

**LEHRSTUHL FÜR STEUERUNG INNOVATIVER
UND KOMPLEXER TECHNISCHER SYSTEME**
Dr. Sofia Pagliarin



Education Program WS 18/19

Main-Seminar: **Governance of Complex Systems III - Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)**

Room: F21/03.02

Time: Wednesday, 16-18 h

Start: 17th of October 2018

Short Description:

This seminar introduces students to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). This method is designed for comparison of multiple cases and explicitly take into account the qualitative assessment of data by the researcher. 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.

One of the main advantages of QCA is that it strikes a balance between complexity and generalization. As students of the governance of complex systems, we often use case study methods and rich qualitative data to analyze and understand our objects of analysis. These in-depth studies, for instance into the development of a road or rail system and using a series of in-depth interviews and/or project documents, allow us to capture the unique complexities of the cases. However, qualitative case studies often lack generalizability, because they delve into the complexity of a particular case. QCA is a method to deal with this problem, and 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”. In particular, we will discuss how QCA is a suitable method for studying the governance of complex systems.

Learning goals

- To understand the underlying rationale and working of QCA
- To identify and argue in terms of necessary and/or sufficient (combinations of) conditions
- To explain the basic properties of the governance of complex systems and the requirements that this imposes on a method for studying these systems.

- To evaluate the advantages and limits of QCA for studying the governance of complex systems.
- To design and conduct a QCA research project.

Mandatory Course Reading Material

- Gerrits, L., & Verweij, S. (2018). *The Evaluation of Complex Infrastructure Projects. A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cheltenham UK, Northampton USA: Edward Elgar 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).
- Academic articles or book chapters, which will be made available through Virtual Campus.
- QCA software, available through www.compass.org.

Please note that you have to read the literature **prior to each seminar session** following the order indicated in the syllabus.

Further reading (non-mandatory):

- Verweij (2015). *Once the shovel hits the ground: Evaluating the management of complex implementation processes of public-private partnership infrastructure projects with qualitative comparative analysis*. PhD-thesis. Rotterdam: Erasmus University Rotterdam. The book is freely available at: www.researchgate.net/profile/Stefan_Verweij or at www.stefanverweij.eu.

Notes:

The seminar will be taught in English.

Registration:

Registration starts on the 1st of September 2018 via FlexNow or during the first lesson.

Speaking hour:

Wednesday, 14-16 h

Mail: sofia.pagliarin@uni-bamberg.de