Here is a quick digest of main recent complements on the COMPASSS resource site—for more detailed information, see respective sections of the COMPASSS site at:

http://www.compasss.org

Inside this issue:

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**PUBLICATIONS**

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  Introduction. Beyond the `Quantitative-Qualitative` Divide: Innovative Comparative Methods for Policy Analysis
  Benoît Rihoux and Heike Grimm

- **Chapter 2**
  The Limitations of Net-Effects Thinking
  Charles Ragin

- **Chapter 3**
  A Question of Size? A Heuristics for Stepwise Comparative Research Design
  David Levi-Faur

- **Chapter 4**
  MSDO/MDSO Revisited for Public Policy Analysis
  Gisèle De Meur, Peter Bursens and Alain Gottcheiner

- **Chapter 5**
  Beyond Methodological Tenets. The Worlds of QCA and SNA and their Benefits to Policy Analysis
  Sakura Yamasaki and Astrid Spreitzer

- **Chapter 6**
  Entrepreneurship Policy and Regional (Continued on page 3)

**COMPASSS ACTIVITIES**

Next COMPASSS Seminar:

**A Comparative Analysis of Gender Inequality How Welfare States Shape the Gender Pay Gap: a Class Perspective**

February 24, 2006, Louvain la Neuve, Belgium. Universite catholique de Louvain, Leclercq Building, Room LECL093, 14h-16h.

Guest speakers: Michael SHALEV and Hadas MANDEL, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Abstract: We study differences in gender wage inequality across OECD countries (Continued on page 2)
and how they are affected by welfare state characteristics. A class perspective on gender inequality assumes that gender stratification is nested within the class structure. Accordingly, we decompose national gender wage gaps into their class and gender components. We also differentiate the impact of welfare states between their effects on class inequality and gender inequality. This makes for a series of hypotheses suggesting how different components of the gender wage gap are likely to vary across different welfare regimes. Support for these hypotheses is sought by comparing gender gaps in 17 countries, using original indicators generated from national micro-datasets. Classes are operationalized both as income quintiles and occupational groupings. The results broadly support our expectations, and they sharpen understanding of the differences between the Liberal and Socialist welfare regimes. Social democracy massively brings women into the labor market and broadly supports their earnings position by narrowing overall earnings differentials. But it also appears to hamper the upward mobility of advantaged women.

Registration is free but compulsory. Please send an email to Regis DANDOY
dandoy@spri.ucl.ac.be

Adrian DUSA, a researcher at the Bucharest University, has developed a QCA package for R.

Further information (code, for example) is available on the software page of the COMPASSS website.

The author can be contacted at: adi@roda.ro

TOSMANA newsgroup and a resource page where TOSMANA-related papers are available for download.

QCA in R

R is a free software environment for statistical computing and graphics. http://www.r-project.org/

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENTS

TOSMANA

New version of TOSMANA 1.25 (January 2006) to be downloaded.

The new version has upgraded the Boolean calculator function and the MDSO-MSDO calculator, among other improvements.

New features on Tosmana's website (www.tosmana.org): a Q&A page, a

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE

DATABASE UPDATED

The COMPASSS Small N bibliographical database has been updated.

As indicative number, the database now offers:

- More than 130 references on fuzzy sets
- About 300 references on comparative methods in general
- About 400 references on small N discussion
- Many other references on other small N techniques, Boolean algebra, MDSO/MSDO techniques, etc.

This database is constantly enriched by the community’s information circulation.

Please send any missing references to Ms Anouk LLOREN:
lloren@spri.ucl.ac.be

Thank you.
PUBLICATIONS (continued from page 1)

Economic Growth. Exploring the Link and Theoretical Impli-
cations
Heike Grimm
Chapter 7
Determining the Conditions of HIV/AIDS Prevalence in Sub-
Saharan Africa. Employing New Tools of Macro-
Qualitative Analysis
Lasse Cronqvist and Dirk Berg-Schlosser
Chapter 8
Diversity, Ideal Types and Fuzzy Sets in Comparative Wel-
fare State Research
Jon Kvist
Chapter 9
Scenario-Building Methods as a Tool for Policy Analysis
António Brandão Moniz
Chapter 10
A New Method for Policy Evaluation? Longstanding Chal-
lenges and the Possibilities of Qualitative Comparative
Analysis (QCA)
Frédéric Varone, Benoît Rihoux and Axel Marx
Chapter 11
Social Sustainability of Community Structures: A Systematic
Comparative Analysis within the Oulu Region in Northern
Finland
Pentti Luoma
Chapter 12
QCA as a Tool for Realistic Evaluations. The Case of the
Swiss Environmental Impact Assessment
Barbara Befani and Fritz Sager
Chapter 13
Conclusion. Innovative Comparative Methods for Policy
Analysis: Milestones to Bridge Different Worlds
Benoît Rihoux and Heike Grimm

Gary GOERTZ
“Social science concepts. A user’s guide”
Princeton University Press

Concepts lie at the core of social science theory and methodology. They pro-
vide substance to theories; they form the basis of measurement; they influ-
ence the selection of cases. Social Science Concepts: A Users Guide explores
alternative means of concept construction and their impact on the role of con-
cepts in measurement, case selection, and theories.

While there exists a plethora of books on measurement, scaling, and the like,
there are virtually no books devoted to the construction and analysis of con-
cepts and their role in the research enterprise. Social Science Concepts: A
Users Guide provides detailed and practical advice on the construction and
use of social science concepts; a Web site provides classroom exercises.

More information on these new publications and order forms at:
http://www.compasss.org/Publications.htm
TRAININGS

Marburg QCA Spring course (in German)
29-31 March 2006, Marburg, Germany
The course on QCA and MVQCA will offer an introduction to the methodological aspects of (MV-)QCA and present various application of the methods, followed by a presentation of current software for QCA analysis.
Instructors: Prof. Dirk Berg-Schlosser and Lasse Cronqvist (both Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany).
More information (in German) can be found on http://marburg2006.tosmana.net

Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis
University of Essex
Systematic Qualitative Comparative Methods - Introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA and Multi-Value QCA), and Fuzzy Sets
23 July - 4 August 2006, Essex, UK
Instructors: Dirk Berg-Schlosser and Lasse Cronqvist
Applications must reach summer school office by May 2, 2006.
More information at: http://www.essex.ac.uk/methods/Courses06/2K06.htm

ECPR Summer School in methods and techniques
7-18 August 2006, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Courses of special interests for comparativists:
- Systematic comparative methods (Profs. B. Rihoux & D. Berg-Schlosser)
- Comparative historical analysis and case study design (Prof. J. Gerring)
- Cross-national survey design and analysis (Prof. B. Cautrès)
Application deadline: May 2, 2006
More information on these courses (and others) may be found at:
http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/events/summerschools/ljubljana/courses.aspx

MEETINGS

"Methodology matters"
Workshop at the Dutch/Flemish Politicogenetmaal
CALL FOR PAPERS:
We look forward to receiving two kinds of paper proposals. First, proposals with a "pure" methodological focus, such as cross-validation of methods or strength and weaknesses of particular techniques. Second, we invite proposals with practical applications of one or multiple methodological perspectives, for instance an analysis of welfare state change using classical regression analysis and fuzzy sets or a formal modeling approach to examine the impact of the European Parliament in decision-making in the European Union.
Deadline for paper proposal submission: Friday, 3 March 2006. Send your proposals to ce.netjes@fsw.vu.nl and b.vis@fsw.vu.nl. Final papers are to be sent by 28 April 2006.
Registration to the conference is compulsory. Please visit http://www.politicologie.nl for more information.
For any further questions, please send an email to: Barbara Vis (b.vis@fsw.vu.nl) or Catherine Netjes (ce.netjes@fsw.vu.nl).
(Continued on page 5)
MEETINGS (continued)

International conference on comparative social science
15-16 July 2006, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan

CALL FOR PAPERS (REMINDER):

While comparative social sciences have long enjoyed a tradition of insightful work, in recent years, a set of methodological innovations, including qualitative comparative analysis and a fuzzy-set approach, has introduced new stimuli. At the same time, with the phenomenon of globalization, cross-national comparative work increasingly faces the age-old problem of the unit of comparison. Future development of comparative social sciences, which continue to be among the most exciting and hotly debated academic sites, lies in a fruitful exchange between methodological innovations and new conceptualization of the phenomena under investigation.

In this conference, scholars, researchers and students gather from diverse comparative disciplines to discuss innovative methods and stimulating substantive work. We believe such exchange should help us renew our interest in comparative research and guide us to further research activities that will in the future bring intellectual stimulation and innovation, as well as solutions to substantive problems.

Sociology, Political Science, History, and all other areas of social sciences are invited. Graduate students as well as experienced scholars and researchers are encouraged to apply.

Papers discussed in the conference will include:

Comparative Procedures:
* Principles and Methods of Comparison
* Innovation/Application of Comparative Techniques and Procedures

Substantive/Empirical Comparative Work:
* Cross-National, Cross-Regional Work
* Case Study
* Comparison of the Case across Time

More information on submission process at:
http://www.geocities.jp/comparativesciences/top.html

Deadlines: Feb. 15 for application to financial assistance and May 15 otherwise.

WORKING PAPERS

Six new working papers:
WP2005-32 [Posted on 07-July-2005]
Caty CLEMENT (Harvard University)
"The Nuts and Bolts of State Collapse: Common Causes and Different Patterns? A QCA Analysis of Lebanon, Somalia and the former-Yugoslavia"

WP2005-33 [Posted on 29-Aug-2005]
Frank M. HAGE (Leiden University)
"Constructivism, Fuzzy Sets and (Very) Small-N: Revisiting the Conditions for Communicative Action"

WP2005-34 [Posted on 12-Oct-2005]
Svend-Erik SKAANING (University of Aarhus)
"Respect for Civil Liberties in Post-Communist Countries: A Multi-Methodological Test of Structural Explanations"

WP2005-35 [Posted on 7-Nov-2005]
Carsten Q. SCHNEIDER (CEU Budapest) and Claudius WAGEMANN (EUI Florence)
"Reducing Complexity in Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA): Remote and Proximate Factors and the Consolidation of Democracy"

(Continued on page 6)
COMPASSS is a research group bringing together scholars and practitioners who share a common interest in theoretical, methodological and practical advancements in a **systematic comparative case approach** to research which stresses the use of a configurational logic, the existence of multiple causality and the importance of a careful construction of research populations.

This site is open to all, regardless of disciplinary affiliation. Indeed, one key goal of this site is to bring together researchers and practitioners from a **broad range of disciplines** (political science, sociology, anthropology, economics, law, history, social work, demography, marriage and family therapy, criminology, psychology, education science, etc...).

WORKING PAPERS (continued)

WP2006-36 [Posted on 27-Jan-2006]
**Gregory JACKSON** (King’s College London, and Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI))
"Employee Representation in the Board Compared: A Fuzzy Sets Analysis of Corporate Governance, Unionism, and Political Institutions"

WP2006-37 [Posted on 30-Jan-2006]
**James MAHONEY** (Northwestern University) and **Gary GORTZ** (Arizona University)
"A tale of two cultures: contrasting quantitative and qualitative research"

Please send your papers to Profs **Gisele DE MEUR** and **Charles RAGIN**.

NEW USEFUL LINKS

http://www.compasss.org/UsefulLinks.htm

Link added to the **APES (Actor Process Event Scheme)** project and software, developed by Uwe Serdült, Chantal Vögeli, Christian Hirschi and Thomas Widmer. APES is a web-based software tool allowing the use of qualitative case study data for a systematic comparative assessment of policy processes.