

Veranstaltung im Rahmen der GGG Methodenwoche 2011 17.10. – 20.10.2011

Workshopblock 2

Titel der Veranstaltung:

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Fuzzy Sets

Referentin / Referent:

Claudius Wagemann

Termine:

Mittwoch, 19.10.11 um 13:00 – 17:00 Uhr und
Donnerstag, 20.10.11 um 09:00 – 13:00 Uhr und 14:00 – 18:00 Uhr.

Kurzbeschreibung:

The method of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) is an important addition to standard statistical techniques and case-based comparisons, and contributes new perspectives to the scientific analysis of social phenomena. Being based on set-theoretical thinking, QCA helps researchers to analyze patterns of necessity and sufficiency in causally complex settings. Complexity in this sense refers to equifinal, conjunctural and asymmetric causal relations. Without losing its case-oriented character, QCA serves thus as a systematic and formalized technique of comparison. As a positive side-effect, it also enables the researcher to deal with mid-sized case numbers, allowing for research designs in which the analysis of between 10 and 100 cases is foreseen. Possible applications of QCA can be found in many areas of political science and sociology, but also in psychology, anthropology and even linguistics.

This course is a complete introduction to QCA, understood both as a research design and as an analytical technique. First, the variant of crisp-set QCA (csQCA) is introduced. Although being of more limited use in its application (since all 'variables' have to be dichotomous), the technical procedures for csQCA correspond to every-day thinking. In a subsequent step, the various rules, algorithms, and mathematical operations are then extended to the fuzzy set version (fsQCA) where non-dichotomous data can be analyzed and which has become the standard QCA technique.

No prior technical or mathematical knowledge is needed. Familiarity with methodological questions and comparative methods in general will be helpful. The course will cover most topics of the available methodological literature on QCA and can be regarded as a complete introduction to the state of the art. The main emphasis of the course is on analytical procedures and their application in empirical social science research. Epistemological topics are mentioned and discussed in the beginning and at the end of the course. Some time is reserved for computer applications of QCA and for an introduction to the fsQCA computer program. However, this is not a training course on the use of various software packages, but qualifies the participants for the independent use of them.

Zielgruppe:

Einsteiger & Promovierende aus den Schwesterdisziplinen

ODER

Fortgeschrittene & Promovierende aus der eigenen / naheliegenden Disziplin/en

Vortrags- und Diskussionssprache:

Deutsch

ODER

Englisch

Teilnehmerbegrenzung: 20**Literatur:**

The following literature should be read before the workshop. During the course, more background literature (for after the course will be held) will be presented.

Dirk Berg-Schlusser et al. 2009. Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

as an approach. In Benoit Rihoux and Charles C. Ragin (eds.),

Configurational Comparative Methods. Los Angeles etc.: Sage, 1-18.

Charles C. Ragin. 2008. Redesigning Social Inquiry. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 71-84.

Claudius Wagemann and Carsten Q. Schneider. 2010. Qualitative

Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Fuzzy-Sets: The Agenda for a Research

Approach and a Data Analysis Technique. Comparative Sociology, 9:3,

397-418

Anforderungen:

3 credits: regular participation; short paper (10 - 12 pages; either an own QCA analysis or a methodological critique on QCA as a research approach)

4 credits: regular participation; long paper (20 pages; either an own QCA analysis or a methodological critique on QCA as a research approach; the long paper can be substituted by two shorter papers: one own QCA analysis AND another paper, containing a methodological critique on QCA)

Please bring along your own laptop with installed software!!!