

**LEHRSTUHL FÜR STEUERUNG INNOVATIVER
UND KOMPLEXER TECHNISCHER SYSTEME
DR. SOFIA PAGLIARIN**



Education Program WS 2019/20

(Main-) Seminar: Governance of Complex Systems III – Comparing Apples and Oranges: Introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis

Room: F-21/03.80

Time: Wednesday, 16-18 h

Start: 16th of October 2019

Short Description:

This seminar introduces students to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). This method was introduced in 1987 by Charles C. Ragin and is designed for the comparison of multiple cases (usually, $5 < N < 50$). The main advantages of QCA is that 1) it strikes a balance between complexity and generalization, and that 2) it explicitly takes into account the qualitative assessment of the data by the researcher.

During the course, we will approach both the conceptual foundations of the method (i.e. set-theory), as well as its formal functioning by doing together exercises of Boolean algebra. In each session of the course, we will address both theory and practice of QCA. Therefore, to get the best out of this course, the active participation by students is key (e.g. questions and discussion in class, doing homework, preparing some presentations). We will also learn how the main software used for QCA (TOSMANA and fsQCA) work, in order also to prepare you for their use for the paper you will have to submit. At the end of the course, you will be able to judge how and to what extent it is possible to compare “apples and oranges”.

This course is valuable for all students who are considering using qualitative methods and/or adopt a comparative research design, for instance for their master thesis project. During the course we will use examples characteristic of the Chair of Governance of Innovative and Complex Technological Systems, i.e. the development of large-scale road or railway system infrastructures conceived as complex systems. We will also discuss how QCA is a suitable method for studying the governance of complex systems.

Course structure:

The course, as well as the reading material, is taught in English. Lectures are structured as conventional Vorlesungen, but an active participation by the students is key to obtain the best results out of the course.

Course Evaluation:

You will have to submit a paper using QCA; the paper will be graded. You will also have to make two presentations in class (session 2 and session 3), as well as present your paper idea in at least 2 sessions. These presentations are not graded.

Course Literature:

Please purchase the following book before the start of the course:

Gerrits, L., & Verweij, S. (2018). *The Evaluation of Complex Infrastructure Projects. A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cheltenham UK, Northampton USA: Edward Elgar Publishing.

You can purchase the book by benefitting of a special discount by using the code GERR30 on Edward Elgar Publishing website (discounted price equivalent to £30.00).

Other academic articles or book chapters will be made available on the Virtual Campus. Further information and details on course structure, evaluation and literature will be available in the course Syllabus and on the VC.

Notes:

The seminar will be taught in English.

Registration:

Registration starts on the 1st of September 2019 via FlexNow or during the first lesson.

Speaking hours:

Tuesday, 14:00-16:00 (also by appointment), Office: F21/03.69

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