

# **AQCA2022: First Annual QCA Conference of the Americas**

**April 6–8, 2022**

**University of Houston-Downtown**

**Houston, Texas**

<http://compasss.org/aqca/>

[@AQCAconf](#)

## **Call for Abstracts**

In recent years, many research fields have seen a growing interest in understanding causally complex phenomena in a configurational and comparative manner, particularly by means of set-analytic approaches such as Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and related methods. However, until now there has existed no venue in the Americas that brings together the diverse set of researchers and practitioners working with configurational methods and approaches.

In creating the *Annual QCA Conference of the Americas* (AQCA), we aim to provide such a venue for the broad, cross-disciplinary community of QCA empirical researchers and methodologists, offering the opportunity to gather together to present and receive feedback on current research projects, share theoretical and methodological developments, and discuss new directions in research practices. Our goal is to create a supportive environment for the community to meet, engage in dialogue, network, learn, and collectively move forward on advancing the configurational perspective.

We intend AQCA to be a broad-tent, inclusive, and diverse venue that is open to everyone interested in learning about and advancing the configurational-comparative agenda. We welcome contributions from all theoretical traditions and fields and encourage theoretical, empirical, and methodological contributions that aim to capture configurational and causally complex phenomena. We are especially interested in empirical applications of QCA from applied researchers and scholars working outside of the traditional QCA strongholds of sociology, political science, and management, including but not limited to fields such as anthropology, education, environmental studies, information systems, medicine, health policy, policy monitoring and evaluation, tourism, and others.

AQCA will be a face-to-face conference with hybrid elements allowing remote audience participation. While we ask presenters to attend in person, the keynotes, paper presentations, and panel discussions will be live-streamed with remote attendees able to participate in the Q&A. Afternoon roundtables and workshop discussions will focus on in-person participants to facilitate engagement and community building. Given the continuing uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, we are prepared to move fully online if necessary.

Please visit the conference website at <https://compasss.org/aqca> for further information and updates.

With this call, we are soliciting paper and poster presentations of empirical applications as well as theoretical and methodological work advancing the configurational perspective. The general theme of ACQA is: *How does the configurational perspective generate novel insights into causally complex phenomena?* With this broad umbrella in mind, some possible topics we are eager to explore include but are not limited to the following:

- What are the latest developments in configurational analysis, both theoretically and methodologically? How can we best move forward the knowledge frontier in configurational analysis?
- What are differences in how QCA has been used across disciplines and fields? What novel insights might this generate about our ability to understand configurational phenomena?
- What are some of the key challenges for practitioners in applying the configurational-comparative lens? What developments would advance the use of configurational and comparative methods for applied fields?
- How do our current theories need to be adapted to better incorporate a configurational-comparative perspective? What changes in our thinking and theorizing does this require?
- How can configurational and comparative methods be fruitfully combined with other methods, including correlational and qualitative approaches? What are the tradeoffs and what synergies might be created?

Regardless of your field or topic, if you use QCA and/or other configurational methods or if you are considering using them, then ACQA is for you. Whether your work is empirical, methodological, or theoretical; whether you are a seasoned practitioner or have just discovered QCA, we hope that you will join us for three days of lively discussions, debates, community building, and learning.

### **Submission Guidelines**

We invite participants to submit an abstract of 250–500 words by January 31, 2022, at <https://conferencebit.com/qca-conference-of-the-americas-2022/>. Submissions may be accepted as a paper presentation, assigned for discussion at a roundtable, or admitted into the juried poster session. All participants in the juried poster session will receive individual feedback from one or more seasoned QCA scholars.

### **About the Organizers**

**Peer Fiss** is the Jill and Frank Fertitta Chair and Professor of Management & Organization and Sociology at the University of Southern California. He has been working for two decades on the use of set-analytic methods in the social sciences, and specifically on the use of fuzzy set QCA. He has published widely in fields such as management, sociology, political science, and information systems.

**Gary Goertz** is professor at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author or co-author of nine books and over 50 articles and chapters on issues of international conflict and peace, institutions, and methodology. A major focus is research on international conflict, conflict management, and peace.

**Claude Rubinson** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Houston–Downtown, where he teaches courses on research methods, social inequality, and culture. He is co-director of COMPASSS, the international, interuniversity consortium of QCA methodologists and practitioners, regularly offers QCA training at conference workshops and invited seminars throughout the year and has provided QCA consulting for national and international organizations including USAID, the CDC, and the World Bank.