

PDW Session #99

# **Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)**

**WELCOME!**

## **Your hosts...**

**Ruth V. Aguilera;** U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**Thomas Greckhamer;** Louisiana State U.

**Rodney Lacey;** U. of California, Davis

**Vilmos Misangyi;** Pennsylvania State U.

**Peer Fiss;** U. of Southern California

# A Compatible Methodology: Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)

- **Qualitative Comparative Analysis** (Ragin, 1987; 2000) is a comparative method that lies half-way between the qualitative and quantitative approach
- Allows for the formal analysis of qualitative/quantitative evidence using **Boolean Algebra** rather than correlational methods
- Can deal with **small-N** (e.g. between 12 and 40 cases) as well as **large-N** (40+ cases)
- Relies on sets and uses a language that is **half-verbal-conceptual, half-mathematical-logical**
- Focuses on what conditions are **necessary and/or sufficient** for an outcome of interest
- **QCA** using fuzzy sets is particularly appropriate for examining configurations in organization studies, strategy, and policy analysis (Ragin, 2008; Ragin & Fiss, 2008; Fiss 2007; Greckhamer et al., 2007)

# An Exciting Time for Work with QCA/Set-theoretic Methods

- A growing community and greater interest than ever before
  - PDWs, symposia, methods retreats, etc.
- Greater receptiveness and publication opportunities
  - More articles in journals such as AMR, JBR, JIBS, ORM as well as a growing number of book chapters
- Continuing development of the method and alternative approaches
  - Recent books by Charles Ragin (2008) and Rihoux & Ragin (2009)
  - Improved algorithm for analysis can handle 1000s of cases
  - Growing use of consistency and coverage measures
  - New tools for fuzzy set calibration in fs/QCA software package
  - STATA routine by Kyle Longest & Steve Varsey (2008)
  - New ways of presenting results (e.g. Ragin & Fiss, 2008)

# Online Resources

Visit the fs/QCA homepage:

[www.fsqca.com](http://www.fsqca.com)

(you can also download the fs/QCA software package here for free)

Or, visit the new COMPASSSS homepage

[www.compassss.org](http://www.compassss.org)

(for links, papers, listserv etc.)

# Overview of the Workshop

**Welcome and introduction (everyone):** Peer Fiss [~10 min]

Track One (Beginners)

**I. The logic of comparative research:** Rodney Lacey [~45 min]

**Break** [10 minutes]

**II. Set-theoretic analysis using crisp-sets:**  
Thomas Greckhamer [~30 min]

**III. Set-theoretic analysis using fuzzy-sets:**  
Vilmos Misangyi [~30 min]

**IV. Closing Comments:** Peer Fiss [~10 min]

Track Two (Advanced Users)

- **Break-out into discussion group:** Tables with Thomas, Rodney, Vilmos, and Peer [~ 120 minutes w/ breaks as needed]