

Mixing Methodologies in Comparative Research



Speaker

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Dr Kühner's academic interest centres on comparative and international political economy with emphasis on the policies and politics of productive and protective dimensions of welfare in historical perspective. Utilising fuzzy set ideal type and qualitative comparative analysis, Dr Stefan Kühner discussed the notion of welfare productivism as conceptual backdrop for comparing recent social policy reforms across in Europe and East Asia. Most recently, he has been involved in research examining the impact of family cash benefits and services on child well-being and discussing inequality in child well-being in EU/OECD countries.

Advances in international macro-level data consolidation offer an enticing opportunity to revisit contested conclusions in comparative research. Building on a summary of the rationale for mixed methods research designs and different varieties of mixed methods, this workshop will explore the ways in which pooled time-series cross-section (TSCS) regression specifications can sensibly be combined with fuzzy set analysis to identify typical and deviant cases in medium and large-N comparative research. More specifically, using the empirical example of recent debates on the effect of inequality and redistribution on economic growth spells in Asia, the workshop will demonstrate the strengths of 'mixing it up' rather than focusing on epistemological and ontological divisions between these two research techniques.