



FURTHER EDUCATION | WORKSHOP

Introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) using R

Instructor: Dr Jieqiong Wu, University of Southampton

Date & Time: Thursday, 21 January 2027, 09.00 a.m to 04.00 pm (s.t.)

Friday, 22 January 2027, 09.00 a.m. to 03.00 p.m. (s.t.)

Place: BAGSS, Feldkirchenstraße 21, Bamberg, FG1/00.06

Registration: To register, please send an email to courses.bagss@uni-bamberg.de by December 01, 2026. Registration is mandatory. The number of participants is limited to 16.

Short Outline

This course introduces researchers to the nuts and bolts of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), an innovative set-theoretic technique that allows for comparisons of small, intermediate or large numbers of cases in order to identify necessary and/or sufficient conditions for an outcome. It is an attractive method for scholars who seek to model causally complex patterns and integrate in-depth case knowledge at all stages of the analysis. We will introduce you to performing QCA with the freely available R software using the user-friendly RStudio environment. We will primarily discuss QCA as a case-oriented approach to small- and intermediate N comparisons. The intensive two-day course has a practical focus and combines theoretical blocks with many hands-on labs entailing exercises and quizzes. We will use real-life data to replicate a published study and discuss examples from the participants' own research projects in class.

The course covers the following topics:

- QCA: Origin, variants, uses and approaches
- Set theory and causal complexity
- Defining, structuring, measuring and calibrating concepts as sets
- Analyses of necessity and sufficiency
- Truth tables, limited diversity and counterfactual reasoning
- Conservative, intermediate and parsimonious solution types



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The course materials (Readings, slides, R scripts and datasets) will be made available to participants before the workshop. The textbook used in this course is:

Oana, I. E., Schneider, C. Q. & Thomann, E. (2021). *Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) Using R: A Beginner's Guide*. Cambridge University Press.

The workshop is mainly aimed at doctoral students at BAGSS. In case of any vacant places, it is open to anyone interested.

Preliminary Requirements

This introductory QCA workshop is open to all researchers who are looking for a method that allows them to compare cases while, on the one hand, modelling aspects of causal complexity and, on the other hand, integrating in-depth case knowledge. **No prior knowledge of R is required**, although some familiarity with the software may be an advantage. Basic knowledge of comparative empirical research is beneficial. Each participant needs a laptop/ computer to work with—for the lab sessions. You need to have installed, **prior to the start of the course**, the newest versions of the following freely available software on your computer:

- **R** (freely available at <http://cran.rstudio.com/>)
- **RStudio** (freely available at <http://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/>)

Install R before RStudio. Once installed, you don't have to open R; it suffices to open RStudio.

About the Trainer

Jieqiong Wu is a Research Fellow in the School of Economic, Social and Political Sciences at the University of Southampton. She holds a PhD in Public Administration from the University of Konstanz, where she worked in the Working Group for Public Administration under the supervision of Prof. Eva Thomann.

Previously, Jieqiong studied and worked at several European universities and research institutions, including the University of Warwick, the University of Konstanz, Utrecht University, and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Her research interests lie at the intersection of public policy, public administration, and governance. In particular, she is interested in policy success, digital governance and e-voting, public participation, and the design and implementation of public policies. Methodologically, her research focuses on Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), systematic literature reviews, comparative case analysis, and systematic content analysis.