## **Brief Contents**

List of Boxes, Figures, and Tables	
Acknowledgments	XV
Introduction	xvi
Benoît Rihoux and Charles C. Ragin	
Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) as an Approach	1
Dirk Berg-Schlosser, Gisèle De Meur, Benoît Rihoux, and Charles C. Ragin	
2. Comparative Research Design: Case and Variable Selection	19
Dirk Berg-Schlosser and Gisèle De Meur	
3. Crisp-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (csQCA)	33
Benoît Rihoux and Gisèle De Meur	
4. Multi-Value QCA (mvQCA)	69
Lasse Cronqvist and Dirk Berg-Schlosser	
5. Qualitative Comparative Analysis Using Fuzzy Sets (fsQCA)	87
Charles C. Ragin	
6. A Commented Review of Applications	123
Sakura Yamasaki and Benoît Rihoux	
7. Addressing the Critiques of QCA	147
Gisèle De Meur, Benoît Rihoux, and Sakura Yamasaki	
8. Conclusions—The Way(s) Ahead	167
Benoît Rihoux, Charles C. Ragin, Sakura Yamasaki, and Damien Bol	
Appendix: Further Resources for Configurational Comparative Methods	179
Glossary	181
References	185
AND LEE CONTROL OF THE CONTROL OF TH	100

Index	199
<b>About the Editors</b>	207
<b>About the Contributors</b>	209

## **Detailed Contents**

List of Boxes, Figures, and Tables	
Acknowledgments	xv
Introduction	xvii
Benoît Rihoux and Charles C. Ragin	
Why Compare? Why Configurational Comparative Methods?	xvii
Structure of This Book	xxi
How to Read This Book	xxii
Companion Readings	xxiii
1. Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) as an Approach	1
Dirk Berg-Schlosser, Gisèle De Meur,	
Benoît Rihoux, and Charles C. Ragin	
Locating QCA	1
Epistemological Foundations	1
"Small-N" Research and "Macro-Comparative"	
Analysis and Beyond	3
Key Features and Assumptions of QCA	6
Cases and Theory	6
Causality, Complexity, and Parsimony	8
Modest Generalization	11
Data, Replicability, and Transparency	12
Five Types of Uses of QCA Techniques	15
Notes	17
2. Comparative Research Design: Case and Variable Selection	19
Dirk Berg-Schlosser and Gisèle De Meur	
Case Selection	20
Outcome and Area of Homogeneity	20
The "Most Similar" Versus	
"Most Different" Systems Designs	21
Further Guidance for Case Selection	23
The Selection of Conditions	25
MSDO/MDSO: A Systematic Procedure	
for Matching Cases and Conditions	28
Notes	32

3.	Crisp-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (csQCA)	33
Вe	noît Rihoux and Gisèle De Meur	
	The Foundation of Crisp-Set QCA: Boolean Algebra in a Nutshell	34
	Step 1: Building a Dichotomous Data Table	39
	Step 2: Constructing a "Truth Table"	44
	Step 3: Resolving Contradictory Configurations	48
	Step 4: Boolean Minimization	56
	Minimization of the [1] Configurations	
	(Without Logical Remainders)	57
	Minimization of the [0] Configurations	
	(Without Logical Remainders)	58
	Step 5: Bringing in the "Logical Remainders" Cases	59
	Why Logical Remainders Are Useful	59
	Minimization of the [1] Outcome	
	(With Logical Remainders)	60
	Minimization of the [0] Outcome	
	(With Logical Remainders)	61
	Step 6: Interpretation	65
	Notes	67
4.	Multi-Value QCA (mvQCA)	69
La	sse Cronqvist and Dirk Berg-Schlosser	
	Why mvQCA?	
	Some Problems in the csQCA Example	69
	Further Limitations of Dichotomous	
	Variables and Why mvQCA	70
	Differences Between mvQCA and csQCA	72
	Notation in mvQCA	72
	Minimization in mvQCA	74
	Including Logical Remainders in the Minimization Rule	75
	Deciding Threshold Values	76
	Empirical Example: Lipset's Theory	78
	Conclusion	83
	Notes	85
5.	Qualitative Comparative Analysis Using Fuzzy Sets (fsQCA)	87
Cl	narles C. Ragin	
	Fuzzy Sets: A Brief Presentation	89
	Fuzzy Sets Defined	89
	Operations on Fuzzy Sets	94

Fuzzy Subsets	99
Using Crisp Truth Tables to Aid Fuzzy-Set Analysis	103
The Correspondence Between Vector	
Space Corners and Truth Table Rows	104
Specifying Frequency Thresholds for Fuzzy-Set Assessments	106
Assessing the Consistency of Fuzzy Subset Relations	107
Constructing the Truth Table	109
The Fuzzy-Set Analysis of Necessary Conditions	109
Application of the Procedure	111
Analysis With SURVIVED as the Outcome	111
Analysis With BREAKDOWN as the Outcome	115
Conclusion	119
Notes	120
6. A Commented Review of Applications	123
Sakura Yamasaki and Benoît Rihoux	
csQCA	123
Case Selection	124
Selection of Conditions	125
Threshold Setting (Dichotomization)	130
Dealing With Contradictory Configurations	132
Inclusion of Logical Remainders	135
Dealing With Contradictory Simplifying Assumptions	136
mvQCA	138
Fuzzy Sets	139
Hagan and Hansford-Bowles (2005): A Robust Application	139
Katz, Vom Hau, and Mahoney (2005):	
Fuzzy Sets Versus Regression	140
Jackson (2005): The Importance of Case Knowledge	141
Kogut, MacDuffie, and Ragin (2004): Informed	
Inclusion of "Simplifying Assumptions"	142
Gran (2003): Fuzzy Sets as a Typology-Building Tool	143
Conclusion	144
Notes	145
7. Addressing the Critiques of QCA	147
Gisèle De Meur, Benoît Rihoux, and Sakura Yamasaki	
The Dichotomization of Data	148
The Use of Non-Observed Cases (Logical Remainders)	152
Case Sensitivity	155
The Difficulty in Selecting Conditions	158

The Black Box Problem	159
The Temporality Problem	161
Conclusion: There Is No "Miracle Method"	164
Notes	165
8. Conclusions—The Way(s) Ahead	167
Benoît Rihoux, Charles C. Ragin, Sakura Yamasaki, and Damien	Bol
Mainstreaming "Good Practices" in Applications of QCA	167
Connecting the Different QCA Techniques	169
Connecting QCA Techniques and Other	
Qualitative and Quantitative Techniques	170
Pursuing Innovations	172
Engaging in Collective Research Efforts	
and Informed Methodological Debates	175
Appendix: Further Resources for	
Configurational Comparative Methods	179
Where to Find Further Information	179
Glossary	181
Note	184
References	185
Index	199
About the Editors	207
About the Contributors	209

## List of Boxes, Figures, and Tables

Boxes		
Box 0.1	About Terminology and Labels: QCA, csQCA, mvQCA, fsQCA, and Software	xix
Box 0.2	Goals of This Textbook	xx
Box 0.3	Pedagogical Resources in This Textbook	xxiii
Box 1.1	"Multiple Conjunctural Causation" in a Nutshell	8
Box 1.2	Causal Relations in QCA: Assumptions That Are <i>Not</i> Taken Onboard	9
Box 1.3	Necessity and Sufficiency Back in the Picture	10
Box 1.4	Five Types of Uses of QCA Techniques	15
Box 2.1	An Empirical Example Used Throughout This Textbook: The "Inter-war Project"	21
Box 2.2	"Good Practices" (1): Case Selection in Small- and Intermediate-N Research	24
Box 2.3	"Good Practices" (2): Condition Selection in Small- and Intermediate-N Research Designs	28
Box 2.4	Main Steps of the MSDO/MDSO Procedure	29
Box 3.1	Main Conventions and Operations of Boolean Algebra	34
Box 3.2	What Is Boolean Minimization?	35
Box 3.3	"Good Practices" (3): How to Dichotomize Conditions in a Meaningful Way	42
Box 3.4	Five Types of Configurations	44
Box 3.5	"Good Practices" (4): Things to Check to Assess the Quality of a Truth Table	45
Box 3.6	"Good Practices" (5): How to Resolve Contradictory Configurations	48
Box 3.7	"Good Practices" (6): Four Complete Minimization Procedures to Be Run and Made Explicit	64
Box 4.1	mvQCA Notation: Main Conventions	73
Box 4.2	The mvOCA Minimization Rule	74

Box 4.3	Inclusion of Logical Remainders in mvQCA Minimization	76
Box 4.4	"Good Practices" (7): Threshold-Setting With mvQCA	78
Box 4.5	"Good Practices" (8): Specific to mvQCA	84
Box 5.1	Fuzzy-Set Membership Scores: What Are They?	90
Box 5.2	"Good Practices" (9): Specific to the Calibration of Fuzzy Sets	93
Box 5.3	The Main Operations on Fuzzy Sets	99
Box 5.4	The Criterion of Consistency in Fuzzy Sets, in a Nutshell	108
Box 5.5	"Good Practices" (10): Specific to fsQCA	118
Box 6.1	Six Approaches to Selection of Conditions in QCA	125
Box 6.2	"Good Practices" (11): Technical Arbitrations and Practical Steps Throughout the QCA Procedures	138
Box 7.1	The Importance of Case-Based Knowledge to Open Up the "Black Box" of Causal Processes	160
Box 8.1	"Good Practices" (12): Transparency	168
Box G.1	Good Practices" (13): Words Matter, So Use the Correct Terminology!	181
Figures		
Figure 1.1	Comparative Analysis: A Typology	5
Figure 2.1	Most Different and Most Similar Systems Designs	23
Figure 3.1	Venn Diagram Corresponding to Table 3.1 (3 Condition Variables)	38
Figure 3.2	Venn Diagram Corresponding to Table 3.4 (4 Conditions)	47
Figure 3.3	Venn Diagram (5 Conditions; GNPCAP Recoded)	56
Figure 3.4	Venn Diagram: Solution for the [1] Outcome (With Logical Remainders)	62
Figure 3.5	Venn Diagram: Solution for the [0] Outcome (With Logical Remainders)	63
Figure 4.1	Data Distribution Not Allowing a Simple Dichotomization	71
Figure 4.2	Using Two Thresholds for the GNPCAP Condition	79
Figure 4.3	Venn Diagrams Adapted for a Multi-Value Data Set	82
Figure 5.1	Plot of Degree of Membership in BREAKDOWN Against Degree of Membership in the ~D * ~U * ~L Combination (Corner of Vector Space)	103

XIII

## Tables

Table 3.1	Raw Data Table (3-Condition Example)	37
Table 3.2	Lipset's Indicators, Raw Data (4 Conditions)	41
Table 3.3	Lipset's Indicators, Dichotomized Data (4 Conditions)	43
Table 3.4	Truth Table of the Boolean Configurations	45
Table 3.5	Lipset's Indicators, Raw Data, Plus a Fifth Condition	51
Table 3.6	Lipset's Indicators, Dichotomized Data, Plus a Fifth Condition	52
Table 3.7	Truth Table of the Boolean Configurations (4 + 1 Conditions)	53
Table 3.8	Lipset's Indicators, Dichotomized Data, Plus a Fifth Condition (and GNPCAP Recoded)	54
Table 3.9	Truth Table of the Boolean Configurations (4 + 1 Conditions, GNPCAP Recoded)	55
Table 4.1	Dichotomous Coding of a 3-Value Traffic Light	71
Table 4.2	Multi-Valued Scale Classifying Children's Age	74
Table 4.3	Lipset's Indicators, Multi-Value Truth Table (4 Conditions)	80
Table 5.1	Crisp Versus Fuzzy Sets	91
Table 5.2	Data Matrix Showing Original Variables and Fuzzy-Set Membership Scores	95
Table 5.3	Illustration of Logical AND (Intersection)	97
Table 5.4	Illustration of Logical OR (Union)	98
Table 5.5	Cross-Tabulation of Outcome Against Presence/Absence of a Causal Combination	100
Table 5.6	Fuzzy-Set Membership of Cases in Causal Combinations	101
Table 5.7	Correspondence Between Truth Table Rows and Vector Space Corners	105
Table 5.8	Distribution of Cases Across Causal Combinations and Set-Theoretic Consistency of Causal Combinations as Subsets of SURVIVED	113
Table 5.9	Distribution of Cases Across Causal Combinations and Set-Theoretic Consistency of Causal Combinations as Subsets of BREAKDOWN	116