

COMPASSS NEWSLETTER

Nr.31 (12th of May 2013)

COMPARative Methods for Systematic cross-caSe analySis

<http://www.compass.org>

Main items:

1. QCA publications (several just published)
2. QCA courses – update
3. New COMPASSS working paper
4. Call for abstracts (NB deadline 15 May)
5. Upcoming events
6. Software news

--1. QCA publications (several just published)

See also: <http://www.compass.org/books/bookMetEN.htm> and <http://www.compass.org/index.htm> ('news')

NB only methods-focused publications are mentioned here, as QCA empirical applications are too numerous to mention.

Several pieces have just been published, some of which as a result of collaborative efforts:

- The mini-symposium on **QCA, 25 Years after 'The Comparative Method': Mapping, Challenges, and Innovations** (Rihoux & Marx, eds) has been published in *Political Research Quarterly* (66(1), 2013). It comprises 3 framing and 'mapping' articles as well as 6 focused articles on current QCA innovations. See table of contents at: <http://prq.sagepub.com/content/66/1.toc.pdf> .
- The volume on **Configurational Theory and Methods in Organizational Research** (Fiss, Cambré & Marx, eds, 2013, Emerald) has just been published online. It contains 13 full chapters, a preface and a concluding piece. Direct link via <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/books.htm?issn=0733-558x&volume=38&PHPSESSID=p3lk92iq7e6aicegckiqgtn4j7>
- Six methodological articles just published:
 - **The Origins, Development, and Application of Qualitative Comparative Analysis: the first 25 years** (Marx, Rihoux & Ragin, *European Political*

Science Review, 2013) has been published in FirstView mode. It contains the first detailed discussion of the origins of the ideas behind QCA, prior to the publication of Ragin's 1987 volume, and then surveys several developments up till now. See <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=8844740&fulltextType=RA&fileId=S1755773912000318>

- "Combining QCA and Process Tracing in Set-Theoretic Multi-Method Research" by Carsten Schneider and Ingo Rohlfing in [*Sociological Methods & Research*](#)
 - "Clearly Crisp, and Not Fuzzy: A Reassessment of the (Putative) Pitfalls of Multi-value QCA" by Alrik Thiem and the response by Maarten Vink and Olaf van Vliet in [*Field Methods*](#) 25(2)
 - "Boolean Minimization in Social Science Research: A Review of Current Software for Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)" by Alrik Thiem and Adrian Duşa in [*Social Science Computer Review*](#)
 - "Qualitative Comparative Analysis: How Inductive Use and Measurement Error Lead to Problematic Inference." By Simon Hug in *Political Analysis* 21 (2):252-65.
- In addition, Byrne & Ragin's **Handbook of Case-Based Methods**, first published in 2009 as hardback (Sage) is now coming out as paperback and is hence much more affordable. This volume comprises several QCA-related chapters. See <http://www.compass.org/books/bookMetEN.htm> .

--2. QCA courses – update

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

- Ljubljana, 29 July – 9 August (8th ECPR Summer School): the 2-week course on *Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Fuzzy Sets: Basics and Advanced Issues in Set-Theoretic Methods* (Patrick Emmenegger & Carsten Schneider; course B05) is almost fully booked (only 5 places left; course capped at max. 25 participants).
- Singapore, 8 – 19 July (IPSA-NUS Summer School): registration for the 2-week course on *Qualitative Comparative Analysis: Research Designs and Methods* (Dirk Berg-Schlosser) is still open.

--3. New COMPASSS working paper

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

Borgna, Camilla. 2013. "Fuzzy-Set Coincidence Analysis: The Hidden Asymmetries". COMPASSS WP Series 2013-72. Published online 5 March 2013. Available from: <http://www.compass.org/wpseries/Borgna2013.pdf>

If you would like to publish your working paper in the COMPASSS WP Series, please send your paper by e-mail to the Managing Editor, Maarten Vink (full instructions through the URL above).

--4. Call for abstracts (NB deadline 15 May)

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

Leuven (Belgium), 27-30 November: conference on “**Validating Methods for Comparing Public Policy: Academia and Government in Dialogue**”, organized by the KULeuven, the Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis and the ICPA Forum. Several streams covering fsQCA for comparative policy analysis, comparative policy knowledge from small-N case research, etc. Call for abstracts: deadline 15 May.

--5. Upcoming events

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

Five upcoming events – registration still open:

- Hamburg (Germany), 21-26 May, XXXIII Sunbelt Conference session: panel on “**SNA meets QCA**”
- London (UK), 22 June, International Communication Association (ICA) Post-Conference: “**Bridging the Quantitative-Qualitative Divide in Comparative Communication Research: Heading towards Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)**”
- Grenoble (France), 26-28 June, International Conference on Public Policy: panel on “**Configurational comparative methods as the way forward in comparative public policy and administration?**”
- Chicago (USA), 29 August – 1 September, APSA annual meeting: panel on “**Qualitative Comparative Analysis: Critiques, Enhancements, and Applications**”
- Bordeaux (France), 4-7 September, ECPR General Conference: panel on “**Causal Inference in Set-Relational Analysis: New Techniques and Developments**”

--6. Software news

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

New software version: **QCA 1.0-5** has been released to comply with the latest changes in the new **R** Version 3.0.0.

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

Prof. Benoît Rihoux