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International Workshop on Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

8 October, 2018 (Monday)

Waseda University, Building No. 3, 10th floor, Conference Room No.1

Sponsored / Supported by Top Global University project, Center for Positive/Empirical Analysis of Political Economy, Waseda University, Faculty of Political Science and Economics, COMPASSS (COMPARative Methods for Systematic cross-caSe analysis)

10:30-12:00 Keynote Lecture – by Prof. Benoît Rihoux (UCLouvain, Belgium)

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA): bridging case-based knowledge, formal logics and systematic comparison

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) was initiated back in the late 1980s by Charles C. Ragin and has been gaining traction across social sciences (broadly defined) especially during the last 10 years. The purpose of this lecture is to introduce QCA first as a research approach: both “configurational comparative” (i.e. focusing on complex patterns and enabling comparison across multiple cases) and “set theoretic” (i.e. relying on set-theoretic thinking and using set-theoretic operations to rigorously uncover complex [causal] patterns in terms of necessity and sufficiency). QCA is then further introduced as a group of developing techniques: the three main existing techniques (crisp-set, multi-value and fuzzy-set QCA, each with pro’s and con’s) as well as several recent extensions. Next, the main generic steps of a QCA empirical application are presented in short, as well as several ways one may exploit QCA besides theory-testing. Finally, the main QCA ‘good practices’ are discussed, as well as a few current debates surrounding QCA.

12:00-13:00 Lunch break (sandwiches and snacks are served)

13:00-14:00 Workshop – by Prof. Benoît Rihoux (UCLouvain, Belgium)

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA): current innovation fronts

The field of QCA has been characterized by multiple quick developments and innovations over the last few years – it is in fact difficult to keep track of all of them. The purpose of this lecture is to provide a bird’s eye view of the main current innovation fronts. These include: (1) technical refinements in the QCA procedure, in particular in fsQCA, including calibration procedures, the QCA protocol itself, robustness tests, etc.; (2) new variants of QCA, e.g. tQCA and new developments around ‘two-step’ QCA and around multilevel/nested QCA; (3) protocols for processing rich qualitative data for QCA; (4) the development of close (e.g. CNA) or less close neighboring techniques (e.g. NCA and others); (5) the insertion of QCA in ‘mixed’ or ‘multi-method’ designs; (6) the application of QCA to (very) small N and large N data; (7) new forms of visualization; (8) the extension of QCA to new fields & disciplines (e.g. medical research, monitoring/evaluation, ...). This feeds a few critical reflections on the promises and risks in this whole enterprise of further developing QCA.

14:00-14:30 Coffee / tea break

14:30-16:30 Presentations

Recent Developments and Practices of QCA

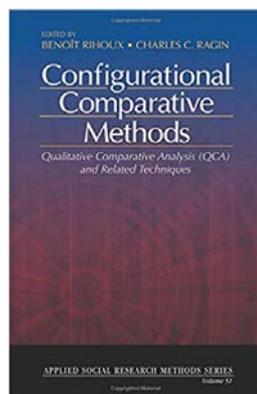
Chair: Airo Hino (Waseda University)

- Yuko Kasuya (Keio University), Elena Korshenko (Freie Universität Berlin), Jaemin Shim (German Institute of Global and Area Studies), "Conditions of Successful Communist Movements in Asia: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis"
- Sho Niikawa (Sophia University), "Explaining case(s) and finding pathways of oversized coalitions: A practice of multi-value QCA"
- Keisuke Saito (Okayama University), "Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Method Controversy in the Social Sciences"

Discussants: Prof. Benoît Rihoux, Taisuke Fujita (Nagasaki University), Atsushi Ishida (Kwansei Gakuin University)

Bio of Prof. Benoît Rihoux

Benoît Rihoux is full professor in political science at UCLouvain (Belgium), where he chairs the CESPOL (Centre for political science and comparative politics), a dynamic research centre with 25+ funded PhD & postdoctoral researchers. He is internationally recognized as a leader in the field of comparative methods and designs, in particular around Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). He is coordinator of the worldwide network in the field (COMPASSS – <http://www.compass.org>) gathering around 2.000 researchers and practitioners. He has produced multiple reference publications on QCA, is co-editor of the most-cited textbook on the topic (Rihoux and Ragin 2009: 1.500+ citations) and is a prominent player at the international level in the field of methods development and training for political scientists (joint academic convener of the ECPR Methods School). He is involved in funded research projects around his own topics of specialization (political parties & behavior, social movements, organizational change) as well as in interdisciplinary projects (including management, health studies and medicine) involving QCA and multi-method designs. He has produced more than 200 publications (5.000+ citations), including more than 30 articles in international peer-reviewed journals. Two of his co-edited books have been translated from English to Japanese and Chinese. He currently (co-)supervises 6 PhD researchers and 3 post-doctoral researchers. Contact: benoit.rihoux@uclouvain.be



No registration required

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