Veranstaltung im Rahmen der GGG Methodenwoche 2014 / Methodological Week 2014
28.07. – 31.07.2014

Titel der Veranstaltung / *Title***:**

Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Fuzzy Sets - An Introduction to Set-Theoretic Approaches in the Social Sciences

Referentin / Referent / *Lecturer***:**

Jonas Buche & Markus Siewert

e-Mail:

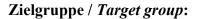buche@soz.uni-frankfurt.de | siewert@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

Termine / *Dates***:**

Montag / *Monday* (28.07.14)	13:30 – 17:00
Dienstag / *Tuesday* (29.07.14)	09:00 – 17:00
Mittwoch / *Wednesday* (30.07.14)	09:00 – 17:00
Donnerstag / *Thursday* (31.07.14)	09:00 – 13:00

Kurzbeschreibung / *Brief description***:**

Since the publication of the seminal work "The Comparative Method" by Charles Ragin in 1987, there has been a rising interest in set-theoretic methods and especially Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) in the social sciences. Set-theoretic methods analyze cases with regard to the identification of necessary and sufficient conditions and assume causal relationships to be equifinal, conjunctural and asymmetric.

The course offers a comprehensive introduction to set theory and especially QCA. It starts off from an overview of the basics of set theory and differentiates QCA as a case oriented methods from both the quantitative and the interpretive-qualitative research paradigm.

The course is both conceptually and technically oriented. On the one hand, it puts much emphasis on the calibration of sets which basically is concept formation. The participants will learn and utilize different strategies to calibrate sets. On the other hand, the course teaches the technical part of QCA. Through the notion of necessary and sufficient conditions and of truth tables, the single elements are built into the Truth Table Algorithm. The participants will operate the algorithm both by hand and by the software tool fsQCA 2.5. However, this algorithm is not free of problems. Therefore, some pitfalls and strategies how to deal with them in applications are presented.

Zielgruppe / *Target group*:

    ☒ Einsteiger & Promovierende aus naheliegenden Disziplinen / *Beginners*

        ODER /*OR*

    ☐ Fortgeschrittene & Promovierende aus naheliegenden Disziplinen / *Advanced learner*

Vortrags- und Diskussionssprache / *Language*:

    ☐ Deutsch   ODER   ☒ English

Teilnehmerbegrenzung / *Number of participants*: 12

Literatur / *Literature*:

Schneider, Carsten Q. and Claudius Wagemann. 2012. Set-Theoretic Methods for the Social Sciences. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ragin, Charles C. 2008. Redesigning Social Inquiry: Fuzzy Sets and Beyond. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

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

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

Leistungsnachweis / *Certificate*:

For the certificate, the participants have to carry out a QCA with data provided by the lecturers. This entails the calibration of sets, the formation of the truth table, the analysis of necessary conditions, the truth table algorithm, and the discussion of findings. It is planned to dedicate course time and support for the conceptual and technical parts of these projects, but the final record has to be written after the course.