

Research Methods

Lecture 4

Interactive Multi-disciplinary Methodology

- 1. Redefining research paradigms – the interactive multi-disciplinary approach**
- 2. A case study – the 1989 East and Central European Revolutions**
 - a) a range of multi-disciplinary causes**
 - b) initial methodology – J.S. Mill's ‘Method of Agreement’ and ‘Method of Difference’**
 - c) counterfactualism**

1. Redefining research paradigms

- social science disciplinary divisions (and research divisions) derived from the dominant liberal ideology of the 19th century (divisions between self-contained arenas of economics and politics - market and state)
- residual arena of ‘irrational behaviour’ = sociology

BUT throughout course of 20th century discipline variables increasingly overlapped and interacted as societies became more complex

2. A case study: the 1989 Revolutions of East and central Europe

- a) causes of events of 1989 in
Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania,
Bulgaria, Poland, GDR (East Germany)
- b) John Stuart Mill's 'Method of
Agreement' and 'Method of Difference'
- c) Counterfactualism ('New Economic
Historians' – R.W. Fogel, G.R. Hawke –
comparison of 'social savings' in U.S.A
and Britain's 19th century industrialisation)

HYBRIDISATION?