

PhD Workshop - Qualitative Comparative Analysis

Aalto University

4.2.2022

12.00-17.00

Virtually in Zoom

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Comparative studies and qualitative comparative analysis (QCA)- A Tutorial

Many management scholars are constrained by the sample requirements of data sets for conducting generalized linear model (GLM) analyses and the challenges of analyzing large samples of qualitative case data especially in making causal claims. Many of the independence and linearity assumptions of the GLM based analysis are often unrealistic for creating plausible causal explanations. Since the path breaking work of Ragin (1987) a computational method titled 'Qualitative Comparative Analysis" (QCA) has gained a growing popularity in management research. The method has been applied in information systems, strategy and general management research. QCA studies have been published in journals such as MISQ, AMJ, Organization Science and Strategic Management journal, among others.

This half day tutorial introduces the key concepts and ideas behind QCA, discusses how QCA analysis can be conducted and reviews its applications in management field through several examples. The goal of the tutorial is to prepare PhD students to read and understand articles that apply QCA, understand its benefits and limitations and to understand when it is appropriate to apply QCA method to address specific questions related to their inquiry.

The course assumes that the students have read the materials before and prepared to discuss and present one of the application cases during the class. The class will be followed by student group work session where students present their research ideas and problems and the instructor will offer guidance how to apply or formulate the problem as a QCA study. As part of the preparation students need to write a short 5 page proposal for a QCA study from their research domain.

Due to the limited time this tutorial course will not provide practical guidance how to apply or use QCA software tools. If such course is expected this will be organized later in 2022.

Readings

C. Ragin "The comparative method- moving beyond qualitative and quantitative strategies", University of California Press, pp.1-84

R. Rihoux, C. Ragin "Configurational Comparative Method" Sage, 2009, pp. 1-67

Misangyi, V. F., Greckhamer, T., Furnari, S., Fiss, P. C., Crilly, D., and Aguilera, R. "Embracing causal complexity: The emergence of a neo-configurational perspective," *Journal of Management* (43:1) 2017, pp 255-282.

Articles to Review

Lee, J.-N. P., Youngki, Straub, Detmar W.; Kim, Yunno "Holistic Archetypes of IT Outsourcing Strategy: A Contingency Fit and Configurational Approach," *Management Information Systems Quarterly*

Park, Y., and Mithas, S. "Organized Complexity of Digital Business Strategy: A Configurational Perspective," Working Paper, Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland.

PEER C. FISS "BUILDING BETTER CAUSAL THEORIES: A FUZZY SET APPROACH TO TYPOLOGIES IN ORGANIZATION RESEARCH", *Academy of Management Journal*, 2011, Vol. 54, No. 2, 393–420.

Christian Maier, Sven Laumer, Monideepa Tarafdar, Jens Mattke, Lea Reis, Tim Weitzel (2021): Challenge and Hindrance IS Use Stressors and Appraisals: Explaining Contrarian Associations in Post-Acceptance IS Use Behavior, *Journal of the Association for Information Systems* (2021) 22(6), 1590-1624

Available QCA resources