

VARIETIES OF CAPITALISM: THEORY AND EVIDENCE USING SMALL-N METHODOLOGIES

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The Varieties of Capitalism (VOC) approach developed by Hall and Soskice divides industrialized countries into two groups: liberal market economies (LMEs) and coordinated market economies (CMEs). Since the number of industrialized countries is relatively small (the OECD currently includes 30 members), testing hypotheses based on the VOC approach represents a challenge for traditional statistical methods. This seminar will examine the VOC framework and the methodology underlying recent “small-n” studies based on it, particularly qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) and fuzzy set logic. QCA/fuzzy set logic claims to provide a method tailored to more cases than case study analysis, but less than the “large-n” demands of traditional statistical analysis.

A key part of the seminar will be project groups of 2-4 students, which will be expected to complete a number of assignments jointly and work on a group project using QCA/fuzzy set logic. These working groups should be formed by the end of the second week. The groups will be expected to perform two assignments, and in addition to work on a project. This project may be a modified version of the QCA analysis of VOC done by B. Kogut/C. Ragin, or another idea based in some way on QCA/fuzzy set analysis of a VOC-based hypothesis.

The central analysis in this seminar will be done with the help of the free software fs/QCA 3.0. This can be downloaded from the website: www.u.arizona.edu/~cragin/fsQCA/software.shtml

Assignments and the project paper may be sent by one of the project team members via email to vitols@wz-berlin.de

Grading in the seminar will be based on the following weighting:

- 25 % for attendance and active participation in class
- 25 % for the two short assignments due 22 May and 5 June
- 50 % for the project, due by 31 July

The syllabus may be modified in response to the speed with which QCA/fs skills are acquired by students during the seminar.

Course Timetable

18 April	Introduction to Course
25 April	Readings: "Introduction" to P. Hall/D. Soskice (2001) <i>Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage</i> , Oxford: Oxford U. Press.
2 May	Readings: P. Hall/D. Gingerich (2002) "Varieties of Capitalism and Institutional Complementarities in the Political Economy: An Empirical Analysis", unpublished manuscript. L. Kenworthy (2006) "Institutional Coherence and Macroeconomic Performance", <i>Socio-Economic Review</i> 4(1): 69-91. D. Geffen/T. Kenyon (2005) "Heinz Capitalism: How Many Varieties Are There?" unpublished manuscript.
9 May	Reading: C. Ragin (2000) <i>Fuzzy Set Social Science</i> , Ch. 5 (pp. 120-139) Discussion of fs/QCA software
16 May	No Seminar – Project groups meet by themselves to work on first QCA assignment (analysis done with fs/QCA software). Assignment due by 22 May.
23 May	Reading: C. Ragin (2000) <i>Fuzzy Set Social Science</i> , Ch. 5 (pp. 139-145)
30 May	No Seminar – Project groups meet by themselves to work on second QCA assignment, which is due by 5 June.
6 June	Reading: B. Kogut/C. Ragin (2005) "Exploring Complexity When Diversity Is Limited: Institutional Complementarity in Theories of Rule of Law And National Systems Revisited", unpublished manuscript.
13 June	Reading: Charles Ragin <i>Fuzzy-Set Social Science</i> , Chapter 6
20 June	Reading: Charles Ragin <i>Fuzzy-Set Social Science</i> , Chapter 10.
27 June	Reading: G. Jackson (2005) "Employee Representation in the Board Compared: A Fuzzy Sets Analysis of Corporate Governance, Unionism, and Political Institutions" <i>Industrielle Beziehungen</i> 12(3):1-28. Discussion of possible variations on Kogut/Ragin analysis – different variables, different theses. Project groups should consider what topic they would like to work on for their project.
4 July	Groups should present their ideas for a project to the class as a whole.
11 July	Project groups meet by themselves to work on project.
18 July	Project groups meet by themselves to work on project.