CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

European QCA Conference 2026

"Researching a Complex World"

Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies

Rotterdam School of Management

7–9 December 2026, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Contemporary social, organizational, and economic phenomena are characterized by interconnected conditions, multiple causal pathways, and rapidly changing contexts. For example, digitalization is transforming organizations, markets, and public life, while urban regions face intertwined challenges involving housing, inequality, sustainability, and social inclusion. Such dynamics require comparative methods that recapture the complexity of reality as much as possible.

The **European QCA Conference 2026** brings together researchers who apply, develop, teach, and critically discuss Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) and related configurational approaches.

EQCA 2026 offers **four ways** to participate: (1) without submission; (2) in the Paper Development Workshop; (3) leading methods workshops; (4) presenting a method development paper.

1. Conference participation without a submission

Everyone interested in learning about the state of the art in QCA is warmly invited to attend the conference without presenting a paper or workshop. This option provides access to keynote and plenary sessions, methods workshops, paper presentations, expert discussions, and networking activities.

2. Paper Development Workshop (PDW)

Working on a QCA-paper and in need for quality feedback from leading QCA experts? We invite submissions from (early-career) researchers using QCA for the first time. We particularly welcome empirical work from PhD and early career researchers applying QCA or related configurational approaches, including but not limited to research on digitalization, comparative urbanism, and other complex societal and organizational phenomena. Your paper will be reviewed and discussed constructively by experts during the Paper Development Workshop.

Submissions may represent projects at different stages of development. Authors should submit an extended abstract of **500–1,000 words**, excluding references.

Full submissions should include the research question, the technical details of the QCA, including data and calibration strategies, findings (if available) already, and, importantly, the questions for which feedback is sought during the PDW. This will help us linking you to an expert.

3. Methods workshops

We invite colleagues to propose interactive method workshops that allow a deep dive into a QCA topic. Workshops may address topics including calibration; truth-table analysis; robustness; software use; approaches to time, process and QCA; mixed-method designs; unusual types of data; or reporting standards.

Workshop proposals should be **250–500 words** and include:

- workshop title;
- intended audience; and
- *if applicable:* the facilitator's relevant expertise or connection to the workshop topic.

Depending on the number and nature of the submissions, the organizing committee may contact applicants to coordinate or refine proposed sessions.

4. Method development papers

We welcome contributions that present methodological innovations, propose solutions for methodological shortcomings, reflect on the ontology and epistemology of QCA, conceptual ideas, or propose technical innovation.

Possible topics include:

- calibration and set-membership assessment;
- necessity and sufficiency analysis;
- limited diversity and counterfactual reasoning;
- robustness, sensitivity, and uncertainty;
- temporal or longitudinal QCA;
- multi-level configurational analysis;
- large, digital, textual, or spatial datasets;
- software and computational developments;
- integration with qualitative, statistical, experimental, or process methods; and
- reporting, replication, and open-science practices,
- configurational theorizing.

Method development submissions should clearly identify the methodological problem, the proposed contribution, the supporting analysis or argument, and the implications for researchers.

Authors should submit an extended abstract of **500–1,000 words**, excluding references. Accepted submissions will be presented in dedicated method-development sessions.

SUBMISSION AND SELECTION

Registration and submissions follow via the EQCA2026 website.

The deadline for registrations and submissions is **October 21st, 2026 11.59pm CET.**

Applicants will be notified by **October 28th, 2026 11.59pm CET**. Accepted participants may be asked to submit updated papers or materials by **November 15th, 2026 11.59pm CET.**

CONFERENCE FORMAT

The programme will include:

- keynote and plenary sessions;
- developmental paper sessions;
- methods learning workshops;
- method-development presentations;
- expert discussions and community sessions; and
- networking activities.

The conference will begin on the afternoon of **7 December 2026**, continue throughout **8 December**, and conclude on **9 December 2026** after lunch.

Further Information

Information on registration fees, travel, accommodation, and the detailed programme are the conference website.

We look forward to welcoming the international QCA community to Rotterdam!

IHS Making cities work Erasmus

RSM Erasmus ERASMUS UNIVERSITY