Qualitative Comparative Analysis in Comparative Politics
"Forschungsprojekt"

22.01.2019

instructor: Prof. Ingo Rohlfing, PhD
office hours: Tuesday, 10.00-12.00; by appointment; open door policy
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first session: 05.04.2019
last session: 12.07.2019
room: Hörsaal Forschungsinstitut, Gottfried-Keller-Str. 6
time: Friday, 10.00-11.30 (see schedule for exceptions)

Please also regularly check the CCCP information on teaching on the internet:
http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/en/public/teaching/

The course introduces participants to the basis, mechanics and application of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) in Comparative Politics. QCA is based on the idea of set relations and can be an alternative to statistics when it comes to the analysis of a medium or large number of cases. The course starts with the foundation of QCA, which are the notion of a 'set' and different sorts of necessary and sufficient relationships between one or multiple sets. You are then taken through all the steps required for performing a QCA:
- the choice of potential causes of an outcome;
- their transformation, called calibration, into sets;
- the transformation of calibrated data into a truth table;
- the simplification of a truth table with an algorithm;
- the interpretation of the results

We will probably use a study by Hinterleitner et al. (2016) for illustration and reproduction. "Reproduction" means we will use the original data and try to produce the same results by rerunning the analysis with *RStudio* (see below).
- Hinterleitner, Markus, Fritz Sager and Thomann Eva (2016): The Politics of External Approval: Explaining the IMF's Evaluation of Austerity Programmes. *European Journal of Political Research* 55 (3): 549-567. http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12142

At the end of the course, participants will have the required basic knowledge for evaluating the quality of published QCA studies and to perform a basic analysis using the software R.

Voluntary reading ahead of course
You can have a look at these two texts if you want to get a better idea of what QCA is.
- General intro to QCA: Marx, Axel, Benoît Rihoux and Charles Ragin (2014): The origins, development, and application of Qualitative Comparative Analysis: The first 25 years.

European Political Science Review 6 (1): 115-142.
http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S1755773912000318
- Summary of main elements of QCA: Thiem, Alrik (2017): Conducting Configurational Comparative Research with Qualitative Comparative Analysis. *American Journal of Evaluation* 38 (3): 420-433. http://doi.org/ 10.1177/1098214016673902
- Intro to QCA, but mainly an intro to QCA using R and the QCA package

Topics and readings
05.04.19
Intro to QCA & basics of set theory I
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: section 1.1, 2, 3.

12.04.19
Basics of set theory II
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chapter 2, 3.
- Setting up RStudio and getting it running for next session

19.04.19: No course (Easter holiday)

26.04.19
Calibration I
- de Block, Debora and Barbara Vis (2018): Addressing the Challenges Related to Transforming Qualitative into Quantitative Data in Qualitative Comparative Analysis. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research* advance access (https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1558689818770061)
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chapter 2, 3.

03.05.19
Calibration II & Necessity I
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: section 1.2.

10.05.19
Necessity II
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: section 3.2, 5.4, 5.5.

17.05.19
Construction of truth table I
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chap. 4, 6, 7.

24.05.19
Construction of truth table II
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chap. 4, 6, 7.

31.05.19
Construction of truth table III
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chap. 8.

07.06.19
Minimization I
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chap. 8.

14.06.18: No course (Pfingstferien)

21.06.18
Minimization II
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chap. 8.

28.06.18
Minimization III
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chap. 5.2, 5.3, 8

05.07.18
Minimization III
- Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012): *Set-theoretic methods for the social sciences. A guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chap. 5.2, 5.3, 8

12.07.18
What makes a good QCA study
- No reading

Course requirements

Prior exposure to QCA and qualitative methods is recommended, but not required. Participants are kindly requested to use their own laptops because we do not have access to a computer lab. It is necessary to install the current free versions of:

- R: https://cran.rstudio.com/
- RStudio: https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/

There are plenty of free instructions on using R and RStudio. You can access two short intros here: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1k3c6xp6wm827ic/AACilF1PkyTBz6NIPB3k8VuBa?dl=0 See also the "Resources" on the RStudio website. More information will be shared at the beginning of the course.

Don't panic if you are not familiar with R or have never before done an analysis by writing code. One goal of the course is to make you used to doing a QCA study based on R code.

Exam and grading

Early during the course, participants are assigned a published QCA study (will be uploaded to ILIAS). The four mid-term assignments (small assignments to be done during the term) concern the following topics:

- review and summary of the chosen study;
- calibration and analysis of necessity;
- generation of truth table;
- minimization of truth table.

Each assignment should be about 5 pages written text plus R code (the code does not count against the page number) that a participant used to reproduce the chosen study. The code template for the reproduction will be made available to participants during the course in relation with the selected empirical study and before assignments are due. The final paper is the comprehensive review and reproduction of another article assigned by me. This paper should have about 10 pages. Each mid-term assignment is returned with comments within one week after the deadline (this is my target; feasibility depends on number of participants).

If a paper is submitted one day late (up 24 hours after the deadline), I will deduct one point you would have gotten if you had submitted the assignment in time. A 1.0 then will be a 1.3, a 1.3 will be a 1.7 and so on. If a paper is submitted two days late (more than 24 hours and up to 48 hours after the deadline), I will deduct two points. I will If you submit more than 48h late, the grade for the assignment is 5.0. The course is passed if the final grade is at least a 4.0. The final grade is determined by weighting the number of points received for each exam (weighting points is the procedure recommended by the administration).

The first four papers are weighted with 15%, the final paper is weighted with 40%. The weights apply to the points received for each assignment, not the grade.

deadline for submission	topic	weight
26.04.2019, 10.00	review and summary	15%

17.05.2019, 10.00	calibration and necessity	15%
07.06.2019, 10.00	truth table generation	15%
12.07.2019, 10.00	minimization	15%
01.09.2019, 10.00	comprehensive review	40%

The recommended style guide for the papers is the following:
- 2.5 cm margin at each side
- Times New Roman
- 12 point font size
- 1.5 line spacing
- References in the reference list should be complete and allow others to look up the text.
- References count into the page number

The assignments should be submitted **as PDFs** by email to me: i.rohlfing@uni-koeln.de. Each paper should incude the "Erklärung zum eigenständigen Arbeiten" (http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/EidesstattlicheErklaerung.pdf) or it should be attached as a separate file to the email.

All exams are graded based on the following scheme.

Points	Grade
18	1.0
17	1.3
16	1.7
15	2.0
14	2.3
13	2.7
12	3.0
11	3.3
10	3.7
9	4.0
8	5.0
7	5.0
6	5.0
5	5.0
4	5.0
3	5.0
2	5.0
1	5.0
0	5.0