UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT

Willy Brandt School
of Public Policy

BRANDT SCHOOL VIRTUAL GUEST TALK

Capturing Social Processes: Trajectory-Based Qualitative Comparative Analysis

Prof. Dr. Dr. Lasse Gerrits, *Erasmus University Rotterdam*
Dr. Sofia Pagliarin, *University of Bamberg*

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HOSTED BY PD DR. PATRICK A. MELLO (UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT)

Research methods usually struggle with how complex social processes play out over time. Still, there is no denying that what we observe here and now is a result of what happened sometime 'back then'. This applies especially to political and administrative processes. In this talk, we present trajectory-based Qualitative Comparative Analysis (TJ-QCA). This novel method dissects temporal processes by identifying case-based development stages to capture how different combinations of conditions contribute to the outcome. Besides presenting the technique, we also discuss its epistemological foundation rooted in causal and social complexity. We illustrate the method using (preliminary) results from a research project on urban transformations in cities across Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Ample room will be given for questions and answers.

Lasse Gerrits is professor in urban planning and academic director at the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. **Sofia Pagliarin** is associate researcher in the department of political science at the University of Bamberg. Besides being very good friends, they work together to make QCA more 'dynamic' and sensitive to social complexity, as encountered in social research.

The guest talk is part of the *Qualitative Comparative Analysis* course at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy.