Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Chapter 1. Process-Tracing in the Social Sciences 1
  1.1. Defining Process-Tracing 2
  1.2. How Process-Tracing Differs from Other Case Study Methods 4
  1.3. Themes of the Book 5

Chapter 2. The Three Different Variants of Process-Tracing and Their Uses 9
  2.1. The State of the Art—One Method 10
  2.2. The Three Different Uses of Process-Tracing Methods 11
  2.3. The Three Variants of Process-Tracing 13
  2.4. Conclusions: A New Understanding of Process-Tracing 21

Chapter 3. What Are Causal Mechanisms? 23
  3.1. The Ontology of Causality in the Social Sciences 24
  3.2. Causal Mechanism—A Mechanistic Definition 29
  3.3. Debates about the Nature of Causal Mechanisms 32

Chapter 4. Working with Theories of Causal Mechanisms 45
  4.1. Common Challenges Shared by All Three Variants 46
  4.2. Different Types of Causal Mechanisms 52
  4.3. Theory-Testing Process-Tracing 56
  4.4. Theory-Building Process-Tracing 60
  4.5. Explaining-Outcome Process-Tracing 63

Chapter 5. Causal Inference and Process-Tracing Methods 68
  5.1. The Type of Inferences Made in Process-Tracing 69
  5.2. What Type of Inferential Logic Can Be Used in Process-Tracing? 76
  5.3. The Bayesian Logic of Inference and Process-Tracing 83
  5.4. Making Causal Inferences in Process-Tracing Methods—Uses and Limits 88
Contents

Chapter 6. Developing Empirical Tests of Causal Mechanisms 95
   6.1. Bayesian Updating 96
   6.2. Types of Evidence in Process-Tracing 99
   6.3. Test Strength 100
   6.4. An Extended Example of Conceptualization and Operationalization of Causal Mechanisms: Studying Bureaucratic Politics 107

Chapter 7. Turning Observations into Evidence 120
   7.1. How Observations Are Turned into Evidence 123
   7.2. Sources of Evidence in Process-Tracing 132

   8.1. Theory-Testing Process-Tracing 146
   8.2. Theory-Building Process-Tracing 154
   8.3. Explaining-Outcome Process-Tracing 156
   8.5. Conclusions 159

Appendix: A Checklist for Process-Tracing Analysis 163
   A.1. When Can Process-Tracing Be Used, and Which Variant Should We Choose? 163
   A.4. Checklist for Explaining-Outcome Process-Tracing 168

Notes 171
Glossary 175
References 183
Index 195