Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

Workshop, 3rd term 2018-2019

Organised by Professor Claudius Wagemann, PhD, Goethe University Frankfurt and Professor Dorothee Bohle (EUI)

Dates: 15 and 16 April 2019 at 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Room: Sala del Capitolo, Badia Fiesolana
Credits: 10 credits
Contact: Jennifer.Dari@eui.eu

Please register online

Description

In this workshop, we explore the main principles, functions, and applications of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). QCA has enormously gained in importance over the last years and has become established part of the social science methods canon. It is based on set theory and allows for systematic comparisons which also go beyond small-N settings. It belongs to the methodological family of comparative case studies and focuses on configurative causal patterns, which become manifest through necessary conditions, sufficient conditions, equifinality, and conjunctural causation. Although QCA is a technique in its own right, the knowledge which can be acquired in this course is also useful for conventional and traditional case comparison.

For this course, the following structure is planned:

15 April, morning:	Set calibration, Set relations, Truth tables and truth table analysis
15 April, afternoon:	Consistency and coverage parameters, Limited diversity
16 April, morning:	Pitfalls in the analysis of necessary and sufficient conditions, QCA and research design(s), Multi-value settings, QCA and time
16 April, afternoon:	Applications, Implementation of QCA in R, Prospects and limits of QCA

There are no prerequisites for this course, apart from the readiness to encounter a new way of analyzing data. Note that this is not a computer course on the implementation of QCA studies in R, but serves as an introduction into the main patterns of QCA. Nevertheless, the technical possibilities of the use of the R software will be demonstrated during the last afternoon. No prior knowledge on this is required.

Readings:

For preparation, participants are encouraged to read

Schneider, Carsten Q., and Claudius Wagemann (2012). Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-41.

Furthermore, for the application session, please read

Emmenegger, Patrick (2011). "Job Security Regulations in Western Democracies: A Fuzzy Set Analysis." European Journal of Political Research 50, 3: 336-64 plus online appendix.

Cebotari, Victor, and Maarten P. Vink (2013). "A Configurational Analysis of Ethnic Protest in Europe." International Journal of Comparative Sociology 54, 4: 298-324.