductive, as many students and leading scholars gather to exchange and learn.

The most important thing I learned at IQMR is how to think systematically about a social science research project, ask good research questions and then develop a set of methodologies and methods that is adequately equipped to answer them.

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

IQMR has ongoing collaboration-agreements with many of the world’s top tier research universities. While these are mainly located in the US, there are also a number of British Universities that cooperate with APSA and IQMR (this year: Kings College London, The London School of Economics, University of Oxford and University of Cambridge). Based on this cooperation (which includes funding commitments), these universities are eligible to send two research students every year to IQMR. In case St Andrews is interested in further developing its profile as a research university and in improving its international reputation and connectedness, it may well be worth thinking about collaborating with IQMR in the future.