

The qualitative comparative analysis: an overview of a causal complexity approach

Monika Smělá

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Methodological foundations
- Position in other research methods
- Concepts
- Conducting
- Conclusion

Introduction

- introduced in 1980s
- **theory-based** approach
- based on:
 - formalization procedures
 - Boolean logic

Methodological foundations

- **three conditions** to use the method
 - **complex causal context** is the best way
 - **coordination** of theory and methodology
 - **sample size** – 10 to 50 cases

Methodological foundations

- causal complexity **principles**

causal
assymetry

conjunctural
causation

equifinality

Methodological foundations

- logic of **sufficiency** and **necessity**
 - necessary causation must be present for an outcome
 - sufficient causation can be present for an outcome

QCA and its position in research

PROS

- deals with middle-N
- cross case comparison
- Processing of numerical and nonnumeric data

CONS

- limited generalization
- instable causal predictions

Concepts of QCA

**crisp-set
QCA**

**fuzzy-set
QCA**

**multi-value
QCA**

Conducting of QCA

- Setting variables
- Data Collection
- Data calibration
- Creating a truth table
- Truth table minimalization

Conclusion

- holistic way
- finding out conditions and combinations leading to an outcome
- bridges qualitative and quantitative research

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