

COMPASSSS Newsletter

Issue 11, January 2006

<http://www.compass.org>

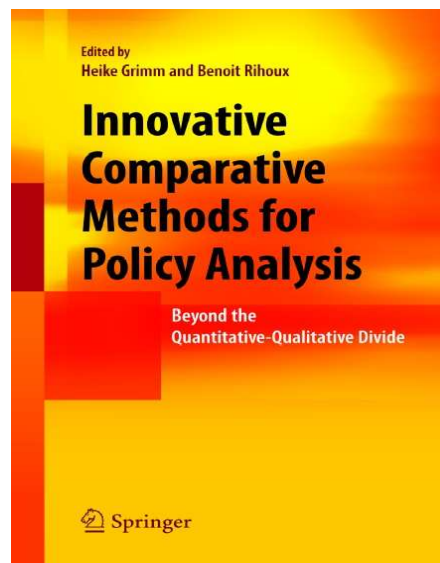
Here is a quick digest of main recent complements on the COMPASSSS resource site—for more detailed information, see respective sections of the COMPASSSS site at:

<http://www.compass.org>

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PUBLICATIONS



Heike GRIMM and Benoit RIHOUX (eds.)
"INNOVATIVE COMPARATIVE METHODS FOR POLICY ANALYSIS
Beyond the Quantitative-Qualitative Divide"
 2006, 340 p., Hardcover
 Kluwer Academic Publishers
 ISBN: 0-387-28828-7
 74.95€

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Introduction. Beyond the 'Quantitative-Qualitative' Divide: Innovative Comparative Methods for Policy Analysis
Benoît Rihoux and Heike Grimm

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Charles Ragin

Chapter 3

A Question of Size? A Heuristics for Stepwise Comparative Research Design
David Levi-Faur

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MSDO/MDSO Revisited for Public Policy Analysis
Gisèle De Meur, Peter Bursens and Alain Gottcheiner

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Beyond Methodological Tenets. The Worlds of QCA and SNA and their Benefits to Policy Analysis
Sakura Yamasaki and Astrid Spreitzer

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Entrepreneurship Policy and Regional
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COMPASSSS ACTIVITIES

Next COMPASSSS Seminar:

A Comparative Analysis of Gender Inequality
How Welfare States Shape the Gender Pay Gap: a Class Perspective

February 24, 2006, Louvain la Neuve, Belgium. Université catholique de Louvain, Le-

clercq Building, Room LECL093, 14h-16h.

Guest speakers: **Michael SHALEV** and **Hadas MANDEL**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Abstract : We study differences in gender wage inequality across OECD countries
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COMPASSS ACTIVITIES (continued)

and how they are affected by welfare state characteristics. A class perspective on gender inequality assumes that gender stratification is nested within the class structure. Accordingly, we decompose national gender wage gaps into their class and gender components. We also differentiate the impact of welfare states between their effects on class inequality and gender inequality. This makes for a series of hypotheses suggesting how different

components of the gender wage gap are likely to vary across different welfare regimes. Support for these hypotheses is sought by comparing gender gaps in 17 countries, using original indicators generated from national micro-datasets. Classes are operationalized both as income quintiles and occupational groupings. The results broadly support our expectations, and they sharpen understanding of the differences between the Liberal and

Socialist welfare regimes. Social democracy massively brings women into the labor market and broadly supports their earnings position by narrowing overall earnings differentials. But it also appears to hamper the upward mobility of advantaged women.

Registration is free but compulsory. Please send an email to Regis DANDROY
dandoy@spri.ucl.ac.be

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENTS

TOSMANA

New version of TOSMANA 1.25 (January 2006) to be downloaded.

The new version has upgraded the Boolean calculator function and the MDSO-MSDO calculator, among other improvements.

New features on Tosmana's website (www.tosmana.org): a Q&A page, a

TOSMANA newsgroup and a resource page where TOSMANA-related papers are available for download.

QCA in R

R is a free software environment for statistical computing and graphics.
<http://www.r-project.org/>



Adrian DUSA, a researcher at the Bucharest University, has developed a QCA package for R.

Further information (code, for example) is available on the software page of the COMPASSS website.

The author can be contacted at:
adi@roda.ro

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE

DATABASE UPDATED

The COMPASSS Small N bibliographical database has been updated.

As indicative number, the database now offers:

- More than 300 references on QCA applications
- About 300 references on QCA approach discussion

- More than 130 references on fuzzy sets
- About 300 references on comparative methods in general
- About 400 references on small N discussion
- Many other references on other small N techniques, Boolean algebra, MDSO/MSDO techniques, etc.

This database is constantly enriched by the community's information circulation.

Please send any missing references to Ms Anouk LLOREN:

lloren@spri.ucl.ac.be

Thank you.

PUBLICATIONS (continued from page 1)

Economic Growth. Exploring the Link and Theoretical Implications

Heike Grimm

Chapter 7

Determining the Conditions of HIV/AIDS Prevalence in Sub-Saharan Africa. Employing New Tools of Macro-Qualitative Analysis

Lasse Cronqvist and Dirk Berg-Schlosser

Chapter 8

Diversity, Ideal Types and Fuzzy Sets in Comparative Welfare State Research

Jon Kvist

Chapter 9

Scenario-Building Methods as a Tool for Policy Analysis

Antônio Brandão Moniz

Chapter 10

A New Method for Policy Evaluation? Longstanding Chal-

lenges and the Possibilities of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

Frédéric Varone, Benoît Rihoux and Axel Marx

Chapter 11

Social Sustainability of Community Structures: A Systematic Comparative Analysis within the Oulu Region in Northern Finland

Pentti Luoma

Chapter 12

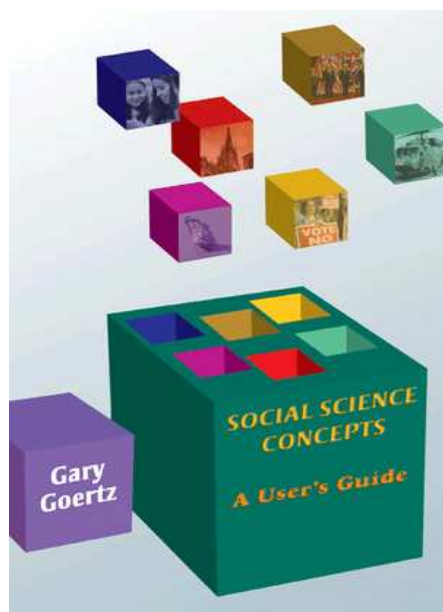
QCA as a Tool for Realistic Evaluations. The Case of the Swiss Environmental Impact Assessment

Barbara Befani and Fritz Sager

Chapter 13

Conclusion. Innovative Comparative Methods for Policy Analysis: Milestones to Bridge Different Worlds

Benoît Rihoux and Heike Grimm



Gary GOERTZ

“Social science concepts. A user’s guide”

2005, 288p.

Princeton University Press

Concepts lie at the core of social science theory and methodology. They provide substance to theories; they form the basis of measurement; they influence the selection of cases. *Social Science Concepts: A Users Guide* explores alternative means of concept construction and their impact on the role of concepts in measurement, case selection, and theories.

While there exists a plethora of books on measurement, scaling, and the like, there are virtually no books devoted to the construction and analysis of concepts and their role in the research enterprise. *Social Science Concepts: A Users Guide* provides detailed and practical advice on the construction and use of social science concepts; a Web site provides classroom exercises.

More information on these new publications and order forms at:

<http://www.compass.org/Publications.htm>

TRAININGS

Marburg QCA Spring course (in German)



29-31 March 2006, Marburg, Germany

The course on QCA and MVQCA will offer an introduction to the methodological aspects of (MV-)QCA and present various application of the methods, followed by a presentation of current software for QCA analysis.

Instructors: **Prof. Dirk Berg-Schlosser** and **Lasse Cronqvist** (both Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany).

More information (in German) can be found on <http://marburg2006.tosmana.net>

Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis



Systematic Qualitative Comparative Methods - Introduction to Qualitative

Comparative Analysis (QCA and Multi-Value QCA), and Fuzzy Sets

23 July - 4 August 2006, Essex, UK

Instructors: **Dirk Berg-Schlosser** and **Lasse Cronqvist**

Applications must reach summer school office by May 2, 2006.

More information at: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/methods/Courses06/2K06.htm>

ECPR Summer School in methods and techniques

7-18 August 2006, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Courses of special interests for comparativists:

- Systematic comparative methods (Profs. **B. Rihoux** & **D. Berg-Schlosser**)
- Comparative historical analysis and case study design (Prof. **J. Gerring**)
- Cross-national survey design and analysis (Prof. **B. Cautrès**)



Application deadline: May 2, 2006

More information on these courses (and others) may be found at:

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/events/summerschools/ljubljana/courses.aspx>

MEETINGS

"Methodology matters"

Workshop at the Dutch/Flemish Politicogenetmaal

18-19 May 2006, The Hague, The Netherlands

CALL FOR PAPERS:

We look forward to receiving two kinds of paper proposals. First, proposals with a "pure" methodological focus, such as cross-validation of methods or strength and weaknesses of particular

techniques. Second, we invite proposals with practical applications of one or multiple methodological perspectives, for instance an analysis of welfare state change using classical regression analysis and fuzzy sets or a formal modeling approach to examine the impact of the European Parliament in decision-making in the European Union.

Deadline for paper proposal submission: Friday, 3 March 2006. Send your proposals to ce.netjes@fsw.vu.nl and

b.vis@fsw.vu.nl. Final papers are to be sent by 28 April 2006.

Registration to the conference is compulsory. Please visit <http://www.politicologie.nl> for more information.

For any further questions, please send an email to:

Barbara Vis (b.vis@fsw.vu.nl) or Catherine Netjes (ce.netjes@fsw.vu.nl).

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MEETINGS (continued)

International conference on comparative social science

15-16 July 2006, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan

CALL FOR PAPERS (REMINDER):

While comparative social sciences have long enjoyed a tradition of insightful work, in recent years, a set of methodological innovations, including qualitative comparative analysis and a fuzzy-set approach, has introduced new stimuli. At the same time, with a the phenomenon of globalization, cross-national comparative work increasingly faces the age-old problem of the unit of comparison. Future development of comparative social sciences, which continue to be among the most exciting and hotly debated academic sites, lies in a fruitful exchange between methodological innovations and new conceptualization of the phenomena under investigation.

In this conference, scholars, researchers and students gather from diverse comparative disciplines to discuss innovative methods and stimulating substantive work. We believe such exchange should help us renew our interest in comparative research and guide us to further research activities that will in the future bring intellectual stimulation and innovation, as well as solutions to substantive problems.

Sociology, Political Science, History, and all other areas of social sciences are invited. Graduate students as well as experienced scholars and researchers are encouraged to apply.

In this conference, scholars, researchers and students gather from diverse comparative disciplines to discuss innovative methods and stimulating substantive work.

Papers discussed in the conference will include:

Comparative Procedures:

- * Principles and Methods of Comparison
- * Innovation/Application of Comparative Techniques and Procedures

Substantive/Empirical Comparative Work:

- * Cross-National, Cross-Regional Work
- * Case Study
- * Comparison of the Case across Time

More information on submission process at:

<http://www.geocities.jp/comparativesciences/top.html>

Deadlines: **Feb. 15** for application to financial assistance and **May 15** otherwise.

WORKING PAPERS

Six new working papers:

WP2005-32 [Posted on 07-July-2005]

Caty CLEMENT (Harvard University)

"The Nuts and Bolts of State Collapse: Common Causes and Different Patterns? A QCA Analysis of Lebanon, Somalia and the former-Yugoslavia"

WP2005-33 [Posted on 29-Aug-2005]

Frank M. HAGE (Leiden University)

"Constructivism, Fuzzy Sets and (Very) Small-N: Revisiting the Conditions for Communicative Action"

WP2005-34 [Posted on 12-Oct-2005]

Svend-Erik SKAANING (University of Aarhus)

"Respect for Civil Liberties in Post-Communist Countries: A Multi-Methodological Test of Structural Explanations"

WP2005-35 [Posted on 7-Nov-2005]

Carsten Q. SCHNEIDER (CEU Budapest) and **Claudius WAGEMANN** (EUI Florence)

"Reducing Complexity in Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA): Remote and Proximate Factors and the Consolidation of Democracy"

(Continued on page 6)

COMPARATIVE METHODS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SYSTEMATIC CROSS-CASE ANALYSIS AND SMALL-N STUDIES

Universite catholique de Louvain
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<http://www.compasss.org>

COMPASSS is a research group bringing together scholars and practitioners who share a common interest in theoretical, methodological and practical advancements in a **systematic comparative case approach** to research which stresses the use of a configurational logic, the existence of multiple causality and the importance of a careful construction of research populations.

This site is open to all, regardless of disciplinary affiliation. Indeed, one key goal of this site is to bring together researchers and practitioners from a **broad range of disciplines** (political science, sociology, anthropology, economics, law, history, social work, demography, marriage and family therapy, criminology, psychology, education science, etc...).

WORKING PAPERS (continued)

WP2006-36 [Posted on 27-Jan-2006]

Gregory JACKSON (King's College London, and Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI))
"Employee Representation in the Board Compared: A Fuzzy Sets Analysis of Corporate Governance, Unionism, and Political Institutions"

WP2006-37 [Posted on 30-Jan-2006]

James MAHONEY (Northwestern University) and **Gary GOERTZ** (Arizona University)
"A tale of two cultures: contrasting quantitative and qualitative research"

Please send your papers to Profs **Gisele DE MEUR** and **Charles RAGIN**.

NEW USEFUL LINKS

<http://www.compasss.org/UsefulLinks.htm>

Link added to the **APES (Actor Process Event Scheme)** project and software, developed by Uwe Serdült, Chantal Vögeli, Christian Hirschi and Thomas Widmer. APES is a web-based software tool allowing the use of qualitative case study data for a systematic comparative assessment of policy processes.