Management Workshop, Fall 2021

主题： Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and Counterfactual Cases

主讲人： Charles C. Ragin, Chancellor's Professor of Sociology, University of California, Irvine

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Abstract:

Explanations of qualitative outcomes often stress combinations of causal conditions. To support an argument emphasizing combinations of causal conditions, it is necessary for researchers to compare cases that are closely matched with each other. It is very difficult to match empirical cases in this manner, however, due to the limited diversity of empirical social phenomena. In this lecture, I discuss the impact of limited diversity on comparative research and related forms of cross-case analysis. I show how limited diversity is conceived in Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA; see Ragin 1987, 2000, 2008), and link QCA strategies for addressing limited diversity to counterfactual analysis. I distinguish two kinds of counterfactual cases, "difficult" and "easy," and demonstrate procedures for incorporating "simplifying assumptions" into QCA based on the analysis of "easy" counterfactual cases. I illustrate these methods with comparative data on violations of international fishing agreements.

Biography:

The primary goal of Charles Ragin, social scientist and innovative methodologist, is to develop methods that help students and researchers unravel causal complexity in their research. This has led to his developing and championing the use of set-theoretic methods in the social sciences, most notably, his Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and fuzzy set analysis. Many who have adopted Ragin's methods believe that these techniques combine the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative methods, while transcending many of their limits.

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