

# COMPASSS NEWSLETTER

## Nr.33 (10th of January 2014)

COMPARative Methods for  
Systematic cross-caSe analySis

<http://www.compassss.org>

### **Main items:**

1. QCA training
2. New COMPASSS working papers – and change of Managing Editor
3. Events and calls for papers
4. Two job opportunities (post-doc & doc)
5. Software news
6. Looking back: 2013 QCA facts & figures

### **--1. QCA training**

See: <http://www.compassss.org/training.htm>

In chronological order:

- University of Vienna (Austria), 17-21 Feb 2014 (ECPR Winter School): **Comparative Research Designs (incl. introduction to QCA)**, Benoît Rihoux [**this course is now fully booked**]
- University of Vienna (Austria), 17-21 Feb 2014 (ECPR Winter School): **Advanced Multi-method Research: Techniques and Practice (incl. QCA)**, Ingo Rohlfing [**a few seats still available; deadline for registrations 14 Jan**]
- University of Vienna (Austria), 17-21 Feb 2014 (ECPR Winter School): **Advanced Topics in Set-Theoretic Methods and QCA**, Carsten Schneider [**a few seats still available; deadline for registrations 14 Jan**]
- Utrecht (the Netherlands), 8-11 April 2014: **Configurational Comparative Approaches in Public Administration and Political Science: Boolean and Fuzzy-Set Analysis**, Barbara Vis & Maarten Vink
- Singapore, 30 June – 11 July 2014 (IPSA-NUS Summer School): **Qualitative Comparative Analysis**, Dirk Berg-Schlosser

- University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), 28 July – 8 Aug 2014 (ECPR Summer School): **Set-Theoretic Methods: Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Related Approaches**, Patrick A. Mello & Carsten Schneider

## --2. New COMPASSS working papers – and change of Managing Editor

See: <http://www.compass.org/wpseries.htm>

Three new Working Papers have been recently published:

- Haesebrouck, Tim. 2013. "**The Added Value of Multi-Value QCA: Response to Vink & van Vliet and Thiem**". *COMPASSS WP Series* 2013-74. Published online 3 December 2013.
- Hanley, Séan and Allan Sikk. 2013. "**Economy, Corruption or Promiscuous Voters? Explaining the Success of Anti-Establishment Reform Parties in Eastern Europe**". *COMPASSS WP Series* 2013-75. Published online 18 December 2013.
- Garcia-Castro, Roberto and Miguel A. Arino. 2013. "**A General Approach to Panel Data Set-Theoretic Research**". *COMPASSS WP Series* 2013-76. Published online 30 December 2013.

The WP series has gained a nice 'cruising speed' with 5 WPs published in 2013 and 4 more currently under review. So far no fewer than 76 WPs have been published. We are very grateful to Maarten Vink who has been the WP series Managing Editor from 2009 onwards and has brought the series to high academic standards both in terms of content and reviewing procedure. This editorship role will now be taken over by Claude Rubinson (University of Houston-Downtown). If you would like to publish in the COMPASSS WP Series, please send your paper by e-mail to the new Managing Editor (full instructions through the URL above).

## --3. Events and calls for papers

See: <http://www.compass.org/events.htm>

In chronological order [*NB some approaching deadlines for paper proposals*]:

- Rotterdam (Netherlands), 3-5 July 2014: 30<sup>th</sup> EGOS Colloquium: subtheme on **The Challenge of Configuration: Bridging Perspectives and Methodologies** [deadline for submission of short paper: **13 Jan 2014**]
- Montreal (Canada), 19-24 July 2014: 23<sup>rd</sup> IPSA World Congress: panel on **Combining Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Case Studies in Mixed-Methods Designs** [deadline for submission of abstract/paper has passed]
- Washington D.C. (USA), 28-31 Aug 2014: APSA 2014 Annual Meeting, **APSA Organized Section on Qualitative Methods and Multi-Method Research** [deadline for submission of abstract/paper has passed]

## --4. Two job opportunities (post-doc & doc)

See: <http://www.compass.org/index.htm> (news item, 9 Jan 2014)

Applications are invited for a **full-time 4-year post-doc position** in the context of an interdisciplinary project on Boolean and set-theoretic causal data analysis hosted at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Geneva, Switzerland. The project, which is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, focuses on methodological questions and problems in the area of set-theoretic data analysis, which is currently dominated by the method of /Qualitative Comparative Analysis/ (QCA). In particular, the project aims to bring /Coincidence Analysis /CNA)---a close relative of QCA---from the methodological drawing board to effective, flexible, theoretically grounded, and computer-assisted applicability in real-life contexts of causal discovery.

The ideal candidate has a completed PhD on questions related to causal data analysis, preferably with a background in a scientific discipline using Boolean methods, for instance, social/political sciences or biology. Publications in international journals are a plus. French language skills are not necessary, while an excellent command of English is imperative. The ideal starting date for the position is March 1, 2014. A later date might be possible (this should be explicitly requested in the application).

The gross salary for this position is between CHF 75'000 and CHF 79'000 per year. The successful candidate will be encouraged to integrate her/his ongoing research into the context of this project and to seek collaborations in her/his home discipline at the University of Geneva. The project will be directed by Prof. Michael Baumgartner. Additional group members will include a PhD student as well as a software engineer.

Applications should be sent by e-mail and should include a letter explaining the candidate's interest in the position, a detailed CV (including the names of three people that may be contacted for references), copies of relevant certificates and diplomas, a list of publications and one article- or chapter-length writing sample. Applications & inquiries: by e-mail only to Prof. Michael Baumgartner ([mbaumgartner@uni-osnabrueck.de](mailto:mbaumgartner@uni-osnabrueck.de)). [**Deadline for applications: January 25**]

Within the same project, applications are also invited for a **3-year (+ 1 year) PhD position** in the philosophy of causation. More details through the COMPASSS URL above.

## --5. Software news

See: <http://www.compass.org/software.htm>

- New software version: **QCA 1.1-1** has been released, which fixes some minor bugs of version 1.1-0 and offers a massive increase in computation speed for indentifying extreme causal ambiguities.
- The popular **Tosmana** software developed by Lasse Cronqvist will not be maintained any longer. However the software remains available through the COMPASSS site and can still be operated. The COMPASSS board would like to thank Lasse for the great service he has done to the QCA community by having developed mvQCA and **Tosmana**.

## --6. Looking back: 2013 QCA facts and figures

Information compiled by Alrik Thiem:

2013 has been the most active year so far in terms of QCA development, dissemination and applications. In October and November 2013, more than 100 scholars and researchers from various disciplines gathered in Zürich and Frankfurt for two dedicated conferences on QCA.

And in terms of publications:

- in 2013, there have been 99 peer-reviewed QCA-related journal articles, more than twice as much as in 2012 (45 articles)
- of these 99 articles, 27 have dealt with methodological aspects of QCA, as many as there have been in the past four years together
- of these 99 articles, 16 have sought to introduce QCA to their respective research area (agenda articles), as many as there have been in the past nine years together

On behalf of the whole COMPASSS Management Team (see composition at: <http://www.compass.org/people.htm>),

Prof. Benoît Rihoux