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The Grammar of Time

Kreuzer offers guidance to scholars looking to comparative historical analysis (CHA) for the tools to analyze macro-historical questions. Like history, CHA uses the past to formulate research questions, describe social transformations, and generate inductive insights. Like social science, CHA compares those patterns to explicate generalizable and testable theories. It operates in two different worlds – one constantly changing and full of cultural particularities, another static and full of orderly uniformities. CHA draws attention to the ontological constructions of these worlds; how scholars background historical and geographic particularities to create a social reality orderly enough for theorizing, while others foreground those particularities to re-complexify it and generate new inductive insights. CHA engages in ontological triage, dialogue between exploration and confirmation, and conversation on how to translate test results into genuine answers. This book is supplemented by online materials that include a glossary, diagnostic quizzes, advanced exercises, and annotated bibliography.

Marcus Kreuzer is Professor of Political Science at Villanova University. His research builds a bridge between the worlds of history and social science methodology. His earlier research focused on the nineteenth-century origins of modern democracy and the role party systems played in the consolidation of interwar and post-communist democracies. His subsequent work on comparative historical methodology has won several best paper awards from the American Political Science Association. He also regularly teaches CHA at various methods schools.

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The Grammar of Time

A Toolbox for Comparative Historical Analysis

Marcus Kreuzer
Villanova University

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Turning the broad inspiration these books provided into practical research advice required integrating insights from far-flung literatures and navigating a messy terminological terrain. Not surprisingly, my drafts took many wrong turns, were too snarky in tone, and would never have progressed were it not for the kindness, generosity, and thoughtfulness of many colleagues. I would like to thank Amel Ahmed, Pablo Andrade, Janice Bially-Matter, Sarah Busch, Ali Cirone, Tasha Fairfield, Michael Findley, Marc Gallichio, Laura Garcia, Jakob Gerner Hariri, Kendra Koivu, Alan Jacobs, Jeffrey Johnson, Jan Klenke, Erik Kuhonta, Leontin Loeber, Tomila Lankina, Per Lindgard, Johannes Lindvall, Jørgen Møller, David Nickerson, Craig Parsons, Mark Pollack, Carsten Schneider, Jason Seawright, Deborah Seligsohn, Svend-Erik Skaaning, Emily and David Skarbek, Hillel Soifer, Paul Steege, Antonio Tavares, and Sean Yom for their helpful comments. My research assistant Raymond Horchos provided helpful feedback for the exercises. I also am

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Outside academia, John O'Rourke has tried to make sense of this "book thing" of mine by comparing it to a legal brief, the closest equivalent his private sector mind could conjure up. This less than perfect analogy might explain why he remained puzzled over its slow completion. But he

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nevertheless cheered me on, as if writing were the same as one of our long, grinding tennis rallies. And, as it turns out, over many stretches it is. Daisy and Copper kept me safe from squirrels, rabbits, and any other wildlife that threatened to distract me from my writing as I sat in our backyard. My parents and my brother supported me, as always, from afar. Finally, my most profound thanks go to my family, Pam, Lucas, and Julia, who got excited when the writing progressed and were supportive when I struggled. Each contributed in their own idiosyncratic ways. Pam's genealogical forays made me appreciate the indispensability of sleuthing skills to penetrating the past. Julia's discussion about complex adaptive environmental systems let me realize the parallels between *her* natural history and *my* human history. Lucas allowed me to test-run my ideas on his honors thesis on the deindustrialization of rural Ohio and became my editor-in-chief. But, most importantly, Pam, Lucas, and Julia redirected my attention to things outside my narrow professional world. For all of this, I am grateful every day to have you as my loving family.

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