

Crafting Comparative Historical Case Study Analysis



Speaker

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Dr Roumpakis holds an undergraduate degree in Sociology (University of Crete) and a PhD in Social and Policy Sciences (University of Bath). Before joining the University of York, he taught at the Department of Social and Policy Sciences (Bath) and he also spent a year as a post-doctoral researcher at the Nordic Centre of Excellence in Welfare Research (NORDwel) at the University of Helsinki.

The workshop discusses the advancements of comparative historical methods and the available strategies for causal assessment among small-N cases. It will review key comparative research strategies for establishing comparative historical analysis (CHA). Then we aim to identify different levels of aggregation and how within-case analysis (WCA) can be utilised to explore causal processes that are associated with timing and sequence. The workshop will aim to bridge these approaches to demonstrate how both CHA and WCA can be brought together to test theoretical hypotheses, identify similarities and differences, and establish causal explanations. The workshop will highlight that bridging these two approaches necessitates to address key challenges such as the relationship between theory and methods; the importance of the context for the operationalisation of variables; data selection; levels of analysis; levels of aggregation; capturing timing, time and sequence; and finally the triptych of 'agency, structure, ideas'. Participants will be asked to reflect on aspects of their research design, strategies and research experience.