

		The 3 rd International IPSA – HSE Summer School for Methods of Political & Social Research										
		Course Syllabus										
Course title:		Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)										
Instructor:		Dr. Markus B. Siewert										
ECTS / academic hours		2 ECTS / 72 academic hours: 36 contact hours, 36 self – study hours										
Brief course description (up to 100 words):		<p>Qualitative research approaches have experienced major innovations over the last two decades (Goertz and Mahoney 2012; Mahoney 2010) with Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA; Ragin 2008; Ragin and Rihoux 2009; Schneider and Wagemann 2012) being probably the most prominent advancement. Drawing upon set-theory and configurational thinking, QCA enables to analyze social phenomena in terms of set relations. It is especially suited to detect patterns which are conjunctural, equifinal, and asymmetric. As an approach, QCA can be seen as an innovative analytic instrument to conduct cross-case analysis with keeping a strong focus on the underlying cases.</p> <p>This workshop offers a comprehensive introduction into QCA. The main topics of in this workshop will focus on the following three aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. QCA as a set-theoretic approach to study social phenomena;2. state-of-the-art application of key analytic steps to perform a QCA using R/RStudio and relevant QCA packages (Dusa 2018; Medzihorsky et al. 2018)3. nesting case studies and QCA, and further innovative designs. <p>The workshop is highly interactive and application-oriented combining lectures and practical software sessions using example from peer-reviewed journals.</p>										
Indicative concepts (up to 10):		QCA, set-theoretic methods, comparative configurational methods, case-based research, mixed- and multi-method research										
Workshops overview:		<table><tr><td>Day 1</td><td>The workshop starts from basic notions of QCA and its core foundations of set-theory, configurational thinking, diversity- and case-orientation. A short introduction into RStudio complements the theoretical part of the first study session</td></tr><tr><td>Day 2</td><td>Day two concentrates on the idea of sets and the process of operationalizing concepts into sets (so-called calibration). In doing so, we discuss different strategies for constructing sets from various forms of data. The software session will introduce the most relevant strategies of calibration and will provide practical tips concerning checking the calibrated sets.</td></tr><tr><td>Day 3</td><td>Day three centers on the main steps of the analytic protocol, i.e. the analysis of set relations. In doing so, we will highlight common pitfalls which might occur during an analysis and discuss strategies how to deal with them based on both methodological advices and best practices. The software session will enable you to implement the analytic protocol in RStudio, and to perform the main steps of the analysis.</td></tr><tr><td>Day 4</td><td>On day four, we will discuss advanced problems that need to be checked to produce robust findings and high-quality QCA applications. Again, the software session will provide the required knowledge to check for crucial pitfalls throughout the analysis.</td></tr><tr><td>Day 5</td><td>The workshop ends with a presentation of different research designs in QCA (e.g., two-step approach, dealing with hierarchical data), and elaborate strategies for combining QCA</td></tr></table>	Day 1	The workshop starts from basic notions of QCA and its core foundations of set-theory, configurational thinking, diversity- and case-orientation. A short introduction into RStudio complements the theoretical part of the first study session	Day 2	Day two concentrates on the idea of sets and the process of operationalizing concepts into sets (so-called calibration). In doing so, we discuss different strategies for constructing sets from various forms of data. The software session will introduce the most relevant strategies of calibration and will provide practical tips concerning checking the calibrated sets.	Day 3	Day three centers on the main steps of the analytic protocol, i.e. the analysis of set relations. In doing so, we will highlight common pitfalls which might occur during an analysis and discuss strategies how to deal with them based on both methodological advices and best practices. The software session will enable you to implement the analytic protocol in RStudio, and to perform the main steps of the analysis.	Day 4	On day four, we will discuss advanced problems that need to be checked to produce robust findings and high-quality QCA applications. Again, the software session will provide the required knowledge to check for crucial pitfalls throughout the analysis.	Day 5	The workshop ends with a presentation of different research designs in QCA (e.g., two-step approach, dealing with hierarchical data), and elaborate strategies for combining QCA
Day 1	The workshop starts from basic notions of QCA and its core foundations of set-theory, configurational thinking, diversity- and case-orientation. A short introduction into RStudio complements the theoretical part of the first study session											
Day 2	Day two concentrates on the idea of sets and the process of operationalizing concepts into sets (so-called calibration). In doing so, we discuss different strategies for constructing sets from various forms of data. The software session will introduce the most relevant strategies of calibration and will provide practical tips concerning checking the calibrated sets.											
Day 3	Day three centers on the main steps of the analytic protocol, i.e. the analysis of set relations. In doing so, we will highlight common pitfalls which might occur during an analysis and discuss strategies how to deal with them based on both methodological advices and best practices. The software session will enable you to implement the analytic protocol in RStudio, and to perform the main steps of the analysis.											
Day 4	On day four, we will discuss advanced problems that need to be checked to produce robust findings and high-quality QCA applications. Again, the software session will provide the required knowledge to check for crucial pitfalls throughout the analysis.											
Day 5	The workshop ends with a presentation of different research designs in QCA (e.g., two-step approach, dealing with hierarchical data), and elaborate strategies for combining QCA											

		with in-depth case studies using Process Tracing in mixed- and multi-method research. In concluding, the software session will provide the required information to put these designs into practice.
Assessment techniques to receive graded certificate:	In order to receive ECTS points in this course, participants need to replicate an already published QCA study (ideally chosen from their own field of study), and discuss problems and pitfalls with regard to the implementation of the QCA analysis.	
Essential readings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schneider, Carsten Q. & Claudius Wagemann, 2012. <i>Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis</i>. Cambridge University Press: New York. (essential) - Ragin, Charles C., 2008. <i>Redesigning Social Inquiry. Fuzzy Sets and Beyond</i>. University of Chicago Press: Chicago. - Goertz, Gary and James Mahoney, 2012. <i>A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences</i>. Princeton University Press: Princeton. 	
Contacts:	Dr. Markus B. Siewert Goethe University Frankfurt Department of Social Sciences / Institute for Political Science siewert@soz.uni-frankfurt.de	