Objectives of the workshop

- Increase your theoretical and practical knowledge of QCA both as a design approach and a data analysis technique
- Locate QCA in the range of evaluation approaches and methods, understanding its strengths and weaknesses with regard to use in evaluation processes
- Illustrate strengths and weaknesses of different software platforms for QCA (fsQCA, Tosmana, R)
- See QCA “hands on”, applying it in the course of evaluation simulations

Workshop content

What QCA is (and isn’t)

1. Objectives and basic notions
2. Added value compared to variable-based evaluation approaches (experiments, regression and statistical models)

Why and under what circumstances QCA is helpful in evaluation

1. Relevance of context, middle-range theory, limited generalization, limited diversity, medium number of cases
2. Added value of QCA compared to other case-based evaluation approaches (contribution analysis, realist evaluation)

How QCA works in practice

1. From dataset to truth table
2. Small n vs. Large n
3. Necessity & Sufficiency Analyses
4. Graphical representation
5. Parameters of Fit
6. Sensitivity Analysis (calibration, cutoff points)
7. Variants of QCA (crisp set, multi-value, fuzzy set)
8. Software options (fsQCA, Tosmana, R)

The workshop will include presentations, group work and practical exercises, including in a computer lab.

Barbara Befani
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