Workshop 2: Qualitative Comparative Analysis in the Social Sciences: An Introduction into Design, Technique , and Software

GGG Methodenwoche 2017 / Week of Methods 2017

17.07. – 20.07.2017

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Referent / Lecturer: Markus B. Siewert

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Termine / Dates:

Montag / Monday (17.07.17)　　　　　14:00 – 17:00

Dienstag / Tuesday (18.07.17)　09:15 – 12:30 & 14:00 – 17:00

Mittwoch / Wednesday (19.07.17)　　09:15 – 12:30 & 14:00 – 17:00

Donnerstag / Thursday (20.07.17)　　09:15 – 12:30 & 14:00 – 17:00

Gemeinsame Mittagspause aller Teilnehmenden am Dienstag, Mittwoch und Donnerstag von 12:30 bis 14:00. / Joint lunch break on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 14:00.

Kurzbeschreibung / Brief description:

The workshop offers a comprehensive and application-oriented introduction into Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) in its main variants, i.e. crisp-set and fuzzy-set QCA (Ragin 2000, 2008; Schneider & Wagemann 2012). Over the last decade, QCA has experienced a rising interest and a steep increase in publications across various subfields of the social sciences such as sociology, political science, business & management research, and policy evaluation studies (Buche & Siewert 2015; Rihoux et al. 2013; Wagemann et al. 2016).

The workshop will focus on aspects of a) research design of QCA as an approach to study social phenomena, b) applying QCA as a technique, and c) how to run a QCA with the software. The workshop starts from basic notions of QCA and its core underpinnings of set-theory, configurational thinking, diversity- and case-orientation. In a next step, we further elaborate on the idea of sets to operationalize concepts (aka calibration) and discuss different strategies for constructing sets from various forms of data. Following this, we will go through the main steps in the analytic protocol of QCA, i.e. checking for necessary and sufficient (combinations of) conditions. In doing so, we will highlight common pitfalls occuring during an analysis, discuss strategies how to deal with them based on both methodological advices and best practices, and lastly summarize some core guidelines for applying QCA. A last segment of the course will concentrate on advanced topics and approaches in QCA such as temporal aspects, counterfactual reasoning, or combining QCA with other approaches. The workshop is interactive and application-oriented. It also gives an introduction into QCA with R/RStudio based on the package QCA/QCAGUI (Dusa 2007, 2016).

Zielgruppe / Target group:

Einsteiger/innen und Fortgeschrittene & Promovierende aus naheliegenden Disziplinen / Beginners and advanced learners

Vortrags- und Diskussionssprache / Language: English

Anzahl Teilnehmende / Number of participants: 12

Literatur / Literature:

Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012). Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis. Cambridge University Press. New York.

Ragin, Charles C. (2008). Redesigning Social Inquiry. Fuzzy Sets and Beyond. Chicago. University of Chicago Press.

Goertz, Gary and James Mahoney (2012). A Tale of Two Cultures: Quantitative and Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Leistungsnachweis / Certificate:

Replication of a study of one's own choice using QCA. Studies can be found, e.g. on http://www.compasss.org/bibdata.htm. The paper (appr. 4.000 words without figures, references etc) is due until 01.09.2017.