

## **“QCA and Case Selection”**

The workshop deals with the dimension of cases and case selection in Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) from different angles. We begin with a discussion of what a case is on a general level and in a specific empirical study. Furthermore, we detail the importance and practice of delineating the population of cases in QCA.

The second part briefly elaborates on the role of ‘case knowledge’ and ‘case orientation’ in QCA before the truth table analysis. While this is a classic issue in the QCA literature, choosing cases on the basis of the results of a truth table analysis is a new topic.

The third section of the workshop deals with has been coined set-theoretic multi-method research (MMR). We first touch on the reasons for doing multi-method research and how it differs from introducing case knowledge before a truth table analysis. Based on this, we develop set-theoretic MMR step by step. We start with crisp-set QCA and move on to fuzzy sets that add a layer of complexity compared to crisp sets. We discuss the different types of cases that are available in set-theoretic MMR and the research goals attached to them, strategies for international single-case and comparative case selection and potential implications of case study insights for the truth table analysis.

## **Topics and Readings**

### Part I

(1) What a case is

Rohlfing, Ingo (2012): Case Studies and Causal Inference: An Integrative Framework. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan: 23-28.

(2) The population in QCA

Ragin, Charles C. (2000): Fuzzy-Set Social Science. Chicago: University of Chicago Press: chap. 2

### Part II

(3) Case knowledge and case orientation in QCA

Rihoux, Benoît and Bojana Lobe (2009): The Case of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA): Adding Leverage for Cross-Case Comparison. Byrne, David and Charles C. Ragin (ed.): The Sage Handbook of Case-Based Methods. Thousand Oaks: Sage: 222-242.

(4) The role of case studies before the truth table analysis

Ragin, Charles C. (1987): *The Comparative Method*. Berkeley: Berkeley University Press: chap. 7

### Part III

(5) Single-case studies for necessity and sufficiency

Schneider, Carsten Q. and Ingo Rohlfing (2013): Combining QCA and Process Tracing in Set-Theoretic Multi-Method Research. *Sociological Methods & Research* 42 (4): 559-597.

*Voluntary:*

Rohlfing, Ingo and Carsten Q. Schneider (2013): Improving Research on Necessary Conditions: Formalized Case Selection for Process Tracing after QCA. *Political Research Quarterly* 66 (1): 220-235.

Ragin, Charles C. and Garrett Andrew Schneider (2011): Case-Oriented Theory Building and Theory Testing. Williams, Malcolm and W. Paul Vogt (ed.): *The Sage Handbook of Innovations in Social Research Methods*. London: Sage: 150-166.

(6) Comparative case studies for sufficiency and necessity

Same as for (5)

(7) Implications of conjunctions and disjunctions for case selection

Schneider, Carsten Q. and Ingo Rohlfing (2017): The role of test severity and conjunctions in set-theoretic multimethod research. typescript.

(8) Concluding discussion

### **About the lecturer**

Prof Ingo Rohlfing, Ph.D. is a Professor for Methods of Comparative Political Research at the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics at the University of Cologne. His research interests are social science methods with an emphasis on case studies, Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), and multimethod research. He works substantively on political parties.