**Workshop "QCA and Fuzzy Sets – A Set-Theoretic Approach for Case-Oriented Comparative Research"**

*Jonas Buche & Markus Siewert (Goethe University Frankfurt)*

*Course Outline*

The course offers a comprehensive introduction to QCA as an approach and method from a conceptual and technical perspective. Starting point is the presentation of basic ideas of set theoretical thinking; here, we will discuss the commonalities and differences to quantitative and qualitative-interpretative research paradigms. In the next step, set theoretical fundamentals such as sets, calibration, and set relations as necessary and sufficient conditions are explained. Here, we also strongly focus on issues of concept formation in general. After the introduction of set relations we concentrate on the central analytical tool of QCA: the truth table. In this section, we describe and practice the construction and minimization of a truth table. However, the truth table algorithm is not free of problems. For example, we debate pitfalls such as inconsistent truth table rows or rows in which we have no empirical data and present several strategies how to deal with these issues. On the second workshop-day, the software tool *fsQCA* is introduced and applied to published studies. In the afternoon session, codes of good practice are discussed - or alternatively selected work-in-progress of participants.

*Course Program*

**Friday, 5. December 2014**

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|---|---|
| 10:00 – 11:15 am | Introduction: Set Theoretical Thinking and QCA |
| *11:15 – 11:30 am* | *Coffee Break* |
| 11:30 – 1:00 pm | Sets, Set Membership, Set Calibration, Set Operations & Set Relations |
| *1:00 – 2:00 pm* | *Lunch* |
| 2:00 – 3:30 pm | Truth Tables Construction & Minimization |
| *3:30 – 4:00 pm* | *Coffee Break* |
| 4:00 – 5:30 pm | Pitfalls in Truth Table Analysis I: Parameters of Fit |

**Saturday, 6. December 2014**

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|---|---|
| 9:00 – 10:30 am | Pitfalls in Truth Table Analysis II: Limited Diversity |
| *10:30 – 11:00 am* | *Coffee Break* |
| 11:00 – 12:30 pm | Introduction to fsQCA |
| 12:30 – 2:00 pm | Codes of Good Standard and/or Discussion of QCA-Projects |

*Literature*

Sets, Set Membership, Set Calibration, Set Operations, Set Relations

(1) Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012). *Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge University Press. New York, 23-90.

(2) Ragin, Charles C. (2008). *Redesigning Social Inquiry. Fuzzy Sets and Beyond*. Chicago. University of Chicago Press, 13-43 & 71-84.

Truth Tables

(3) Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012). *Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge University Press. New York, 91-115.

(4) Ragin, Charles C. (2008). *Redesigning Social Inquiry. Fuzzy Sets and Beyond*. Chicago. University of Chicago Press, 124-144.

Truth Table Analysis. Parameters of Fit and Limited Diversity

(5) Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012). *Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge University Press. New York, 151-193.

(6) Ragin, Charles C. (2008). *Redesigning Social Inquiry. Fuzzy Sets and Beyond*. Chicago. University of Chicago Press, 44-68 & 147-159.

Tackling Problems and Pitfalls in Truth Table Analysis

(7) Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2012). *Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. A Guide to Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. Cambridge University Press. New York, 197-219.

(8) Ragin, Charles C. (2008). *Redesigning Social Inquiry. Fuzzy Sets and Beyond*. Chicago. University of Chicago Press, 160-175.

Introduction to fsQCA

(9) Ragin, Charles C. (2008). *User's guide to Fuzzy-Set / Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. http.//www.socsci.uci.edu/~cragin/fsQCA/download/fsQCAManual.pdf

(10) fsQCA software package for Windows only! http.//www.socsci.uci.edu/~cragin/fsQCA/software.shtml

Code of Good Standard and Discussion of QCA

(11) Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann (2010). "Standards of Good Practice in Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Fuzzy-Sets." In *Comparative Sociology*, Vol. 9, 397-418.


*Studies*

(1) Freitag, Markus, and Raphaela Schlicht (2009). "Educational Federalism in Germany. Foundations of Social Inequality in Education." In *Governance*, Vol. 22(1), 47-72.

(2) Emmenegger, Patrick. 2011. "Job Security Regulations in Western Democracies. A Fuzzy Set Analysis." In *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol.50 (3), 336-64.