

Research Methodologies and Tools 2 (RMT2)

Comparative methodologies.

Period	March to September 2022
Coordinator	Gerard van Bortel (GvB), TUD
Faculty	Marietta Haffner (MH) & Joris Hoekstra (JH), TUD
Credits	4 ECTS (100 hours, including synchronous sessions and self-directed work)

1. Introduction

RMT2 is the second module in a three-module course focused on Research Methodologies and Tools. RMT2 aims to increase the knowledge and capabilities of ESRs to apply and reflect on comparative methodologies based on quantitative and qualitative data analysis. RMT2 will receive input from, and deliver input to, various RE-DWELL network activities and deliverables, notably Summer School 2 (SS2) and Workshop 2 (WS2) (Figure 1).

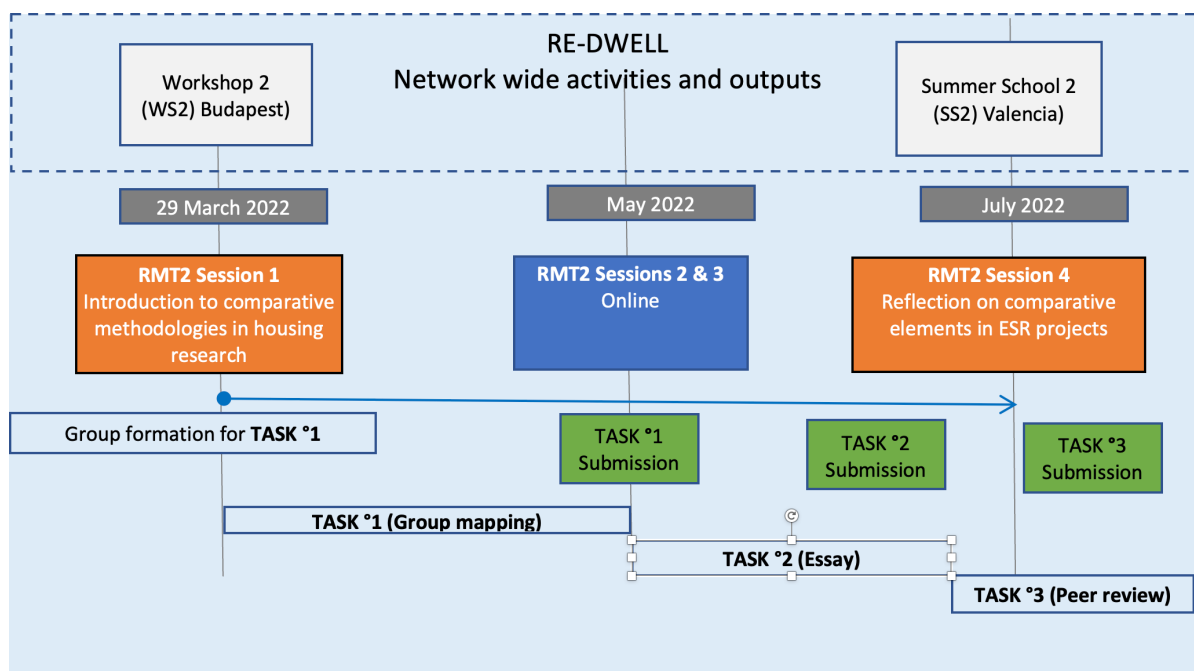


Figure 1: RMT2 course structure as integrated with the network activities

2. Course aims

- Introduce ESRs to the different perspectives of comparative housing research methodologies
- Introduce ESRs to the comparative housing research landscape by creating an overview of data resources, organisations, methodologies, methods, and experts
- Train ESR to critically reflect on various comparative research methodologies and methods and explore how these approaches can be applied to affordable and sustainable housing research in general and more specifically in the research projects of the ESRs.

3. Learning outcomes

- Ability to reflect on different disciplinary perspectives to housing research
- Ability to analyse different research approaches to housing issues in terms of methods and methodological mix (comparability, transferability)
- Ability to understand and critically reflect on comparative methodologies for qualitative and quantitative research
- Ability to understand and critically reflect on the limitations of research methods
- Ability to analyse and position own research and that of another ESRs within the field of housing studies in relation to different disciplines
- Ability to understand and choose methods appropriate to research aims and objectives
- Ability to link social science research to the formation of housing policy; identification of multiple methods of social research, including ethnographic studies and analyses of administrative datasets

4. Course structure

Item	WS2	Online	SS2
Content: Introduction to the RMT2 course and comparative research methodologies in affordable and sustainable housing research			
Lecture 1: Introduction to the RMT2 course goals, structure, tasks and activities (GvB)	X		
Lecture 2: Introduction to comparative housing research methodologies and tools (MH)	X		
Workshop: discuss key comparative methodology publications in small groups based on ESR preferences (MH)	X		

Content: Explore and discuss examples of comparative methodologies and tools in housing research			
Lecture 1: Comparative housing research methodologies (including pre-recorded mini lectures)		X	
Lecture 2: Comparative housing research tools (including pre-recorded mini lectures)		X	
Lecture 3: Exploring comparative methodologies and tools in the UPLIFT programme (JH, TUD).		X	
Workshop		X	
Workshop			X
Task 2 and 3 presentations			X

5. Learning Activities

Date	Description of the activity
29.03.2022	<p>RTM2 LAUNCH</p> <p>INDEPENDENT WORK: Preparation for Workshop session: Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Reading task:</p> <p>Articles on comparative methodologies in housing research, from a pre-selected list of articles.</p>
<p>Workshop 2</p> <p>29.03.2022</p>	<p>LECTURES; HANDS-ON WORKSHOP</p> <p>Content:</p> <p>Lecture 1: Introduction to the RMT2 course goals, structure, planning, activities and the various individual and collective tasks for ESRs and expected deliverables.</p> <p>Lecture 2: Introduction to comparative housing research methodologies.</p> <p>Workshop: Reflect in small groups on the studied key articles on comparative methodologies.</p>

	<p>Task 1 Introduction and group formation</p> <p>TASK 1. (Group work): Map a section of the comparative housing research landscape. Mapping subtasks: 1) resources (e.g. databases); 2) organisations, 3) methodologies and 4) methods and techniques.</p> <p>Each subtask also involves identifying relevant contacts and experts. ESRs can work in groups of three on each of the subtasks.</p>
<p>March-May 2022</p>	<p>GROUP WORK</p> <p>Group work towards completion of Task 1</p> <p>ESRs will critically analyse the existing resources (data, organisations, methodologies, methods, experts) relevant for their research. TASK 1 will incorporate the following activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create an overview and appraisal of available housing-related databases at the international, national, regional and local (city) level (e.g. access content, scope, applications, strengths, weakness). ERSs will access these databases and analyse their contents. 2. Create an overview and appraisal of relevant housing related umbrella organizations and their mission, activities, contacts and resources at the international, national, regional and local level. 3. Create an overview of literature and experts on different comparative methodologies and methods in housing research (e.g. GIS, Research Through Design, Ethnography) ESRs will reflect on existing publications on comparative methodologies in housing research. <p>The results of TASK 1 can be collated and used to create a Who-is-Who? and What-is-What? in comparative housing research.</p>
<p>Online 10.05.2022</p>	<p>Content: Exploring and discussing comparative methodologies and methods in housing research</p> <p>Lecture 1: Examples of comparative housing research methodologies (including pre-recorded mini lectures)</p> <p>Lecture 2: Examples of comparative housing research tools (including qualitative, quantitative and spatial analysis approaches).</p> <p>Lecture 3: Exploring comparative methodologies and tools in the UPLIFT programme (Dr. Joris Hoekstra, TUD).</p>

	<p><i>UPLIFT is a project exploring how young people's voices can be put at the centre of youth policy in areas of housing, education and employment. It started in January 2020 and will run to June 2023.</i></p> <p>Workshop: Discuss critical elements of comparative housing research methodologies, such as appropriate levels of analysis, possibilities for generalizing, comparing and transferring research results, the role of context and path dependency, national differences in using research methodologies and methods).</p> <p>Task 2 and 3 Introduction</p> <p>TASK 2 (Individual). Each ESR will produce an essay (max. 2.000) critically reflecting on how different elements of RMT2 (e.g. data sources, institutions, experts, comparative methodologies and methods) are used in the ERS's individual research project. The essay should be based on the critical synthesis of the existing literature and the results of TASK 1. ESRs should also reflect on how the secondments supports the comparative elements in the ESR's research.</p> <p>TASK 3 (Individual). Peer review of the essay (TASK 2) of another ESR. Short report to be presented and discussed during Summer School 2 in July 2022.</p>
<p>May-July 2022</p>	<p>INDEPENDENT WORK</p> <p>Preparation for Summer School 2 session:</p> <p>ESRs will prepare short pitches on their essay (TASK 2). In this essay they will reflect on their own position within the various approaches to comparative housing research. Discussants will reflect on the essay based on a peer review report (TASK 3).</p>
<p>Summer School 12.07.2022 <i>To be confirmed</i></p>	<p>HANDS-ON WORKSHOP</p> <p>Lecture 3: Implementing a career plan</p> <p>Workshop: In this session the ESRs will present and discuss their essays (TASK 2) in small groups, other ESRs will act as discussants (TASK 3).</p>
<p>July-Sept. 2022</p>	<p>INDEPENDENT & GROUP WORK</p> <p>Revise and submit the essay (TASK 2) based on the feedback received during Summer School 2 (TASK 3).</p>

6. Online material

Teams folder: RE-DWELL > GENERAL > RMT2

7. Bibliography

Views on comparative housing research from different perspectives

- Aalbers, M. (2022). Towards a relational and comparative rather than a contrastive global housing studies. In *Housing Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/02673037.2022.2033176
- Adler, C., Hirsch Hadorn, G., Brey, T., Wiesmann, U., & Pohl, C. (2018). Conceptualizing the transfer of knowledge across cases in transdisciplinary research. *Sustainability science*, 13(1), 179-190.
- Bengtsson, B., & Hertting, N. (2014). Generalization by Mechanism: Thin Rationality and Ideal-type Analysis in Case Study Research. *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 44(6), 707-732
- Doling, J. (1997). *Comparative housing policy. Government and housing in advanced industrialized countries*, MacMillan Press Ltd.
- Dupuis, J., & Biesbroek, R. (2013). Comparing apples and oranges: The dependent variable problem in comparing and evaluating climate change adaptation policies, *Global Environmental Change*, 23(6), 1476-1487.
- du Toit, J., Napier, M., Marais, L., Cloete, J., & Crankshaw, B. (2022). A typology of designs for housing research: improving methodological coherence of paradigm, approach and design. *Quality & Quantity*, 1-17, DOI: 10.1007/s11135-021-01292-7 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11135-021-01292-7>.
- Haffner, M., Hoekstra, J., Oxley, M., & Heijden, H. van der (2010) Universalistic, particularistic and middle way approaches to comparing the private rental sector, *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 10(4), 357- 377.
- Haintrais, L. (2009). *International Comparative Research, theories, methods and practice*. Palgrave-Macmillan. Haintrais, L. & Mangen, S. (1996). *Cross-national research methods in the social sciences*, Pinter.
- Howlett, M., & Cashore B. (2009). The dependent variable problem in the study of policy change: understanding policy change as a methodological problem, *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, 11(1) 33-46, DOI: 10.1080/13876980802648144, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13876980802648144>.
- Johnston, A., & Kurzer, P. (2020). Bricks in the wall: the politics of housing in Europe, *West European Politics*, 43(2), 275-296. [special issue editorial]
- Kemeny, J., & Lowe, S. (1998). Schools of Comparative Housing Research From Convergence to Divergence, *Housing Studies*, 13(2) 161– 176.

- Oxley, M. (1991). The aims and methods of comparative housing research, *Scandinavian Housing and Planning Research*, 8, 66-77.
- Oxley, M. (2001). Meaning, science, context and confusion in comparative housing research, *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, 16(1), 89-106.
- Oxley, M., & Haffner, M. (2012). Comparative Housing Research. *International Encyclopaedia of Housing and Home*. <https://www.elsevier.com/books/international-encyclopedia-of-housing-and-home/smith/978-0-08-047163-1>
- Pickvance, Ch. (2001). Four varieties of comparative analysis, *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, 16(1), 7-28.
- Ploeger, R., Lawson, J. & Bontje, M. (2001). The methodological challenge to comparative research, *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, 16(1), 11–15. [special issue editorial]
- Stephens, M. (2009). Social Rented Housing in the (DIS)United Kingdom: Can Different Social Housing Regime Types Exist within the Same Nation State? *Urban Research and Practice*, (1), 38-60, DOI: 10.1080/17535069.2017.1381760, <https://doi.org/10.1080/17535069.2017.1381760>
- Stephens, M., & Norris, M. (2011). Introduction to Special Issue: Comparative Housing Research, *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 11(4), 333-336, DOI: 10.1080/14616718.2011.626596, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616718.2011.626596>

Housing Regimes

- Hoekstra, J. (2020). Comparing Local Instead of National Housing Regimes? Towards International Comparative Housing Research 2.0., *Critical Housing Analysis*, 7(1), 74-85.
- Stephens, M. (2020). How housing systems are changing and why: A critique of Kemeny's theory of housing regimes, *Housing, Theory and Society*, 37(5), 521-547. [lead article for which commentaries are available and author response on those]

Examples of comparative qualitative research

- Elsinga, M. (2011). A qualitative comparative approach to the role of housing equity in the life cycle, *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 11(4), 357–374, DOI: 10.1080/14616718.2011.626599, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616718.2011.626599>.
- Ronald, R. (2011). Ethnography and comparative housing research, *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 11(4), 415–437, DOI: 10.1080/14616718.2011.626605, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616718.2011.626605>.

Quantitative comparative quantitative research

- Haffner, M. & Ras, M. (2015), Housing, in: Goderis, Benedikt (ed.), *Public sector achievement in 36 countries. A comparative assessment of inputs, outputs and outcomes*, The Netherlands Institute for Social Research/SCP, 187-219;

http://www.scp.nl/Publicaties/Alle_publicaties/Publicaties_2015/Public_sector_achievement_in_36_countries; ISBN/ISSN 978 90 377 0741 0.

Hoekstra, J. (2009). Two types of rental system? An exploratory empirical test of Kemeny's rental system, *Urban Studies*, 46(1), 45-62.

OECD (2021). *Brick by Brick. Building Better Housing Policies*. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/b453b043-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/b453b043-en>

General literature on research methods

Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2007). *Research Methods for Business Students*. 8th Edition, Financial Times Prentice Hall, Edinburgh Gate, Harlow.