



It's almost time!
5th Annual QCA
Conference of the
Americas (AQCA 2026)
heads to the University
of Cincinnati on March
18–20

Cincinnati has always been a city of convergence. In the 19th century, it was known as "the Queen of the West," a vital crossroads where North met South, where steamboats from the Mississippi connected with roads heading into the frontier, and where multiple cultures—German, Irish, English—wove together into something distinctly American. The Ohio River that flows past downtown once served as the dividing line between freedom and slavery, making Cincinnati a crucial stop on the Underground Railroad where freedom seekers crossed from bondage to liberty. This history of confluence and transformation resonates deeply with the configurational perspective that brings us together.

Building on the success of our first four conferences—from Houston to Los Angeles to Chicago to Baton Rouge—AQCA2026 will once again bring together our growing, cross-disciplinary community of scholars and practitioners using and developing QCA and related configurational methods. Whether you're examining how multiple conditions combine to produce outcomes, exploring equifinality, or wrestling with issues of necessity and sufficiency, AQCA2026 will offer kindred spirits and rigorous-yet-friendly feedback in Cincinnati.

Whether you're a seasoned practitioner or newly exploring configurational approaches, AQCA offers three days of lively discussion, learning, and the kind of community building that has become our conference's hallmark. And yes—there will be ample opportunities for socializing during coffee breaks, happy hours, and meals. (We hear Cincinnati's chili is... distinctive.)

We look forward to seeing you in Cincinnati—at the crossroads!

Joanna, Claude, Gary, and Peer

[More...](#)



13th European QCA Conference (EQCA) 2025 in Kraków, Poland

Last December, the event formerly known as the International QCA Paper Development Workshops took place as the 13th European QCA Conference (EQCA 2025) in the beautiful and welcoming city of Kraków, Poland. Following the so called “French rule” that occasionally guides our conference locations, the organizing team brought the event eastward – with great success and warm spirits despite the cold, and the – very – early sundown.

As always, EQCA aimed to bring together researchers from all disciplines interested in configurational and comparative methods. The event sparked lively debates, new collaborations, and maybe even a few “aha!” moments about configurational thinking.

EQCA 2025 was structured around two main components: the Paper Development Workshop (PDW) and the Expert Workshop (EW). While formally separate, both parts blended seamlessly and created a dynamic exchange between scholars experienced in configurational methods and emerging researchers.

Proceedings kicked off with a warm welcome and an inspiring plenary session titled “Developing a configural mindset: Insights from theory and practice” by Joanna Campbell and Peer Fiss, followed by Claude Rubinson’s much-appreciated presentation on his new software for producing publication-ready Fiss configuration charts.

The Paper Development Workshop featured 30 paper presentations, each discussed in small groups with dedicated expert feedback. While one set of participants gathered around roundtables, the others ventured into open discussions with senior scholars in the Expert Corner – proving that QCA thrives on dialogue, not just configurations!

After a productive first day, the academic discussions naturally evolved into cultural ones – during a guided evening tour of Kraków’s Old Town, beautifully led by Esther Staes, ending in a lively dinner on the Market Square. Between traditional polish dishes, laughter and music, participants could finally relax their configural minds.

The second day brought roundtable debates on community development, mixed-method designs and other future-facing QCA topics, and the announcement of new QCA community initiatives presented by COMPASSS and other associations. The Best Paper Award was awarded to Yves Boulmer (Norwegian Business School) for the paper “Do Property Rights Matter? A Configurational Approach to Public Funding of Research and Innovation Projects.” The joint plenary, moderated by Eva Thomann, in which Carsten Schneider introduced his book *Set-Theoretic Multi-Method Research*—and bravely faced his critics in a hybrid format!—marked the close of the PDW and the opening of the Expert Workshop.



The Expert Workshops featured four thematic sessions: Concepts and Foundations, Improvements and Advancements, QCA and Other Methods, and Prediction, Explanation and Representation. Highlights included compelling presentations by Peer Fiss and Joanna Campbell (“Tackling the Complexity Challenge: When and How to Engage in Configurational and Hybrid Theorizing”), Michael Baumgartner (“Introducing Causal Hypergraphs”), Madeleine Meurer (“BigQCA: integrating data-driven and theory-driven configurational approaches”), and Bin Chen (“Does Accountability Matter in Collaborative Governance and How? Insights from A Necessary Condition Analysis and Generalized Analytic Induction”). There was even a sneak peek at a new software demo by Adrian Dusa - because, as we know, QCA never sleeps.

The final evening offered one last treat: a guided tour that concluded on a boat dinner cruise along the Vistula River, where lively discussions mixed with traditional Polish Christmas delicacies, city lights and laughter.

One thing is certain: wherever EQCA 2026 lands, sharp debates, innovative methods, and a friendly atmosphere await once again.

Anna Stawik, Seweryn Krupnik,
Aleksandra Rudawska and Esther Staes
EQCA 2025 Organizing Committee



Save the date!
14th European QCA
Conference (EQCA)
2026 in Rotterdam,
The Netherlands

The European QCA conference 2026 will take place between December 7th and December 9th 2026 at the Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

The conference will feature a paper-development workshop for researchers working with QCA, presentations and discussions around methodological advancements, and will also be open to papers using QCA in diverse fields such as comparative urbanism and digitalization and societal change.

EQCA2026 is co-hosted by the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) and the Rotterdam School of Management (RSM).

Looking forward to welcoming you all there!

Your hosts,

Lasse Gerrits (IHS) and Madeleine Meuer (RSM)



COMPASSS Updates

Claude Rubinson (University of Houston-Downtown) has decided to resign as director of COMPASSS and to hand over to a new leader. He officially handed over at the COMPASSS steering committee meeting at the EQCA in Krakow in December 2025.

Over the past many years, Claude has devoted enormous energy and commitment to developing and maintaining COMPASSS. COMPASSS would not exist without him. We cannot thank you enough for that, Claude! We celebrated Claude's achievements together at the EQCA dinner in Krakow. last December.

Claude will continue to support COMPASSS as a member of the Advisory Board.

Julia Bartosch (Radboud University) took over as director of COMPASSS in December 2025.

If you have any news, events or other announcements of interest to the QCA community, please email Julia at julia.bartosch@ru.nl.

Please note that COMPASSS now has a [LinkedIn_group](#) where you can share news, training, etc.

If you aren't a member yet, please join!



COMPASSS - Community for set-theoretic methods for cross case analysis (QCA; EQCA; AQCA)

