COMPASSS NEWSLETTER
Nr.28 (26th of October 2012)

COMPArative Methods for

Systematic cross-caSe analySis

http://www.compasss.org

Main items:

1. Call for papers, first "QCA expert seminar", Louvain-la-Neuve, 3 December 2012

2. New books out of press

3. New software versions

4. QCA in marketing research

5. Award-winning Ph.D. dissertation

6. Two courses at the ECPR Winter School (17-22 February 2013)

--1. Call for papers, first "QCA expert seminar", Louvain-la-Neuve, 3 December 2012

See: http://www.compasss.org/events.htm

The COMPASSS Management Team, along with a few COMPASSS core partners, has decided to launch a "QCA expert seminars" series. The QCA expert seminars are jointly organized by a host institution and COMPASSS. They provide a locus in which work-in-progress using QCA (any technique, any discipline) can receive the feedback of QCA experts and developers. Beyond the discussion of papers, they also provide the opportunity to discuss specific issues & fields of innovation linked to QCA and configurational comparative methods more broadly.

Participation is free of charge, and open to anyone interested. However, participants should have some knowledge of QCA. Participants cover their travel costs. Those participants who present a paper circulate it in advance. The seminars are also open to participants not presenting a paper but who are interested in following or joining the discussion.

Details of the **call for papers** (deadline 16 November) for the **first QCA expert seminar** as well as other practical pieces of info through the link above, or directly through http://www.compasss.org/files/Louvain.pdf. The seminar will be able to accommodate up to 3 papers.

P.S. subsequent QCA expert seminars will be planned (in other, rotating locations) in April & September 2013 ; information will follow in due time.

--2. New books out of press

http://www.compasss.org/books/bookMetEN.htm

Two new textbooks are now out of press, & both available as paperbacks:

Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences: a Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis, by Carsten Q. SCHNEIDER and Claudius WAGEMANN, Sept. 2012, Cambridge University Press

Qualitative Comparative with R: a User's Guide, by Alrik THIEM and Adrian DUSA, Sept. 2012, Springer Science and Business Media

--3. New software versions

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

QCA 1.0-4 (in R) has been released (July 2012). Major features include further considerable increases in computation speed, improved documentation, the possibility to derive all solutions and not just the minimal one, and some bug fixes.

QCA3 0.0-5 (in R) and **KirqST 1.8** were also released a bit earlier (May 2012).

--4. QCA in marketing research

One of the core conclusions of a forthcoming article surveying QCA applications in peer-reviewed journals (Rihoux et.al. 2013 in *Political Research Quarterly* – will be advertised in a next newsletter) is that the last few years have witnessed a quick disciplinary diversification, in particular towards management studies.

In this vein, here is the link to a first full-fledged fsQCA application in marketing research – as far as we know – (2012, by Antti Vassinen, Aalto University, Finland): http://www.stratmark.fi/wp-content/uploads/Antti%20Vassinen_CEMO.pdf

--5. Award-winning Ph.D. dissertation

Sophia Seung-Yoon Lee (now at Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea), using fsQCA in her dissertation, has won the 2011 Asia PhD Award – Award for Best Dissertation in Public Policy and Management in Asia, granted by the APPAM (Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management). Link to the dissertation's abstract (Oxford University) : http://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid%3A25328c2c-1db6-4ccb-ade3-78f2e05d7cad.

--6. Two courses at the ECPR Winter School (17-22 February 2013)

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

At the 2nd ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques (Vienna, 17-22 February 2013):

- Ingo Rohlfing will teach an advanced course on Multi-Method Research, with a core focus on combining case studies/process tracing, QCA and large-N methods. This is a "step 3" course, building upon the "step 1" course on Comparative Research Designs at the Winter School (see below) and the "step 2" course on QCA/Set-Theoretic Methods at the Summer School (2013 offer online around December 2012).

- Benoît Rihoux will teach an introductory course on Comparative Research Designs. Days 4 & 5 of the course comprise a short introduction to QCA as an approach and as a set of techniques.

http://new.ecprnet.eu/MethodSchools/WinterSchools.aspx (go to: "Vienna 2013" → "course list" → "course B20" or course A04").

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

Prof. Benoît Rihoux