Simulation Preparations

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Simulation Stages

Setup
Simulation Topic
Russia-Georgia conflict

Policy Formation
Initial Scenario
Escalation of tensions between Russia and Georgia, July 2008

World Politics
Opening Scenario
Deadly airstrike and EU peace proposal

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. p. 71
What have been done so far?

- Selection of simulation type and topic
- Assignment of teams and roles

What next?

- Preparation for the simulation
  - Individuals
  - Teams
Preparation Guidelines

1. Get familiar

2. Study

3. Follow instructions
1. Get Familiar

*Use simulation website to learn about*

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Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. pp. 58-59, 64-65
2. Study

Conduct research and compose

*Actor portfolio*

for your political or media actor

*Character biography*

for your assigned decision-maker or media professional
Individual Assignment: Actor Portfolio

Ten-page report with two parts

First: Description of the actor and its core attributes

Regime type
Ideology
Capabilities and status
Membership in regional/international organizations
Allies and rivals
Values and goals
Policy and behavior

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. pp. 54-57
Individual Assignment: Actor Portfolio

Ten-page report with two parts

Second: Actor’s perspective on simulation topic
The main issues as the actor defines them
A basic timeline of core events
Relevant documents and agreements
Relationships between main actors
Constraints and opportunities the actor should consider

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. pp. 54-57
Individual Assignment: Character Biography

One-page summary

*Description of characters’ core attributes: Decision-makers or media professionals*

- Role
- Values
- Ideology
- Past experience
- Main issues as the character defines them
- Political rivals
- Popularity

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. p. 56
Team Assignment: Collective Actor Portfolio

All teammates

Discuss and decide:
  Individual actor portfolios
  Character biographies

Compile:
  A collective actor portfolio, to guide
  Intra-team policy formation
  Inter-team world politics interactions

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. p. 80
3.1 Follow Instructions

- Fill out the registration form

**ISA 2015 SIMULATION GAME**

Facebook Simulation February 3rd, 2015
Face to face game, Friday, February 20th, 2015, ISA Conference in New Orleans, 10:30-12:15.
Debriefing and evaluations of simulations as a teaching tool will follow

* Required

Contact: sim2012isa@gmail.com

**Simulations as a Cross-Regions Experience: The Munich 1938 Crisis**

Organized by Henda Ben-Yehuda, Chanan Naveh and Luba Levin-Banchik

**Simulation Registration Form**

Please fill this form so we can keep in touch with you as we plan the 2015 Simulation

1. Email Address *

2. Repeat Email Address *

3. Last Name *

4. First Name *

5. Gender *

6. Academic Institution *

7. State/Country *

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**Fanaticism in World Politics**

International relations activities vary along a scale from normal to crazy with different levels of fanaticism describing actors in conflict. Fanaticism is defined as a set of radical ideas and behaviors in world politics.

18. How do you rate the actor you want to represent in terms of fanaticism? *

   1 2 3 4

   None ○ ○ ○ Extensive

19. If you got your first choice for the character you represent, how would you rank him/her in terms of fanaticism? *

   1 2 3 4

   None ○ ○ ○ Extensive

20. Who do you regard as your main adversary in the simulation? *

21. How do you rank this main adversary in terms of fanaticism? *

   1 2 3 4

   None ○ ○ ○ Extensive

22. To what extent do you believe that the behavior of your main adversary will be a result of this fanaticism? *

   1 2 3 4

   None ○ ○ ○ Extensive

23. In your opinion, what is the best way to deal with fanaticism in world politics? *

24. If you chose other, explain your suggestion of how to deal with fanaticism.

25. Requests, Comments and Suggestions

Submit
3.2 Follow Instructions

- On a virtual platform make sure you are registered to the simulation network

*Create a new account*

- e.g. on Facebook, login to your personal account or create a new one

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. p. 60
3.3 Follow Instructions

- Join assigned simulation groups

Join the collective group where all participants will meet. In this group world politics takes place.

and

A specific group in which you were assigned to. In this group policy formation takes place.

Remember: Policy formation and world politics take place in different “virtual rooms”
Join both of them!

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. p. 60
3.4 Follow Instructions

- Introduce yourself, your assigned character and role

Hello [Zdravstvyite, in Russian]. I am Luba Levin-Banchik, PhD candidate and instructor in the department of Political Studies in Bar-Ilan University, Israel, where I teach discussion classes in international relations. I am interested in enduring international conflicts, cooperation between rivals, terrorism and international crises.

In this simulation I represent USSR, the state I was actually born in (of course long time after the Munich crisis). My character is Maxim Letvinov, People’s Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union - (see my profile pic). You can call me TOVARISHCH Foreign Minister Letvinov 😊

Maxim Letvinov was against European policy of appeasement and was an active proponent of collective security and stronger coercive measures against Germany. This might surprise you.

I wish all of us innovative and prejudice-breaking experience!

- Add photos and links for additional information

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. p. 65
3.5 Follow Instructions

- The simulation is based on gradual learning and step-by-step preparations
  - The schedule and rules apply to all
  - Hand in assignments on time
  - Progressively contribute to your team’s debates on policy formation
    - Collect information
    - Exchange ideas
    - Begin discussions on values, goals and policy
    - Provide critique

Ben-Yehuda, Levin-Banchik, and Naveh. 2015. p. 65
Questions for Discussion

- Why are policy formation and world politics conducted in separate rooms?
- What is the difference between individual and collective actor portfolios? Do we need both?
- Why should simulations include media actors?
- Are simulation rules necessary? What rules would you suggest?
- Should simulation rules reflect reality?
Key Concepts

- Actor portfolio
- Collective actor portfolio
- Character biography
- Individual and team assignments
- Simulations website
- Registration form
- Intra-team policy formation
- Inter-team world politics interactions
Relevant Figures and Tables

- Figure 4.1. *Simulation Website*, page 59
- Figure 4.2. *Simulation Page on Facebook*, page 61
- Figure 4.3. *Registration Form*, page 62

- Table 4.3. *Simulation Assignments*, page 55
- Table 4.4. *Setup Instructions for Participants*, page 64

*Available online at book’s website under classroom resources*