

# Evaluation report from PhD-course AORG906

## Background

The PhD-course AORG906 - Introduction to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) was offered by the Department of Administration and Organization Theory for the first time in May 2019. The course was advertised online and open for external participants. The academic responsible from the department was Jan Froestad and Dr. Tabitha M. Benney, University of Utah, the main lecturer. The department covers costs related to organizing the course.

## Summary of activities

Two versions of the course were offered (full and partial) and 17 participants registered for the course by the deadline. In the end, 6 PhD-candidates completed the full version and 3 the partial version, in addition to 4 non-credit participants. In total 13 participants completed the course.

For this class, students were first introduced to the history and underlying basis of set theory and QCA. After the basics were introduced, the class worked step-by step through the QCA research process to understand key concepts and each step of the QCA approach to research. In the afternoon sessions, students were taught additional skills related to QCA: Boolean algebra, QCA notation, and programming with the fsQCA software. The course concluded with illustrations of QCA in the literature, mixed method research designs, and group discussion of final research proposals.

Three assessment tools were used for the course: discussion and participation (30%), project proposal (20%), and the final research project (50%). These assessment tools worked well for the course and the students received ample feedback as a result of these assignments.

## Evaluation

In general, the response from participants have been positive. One student commented on the presentation of the course and felt the feedback, timing, and overall quality of the course were on par or exceeded her expectations for the course. At least three students commented on the usefulness of the course – and many students expected to adopted the method for future research. All in all, I felt the course went very well and the students worked hard and seem to grow tremendously from their first assignment to their last.

## Attachment

- Course description and program