

COMPASSS NEWSLETTER

Nr.42 (13 October 2016)

COMPARative Methods for
Systematic cross-case analysis

<http://www.compass.org>

Main items:

1. QCA training
2. Software – full page redesign and several upgrades
3. Events
4. Publications
5. Working papers
6. Research transparency and QCA: invitation to join a working group discussion

--1. QCA training

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

In chronological order [note some 'early bird' deadlines]:

- Birmingham (UK), 1–4 November 2016 (ICCS Seminars), **An Introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) as a Set-Theoretic and Case-Oriented Approach to Comparative Research**, Markus B. Siewert
- Oslo (Norway), 9–13 January 2017 (Global School in Empirical Research Methods (GSERM)), **Qualitative Comparative Analysis**, Carsten Schneider [**'early bird' discount until 31 Oct**]
- Sao Paulo (Brazil), 30 January - 3 February 2017 (IPSA-USP Summer School), **Basics of Set-Theoretic Methods and QCA**, Carsten Schneider
- Sao Paulo (Brazil), 6-10 February 2017 (IPSA-USP Summer School), **Advanced issues in Set-Theoretic Methods and QCA**, Carsten Schneider
- Bamberg (Germany), 6–10 March 2017 (6th ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques), **Comparative Research Designs**, Benoît Rihoux [**'early bird' discount until 2 Nov**]
- Bamberg (Germany), 6–10 March 2017 (6th ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques), **Advanced Multi-Method Research**, Ingo Rohlfing [**'early bird' discount until 2 Nov**]

- Bamberg (Germany), 6–10 March 2017 (6th ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques), **Advanced topics in Set-Theoretic Methods and QCA**, Carsten Schneider [['early bird' discount until 2 Nov](#)]

--2. Software – full page redesign and several upgrades

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

The 'software' page has been fully redesigned. It now covers 16 software options, in 8 different environments.

Several software programmes have been upgraded recently. From A to Z:

- **QCA/QCAGUI** packages for R: versions 2.3 and 2.4 released by Adrian Duşa. The packages now enable simultaneous work with multiple datasets.
- **QCApro** package for R: version 1.1-1 released by Alrik Thiem.
- **SetMethods** package for R: version 2.0, released by Juraj Medzihorsky, Ioana-Elena Oana, Mario Quaranta and Carsten Q. Schneider.
- **Tosmana**: versions 1.4 and 1.52 released by Lasse Cronqvist. The programme now also includes fsQCA

--3. Events

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

In chronological order:

- Nottingham (UK), 25–30 April 2017 (ECPR Joint Sessions Workshop), workshop on "**Configurational Thinking in Political Science: Theory, Methodology, and Empirical Application**" [[deadline for applications: 1 Dec](#)]
- Lisbon (Portugal), 28–30 June 2017 (Global Innovation and Knowledge Academy (GIKA) 2017 Conference), topic call on "Quantitative and Qualitative Comparative Analysis in business" [[deadline for extended abstracts: 30 Nov](#)]

--4. Publications

See: <http://www.compasss.org/books.htm> & <http://www.compasss.org/index.htm>

- Two methodological contributions were recently published in *Field Methods*: Cooper and Glaesser (2016) on "**Qualitative Comparative Analysis, Necessary Conditions, and Limited Diversity: Some Problematic Consequences of Schneider and Wagemann's Enhanced Standard Analysis**" with a reply by Schneider and Wagemann (2016), "**Assessing ESA on What It Is Designed For**"
- New book (methodology) by Masanori Tamura: **Qualitative Comparative Analysis using Management Cases: Searching for Cause and Effect through Small Data** [in Japanese] (Hakuto-Shobo publishing company 2015)

--5. Working papers

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

Working paper proposals are most welcome – to be submitted to Claude Rubinson (Managing editor) who ensures a time-efficient reviewing process before publication in the WP series.

Recently published Working paper:

- Cooper, Barry and Judith Glaesser. "**The set theoretic analysis of probabilistic regularities with fsQCA, QCApro and CNA: Exploring possible implications for current 'best practice'**" *COMPASSS WP Series* 2016-85. Published online 1 July 2016.

--6. Research transparency and QCA: invitation to join a working group discussion

See: <http://www.compass.org/index.htm> (11 Oct 2016 post)

[From Carsten Schneider] Within the framework of the 'Qualitative Transparency Deliberations' (QTD -- a broadly inclusive process through which a wide range of qualitative communities are thinking through the meaning, costs, benefits, and practicalities of transparency in their research), a specific **QTD Working Group on "Algorithmic Analytic Approaches"** (which covers QCA) has been formed. Thoughts and contributions are most welcome on the Working Group's **discussion forum**. (...) The main thing is to get your input as we think through the meaning and practice of **transparency for set-theoretic comparative methods**.

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

Prof. Benoît Rihoux