

Veranstaltung im Rahmen der GGG Methodenwoche 2015 / Methodological Week 2015

14.09. – 17.09.2015

Titel der Veranstaltung / Title:

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Fuzzy Sets - An Introduction to Set-Theoretic Approaches in the Social Sciences

Referentin / Referent / Lecturer:

Jonas Buche and Markus Siewert

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Termine / Dates:

Montag / *Monday* (14.09.15) 14:00 – 17:00

Dienstag / *Tuesday* (15.09.15) 09:15 – 16:15

Mittwoch / *Wednesday* (16.09.15) 09:15 – 16:15

Donnerstag / *Thursday* (17.09.15) 09:15 – 16:15

Kurzbeschreibung / Brief description:

Since the publication of the seminal work “The Comparative Method” by Charles Ragin in 1987, there has been a rising interest within the social sciences in set-theoretic approaches and methods - especially Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). Set-theoretic methods analyze cases with regard to the identification of necessary and sufficient conditions and assume causal relationships to be equifinal, conjunctural and asymmetric.

The course offers a comprehensive introduction to set theoretical thinking and foremost QCA. It starts off from an overview of the basics of set theory and differentiates QCA as a case oriented method from both the quantitative and the interpretive-qualitative research paradigm. The course is both conceptually and technically oriented. On the one hand, it puts much emphasis on the calibration of sets which deals strongly with concept formation. The participants will learn and utilize different strategies to calibrate sets. On the other hand, the course teaches the technical part of QCA. Through the analytical tool of truth tables necessary and sufficient conditions can be detected. Here, the course teaches the basic components and steps behind the so-called Truth Table Algorithm. The participants will operate the algorithm both by hand and by the software tool fsQCA 2.5. However, this algorithm is not free of problems. Therefore, some pitfalls and strategies how to deal with them in applications are presented.

Zielgruppe / Target group:

Einsteiger/innen & Promovierende aus naheliegenden Disziplinen / *Beginners*

ODER /OR

Fortgeschrittene & Promovierende aus naheliegenden Disziplinen / *Advanced learner*

Vortrags- und Diskussionsprache / Language:

Deutsch

ODER / OR

English

Anzahl Teilnehmende / Number of participants: 12

Literatur / Literature:

Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann. 2012. Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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

Leistungsnachweis / Certificate:

Methodological discussion and review of a published journal article applying QCA. Partly replicating the study.