Much of current social research deals with complex systems of interdependent factors. Yet, conventional statistical methods are frequently less adept at unpacking these complex interdependencies. The current workshop provides an introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), a set-theoretic method developed by Charles Ragin that is better suited to the examination of situations where causality is conjunctural, and equifinal (i.e. where different causes may combine to bring about an outcome of interest and where there is more than one path to an outcome). While QCA was initially developed to provide a formal approach for the analysis of medium-N situations (e.g., 12-40 cases), more recently the approach has also been extended to deal with large-N situations (e.g., 100+ cases). The workshop will offer an introduction to the logic of comparative research along with an introduction to the basic concepts of set-theoretic analysis using examples from empirical work employing the fs/QCA software package.

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