

## International Doctoral School on the SDGs



A consortium consisting of **45 academic and doctoral schools from 30 countries** in the Global South

with the **Italian partner and convener** (CeSPI)

and three linked PhD Programs offering a wide variety of research themes, related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), on:

- International Relations, Political and Social Sciences (Rome Tre University)
- Engineering, Energetics and Sustainability (CIRPS, Interuniversity Research Centre for Sustainable Development)
- Economics & Statistics (Salerno University)

A challenging international initiative with PHD candidates granted with research scholarships of 9 months with individual mentoring.

Prof. **Marco Zupi**, Scientific director of the School and Coordinator of the Network

Mrs. **Rosangela Cossidente**, Tutor of the School

**Supported by:**



Fondazione  
Compagnia  
di San Paolo



Fondazione  
di Sardegna

## FROM THE BEGINNING

### 2017/2018

Congratulations to our first PhD students for the academic year 2017/2018:

Ali Reza from Iran, Ana Paula from Brazil, Daisy from Kenya and Malick from Senegal!

### 2018/2019

The new students: Bienvenue from Ivory Coast, Karine from Brazil, Marthe from Senegal, Tien from Viet Nam and Vatana from Cambodia. The academic contact point for our international students at Rome Tre is Prof. Maria Rosaria Stabili.

An informal seminar at CeSPI on "When have policies been effective to improve food security in the South? Lessons learnt on the key ingredients for impact analysis" with **Fernanda Guerrieri**, former FAO Assistant Director General.



A doctoral seminar at CeSPI on "A pluralist approach to impact evaluation" with Prof. **Nicoletta Stame**, a leading expert in this field.



## 2019/2020

9 new PhD students from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal and Viet Nam participate in the intensive course offered by CeSPI on Econometric modelling for causal inference and program evaluation held by dr. **Giovanni Cerulli**, IRCrES-CNR, a statistician who developed several Stata routines for estimating binary treatment models.



A doctoral seminar at CeSPI on "Conducting mixed methods impact evaluations. Methodologies, processes and practices" with **Luisa Belli**, an evaluation expert, Project Evaluation Coordinator at FAO, with a background in tropical and subtropical agriculture and rural sociology. She has more than 15 years of experience in the management, monitoring and evaluation of development projects.



The final PhD student seminar at CeSPI aimed at gathering the young researchers for mutual discussions, presentations of their research projects and feedbacks, together with and reference point to help the students in their relations with the lecturers.

Many congratulations to all the visiting PhD students for the academic year 2018/2019 on your success!



## **January 2020**

Despite the spreading of the Covid-19 virus and the correlated uncertainties all over the world, including Italy, the start of the new semester was not at risk. At the beginning of 2020 the enrollment procedures were completed and all training activities are continued. Here, the welcomed Luis Fernando (PhD in Law, Colombia), Pablo Nicolas (PhD, Political Sciences, Argentina), Safia (PhD in Economics, Morocco), and Gbehe Bienvenu (PhD in Economics, Cote d'Ivoire).

All lectures and seminars have been adapted to online distance learning.



## 2020-2021

Due to the Covid-19 emergency, a distance learning programme with courses and seminars focused on impact evaluation, held by highly qualified teaching experts, combining quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, both theoretical and applied, for a proper application of methods for policy evaluation.

The 20-hour course on econometric modelling for causal inference and program evaluation held by dr. **Giovanni Cerulli**, with the participation of Phd students from Myanmar, Morocco, Palestine, Paraguay, Uruguay and Zambia

A course on Research design, qualitative evaluation, case studies, and concepts to provide a research design, theory, and methodology overview for multimethod and qualitative research projects.

A complimentary to statistical or experimental designs, held by :

**Gary Goertz**, professor at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame (USA) and

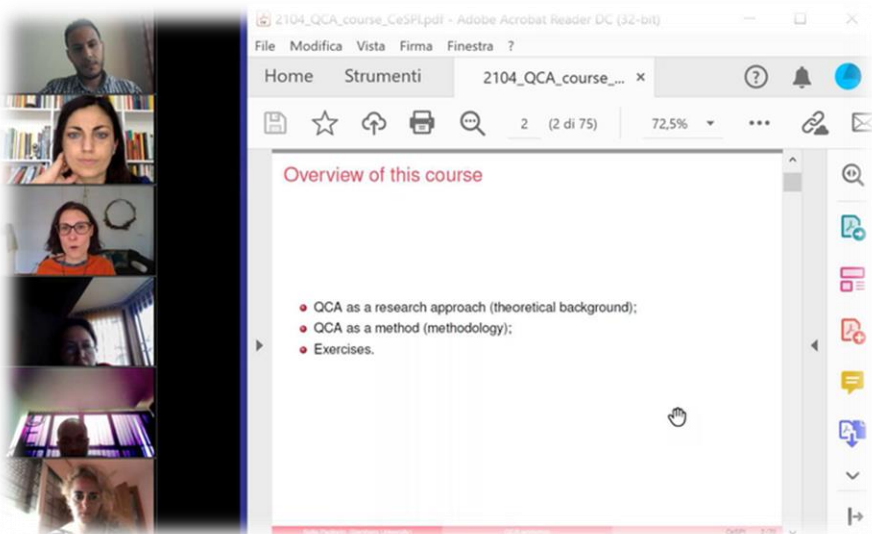


**James Copestake**, Professor of International Development, University of Bath (UK).



A course in Process Tracing Methods to provide PhD students with a working understanding of the core elements of process-tracing as a robust case study method, enabling researchers to utilize it in their own research - either alone or in combination with other methods.

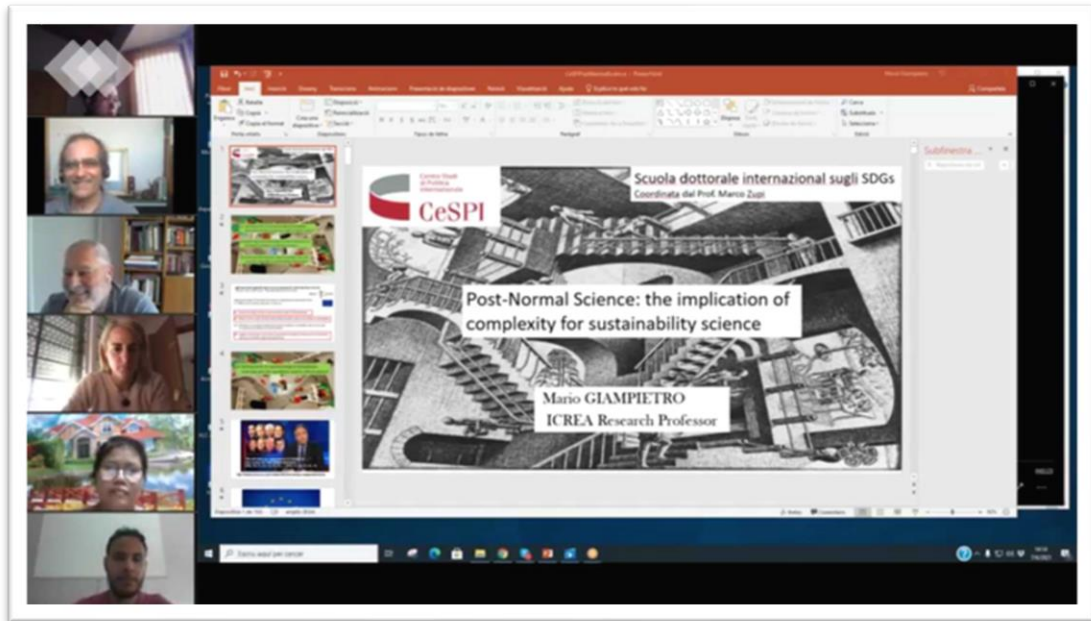
A course held by **Derek Beach**, Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus (Denmark).



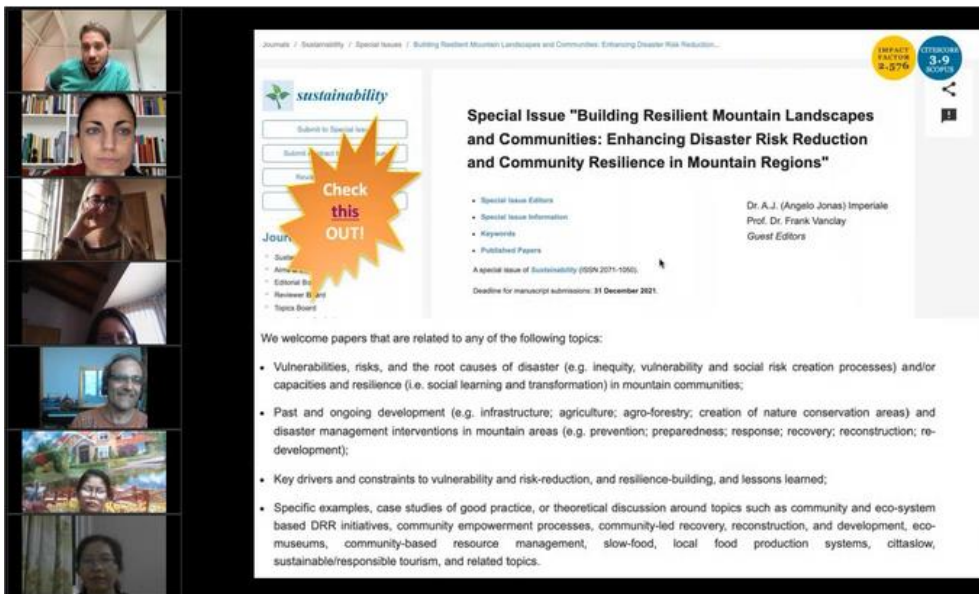
An introductory course to Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). The logic and tools for systematic, case-based comparative research. A course focused on the QCA way of reasoning and formulate research questions; QCA in practice, and some more advanced topics.

A course held by **Sofia Pagliarin**, urban sociologist, researcher at the Chair for the Governance of Innovative and Complex Technological Systems at University of Bamberg (Germany).

An introductory course on Post-Normal Science and Multi-Scale Integrated Analysis of Societal and Ecosystem Metabolism. The course addresses the implications of complexity for sustainability science and presents an innovative approach to the study of sustainability across dimensions and scales. A course held by **Mario Giampietro**, ICREA Research Professor at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA) of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) (Spain).



A Seminar on conceptualizing community resilience and the social dimensions of risk to overcome barriers to disaster risk reduction, principles for Social Impact Assessment,



recognition of the local knowledge and local capacities to build community resilience: engaging and empowering local communities. Practical steps, concrete examples and lessons learnt are discussed.

A seminar held by: **Angelo Jonas Imperiale**, Lecturer, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen (The Netherlands).



A Seminar on Multidimensional Poverty and its measurement, with a particular reference to the index developed by the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the UNDP. Particular attention is paid to the measurement and analysis aspects.

A seminar held by: **Ricardo Nogales Carvajal**, Associate Professor of Economics, and Dean of Research in Economics at Universidad Privada Boliviana, a Research Associate at Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative.

Region	Number of countries	Possible PC	Significant PC at baseline	Same ordering (only significant PC at baseline)	Ratio of significant PC	Overall Robustness ratio	Significant only robustness ratio
World	104	5356	4957	4714	92.6%	88.0%	95.1%
AS	13	78	71	67	91.0%	85.9%	94.4%
EAP	11	55	49	45	89.1%	81.8%	91.8%
ECA	14	91	65	41	71.4%	45.1%	63.1%
LAC	20	190	156	146	82.1%	76.8%	93.6%
SA	7	21	18	17	85.7%	81.0%	94.4%
SSA	37	666	595	569	89.3%	85.4%	95.6%

## 2021-2022

A distance learning programme combining courses (from 8 to 20 hours each) and seminars focused on impact evaluation, held by highly qualified teaching experts, combining quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, both theoretical and applied, for a proper application of methods for policy evaluation.



And a new course on Social Network Analysis and a new series of six seminars on

"International Development Cooperation and the Localisation of the SDGs" hosted by the Department of Political Science of Rome 3 University in cooperation with UNDP-RBAS.



On the 10th February 2022 the first of a series of 6 webinars (3 hours each) took place. 35 students from 14 different countries have been enrolled in the event: more than half of them are PhD candidates, plus master students and post-doc, 15 students from Arab countries joined the group. Lecturers, policy makers and practitioners from all the continents: over 20 panelists and 100 participants over the 6 webinars, concluded with an internal restitution seminar and final discussion with the participants.

The 20-hour course on econometric modelling for causal inference and program evaluation held by dr. **Giovanni Cerulli**, with the participation of the 8 selected Phd students from Argentina, Uruguay, Myanmar, Vietnam, Morocco, Zambia and Palestina.

A course on Research design, qualitative evaluation, case studies, and concepts (together with the use of the QUiP software) to provide a research design, theory, and methodology overview for multimethod and qualitative research projects.

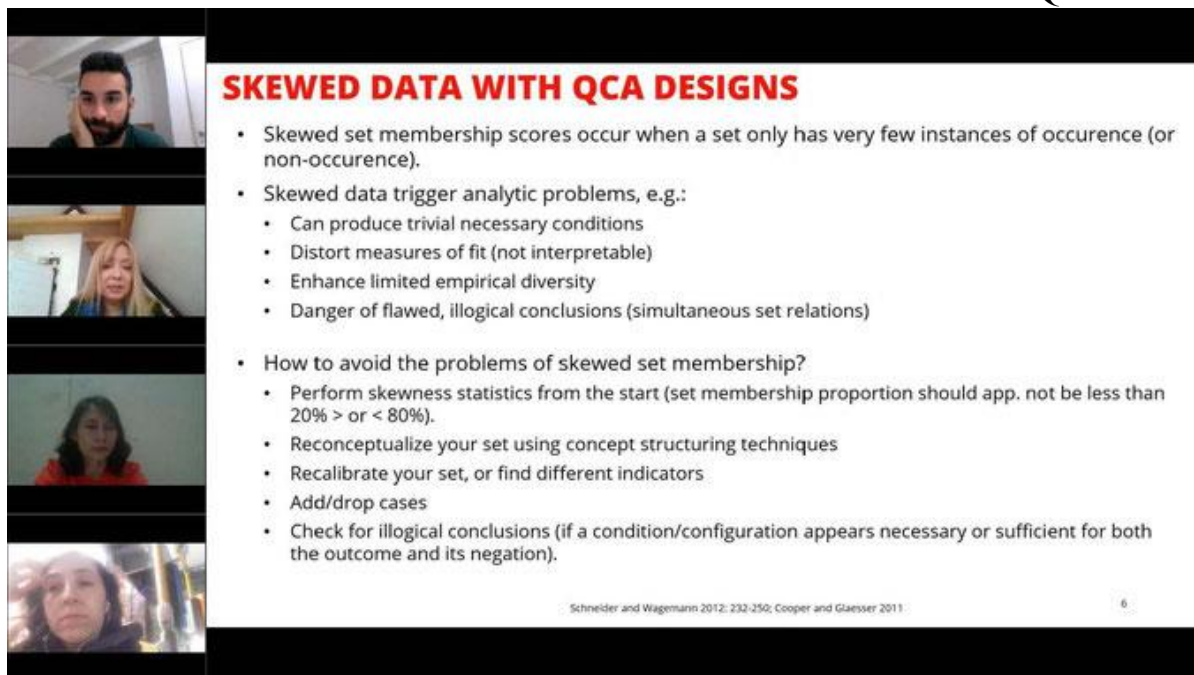
A complimentary to statistical or experimental designs, held by **Gary Goertz**, professor at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame (USA) and **James Copestake**, Professor of International Development, University of Bath (UK).

A course in Process Tracing Methods to provide PhD students with a working understanding of the core elements of process-tracing as a robust case study metho, enabling researchers to utilize it in their own research - either alone or in combination with other methods.

A course held by **Derek Beach**. Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus (Denmark).

A course on Social network Analysis held by **Antonio Zinilli**, researcher at the Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth, National Research Council (CNR) in Rome, Italy. The study of social networks focuses on the connections that exist between individuals or other units of analysis (e.g. agencies, firms, universities, institutions, regions, countries). As such, SNA is concerned with the visualization and analysis of network structures, as well as the significance of networks in agents' propensity to engage in various types of behaviors. SNA can also to be used in evaluation to measure specific program outcomes and impact. SNA assesses the effects of performance in multilayer network analysis as well (several levels of analysis).

This intensive 4-module course introduces students to the nuts and bolts of Qualitative



**SKEWED DATA WITH QCA DESIGNS**

- Skewed set membership scores occur when a set only has very few instances of occurrence (or non-occurrence).
- Skewed data trigger analytic problems, e.g.:
  - Can produce trivial necessary conditions
  - Distort measures of fit (not interpretable)
  - Enhance limited empirical diversity
  - Danger of flawed, illogical conclusions (simultaneous set relations)
- How to avoid the problems of skewed set membership?
  - Perform skewness statistics from the start (set membership proportion should app. not be less than 20% > or < 80%).
  - Reconceptualize your set using concept structuring techniques
  - Recalibrate your set, or find different indicators
  - Add/drop cases
  - Check for illogical conclusions (if a condition/configuration appears necessary or sufficient for both the outcome and its negation).

Schneider and Wagenmann 2012: 232-250; Cooper and Glaeser 2011

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Comparative Analysis (QCA), an innovative configurational method that allows for comparisons of small, intermediate or large numbers of cases to identify necessary and/or sufficient conditions for an outcome. It is an attractive method for scholars who seek to model causally complex patterns and integrate in-depth case knowledge at all stages of the analysis. I will introduce you to performing QCA with the freely available fsQCA 3.0 software. A course held by **Priscilla Álamos-Concha**, senior research fellow at Radboud University, Nijmegen School of Management.

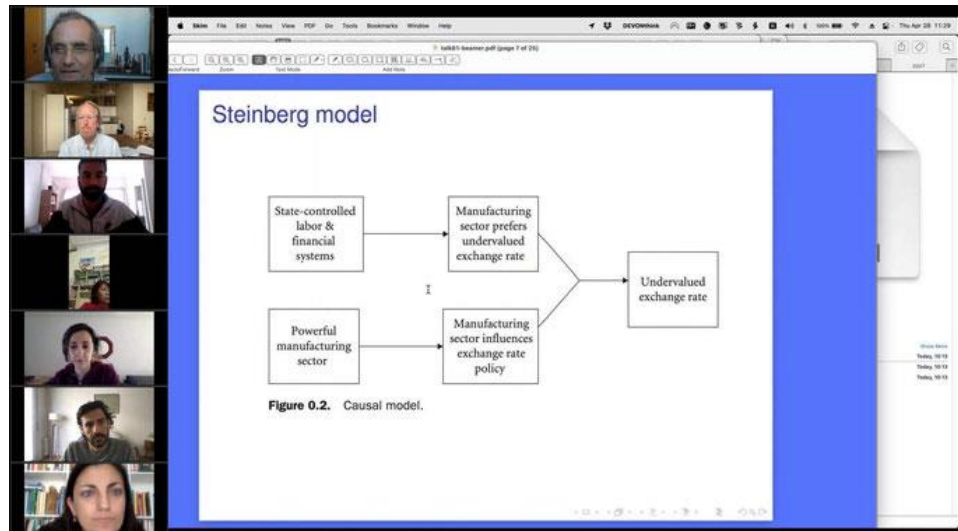
## 2022-2023

Our annual program offers an enriching series of courses and seminars meticulously designed for aspiring scholars and dedicated researchers.

A distance learning programme combining courses (from 8 to 20 hours each) and seminars focused on impact evaluation, held by highly qualified teaching experts, combining quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, both theoretical and applied, for a proper application of methods for policy evaluation. And a new course on Social Network Analysis and a new series of six seminars on "International Development Cooperation and the Localization of the SDGs" hosted by the Department of Political Science of Rome3 University in cooperation with UNDP-RBAS.

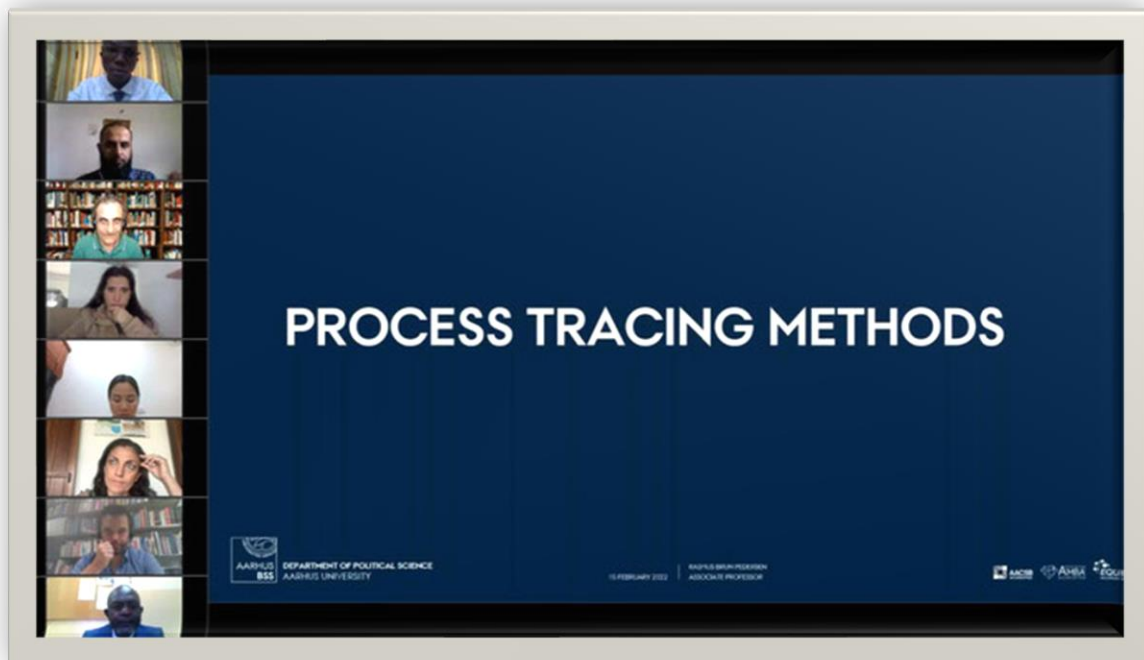
The 20-hour course on econometric modelling for causal inference and program evaluation held by dr. **Giovanni Cerulli**, Senior Researcher at the Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth, National Research Council (CNR) in Rome, Italy.

A course on Research design, qualitative evaluation, case studies, and concepts (together with the use of the QUiP software) to provide a research design, theory, and methodology overview for multimethod and qualitative research projects, with: **Gary Goertz**, professor at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame (USA), **James Copestake**, Professor of International Development, University of Bath (UK), **Steve Powell**, Causal Map Ltd (UK).



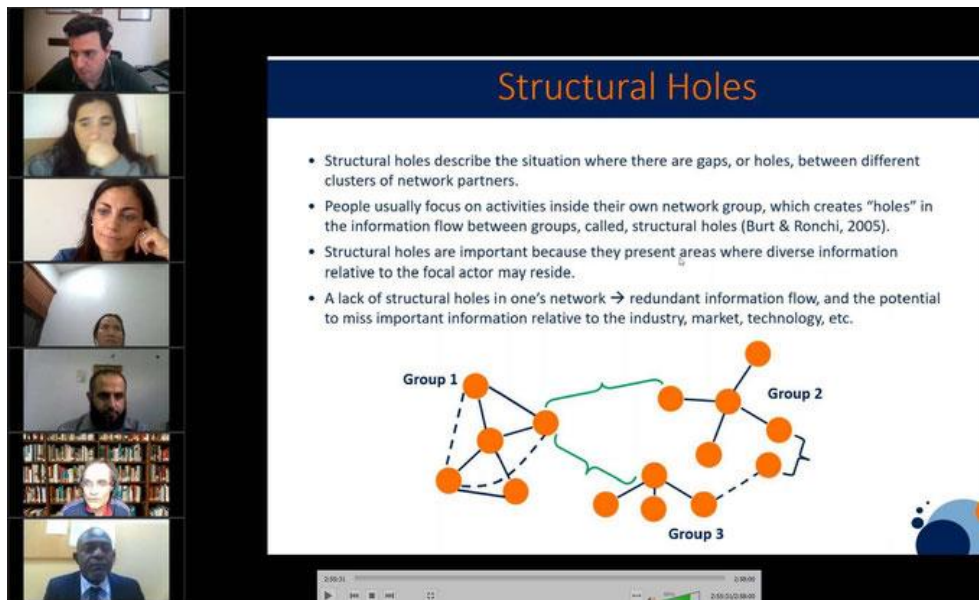
A course in Process Tracing Methods to provide PhD students with a working understanding of the core elements of process-tracing as a robust case study method, enabling researchers to utilize it in their own research - either alone or in combination with other methods.

A course held by **Rasmus Brun Pedersen**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus (Denmark).

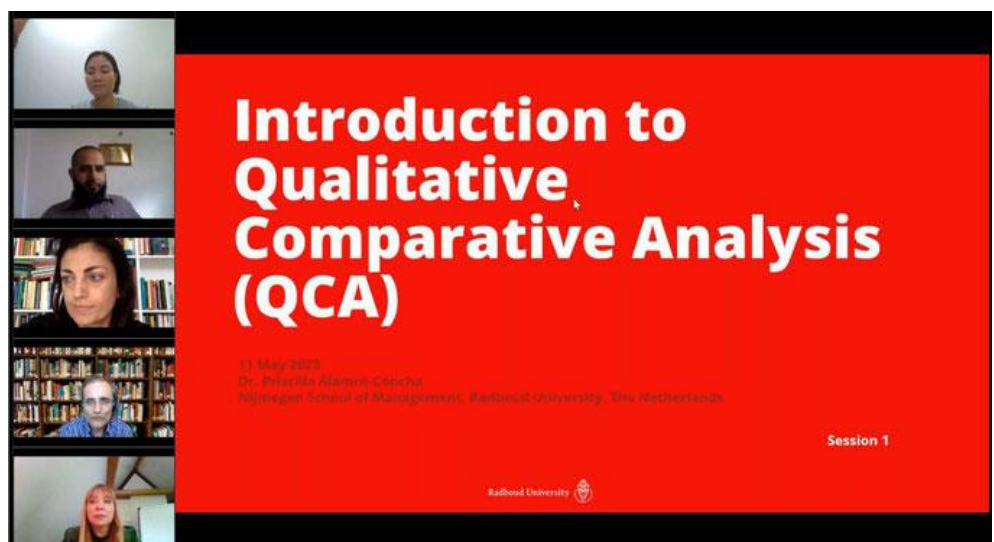


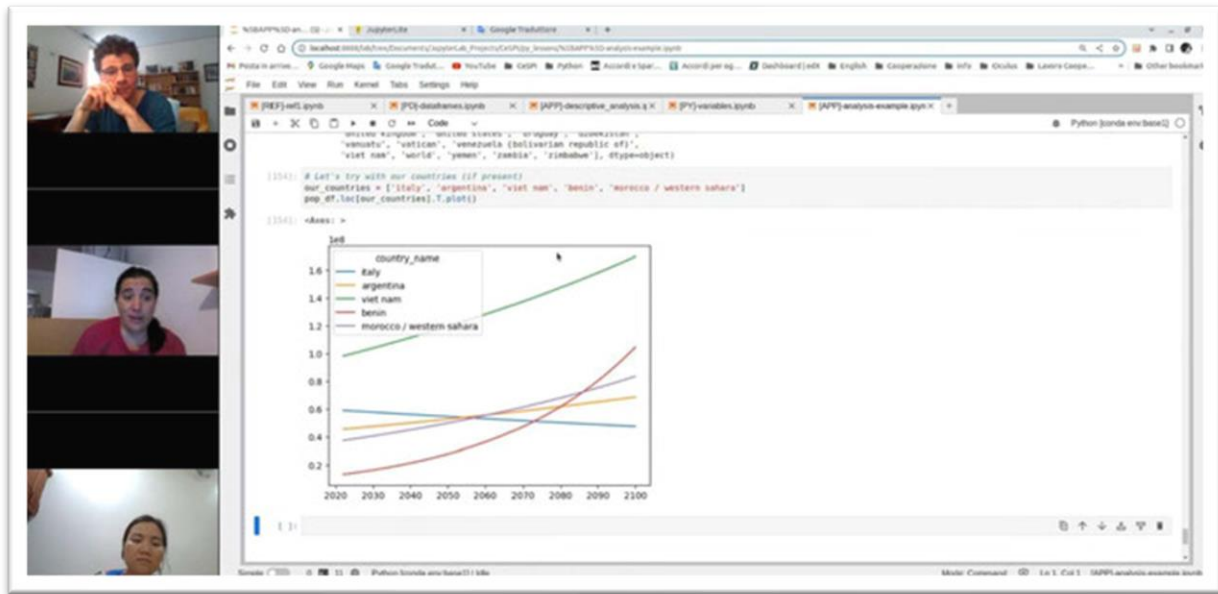


A course on Social network analysis (SNA), focused on the connections that exist between individuals or other units of analysis and on the visualization and analysis of network structures, as well as the significance of networks in agents' propensity to engage in various types of behaviors. A course held by **Antonio Zinilli**, researcher at the Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth, National Research Council (CNR) in Rome, Italy.



An intensive module course on Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), a configurational method that allows for comparisons of small, intermediate or large numbers of cases to identify necessary and/or sufficient conditions for an outcome, through the usage of fs QCA 3.0 software. A course held by **Priscilla Álamos-Concha**, Assistant Professor of Qualitative Empirical Methodology at the Department of Business Administration of the Nijmegen School of Management.





New Course **Python for Data Analysis**. Python has emerged as the lingua franca of data science and analytics. As a versatile, open-source programming language, Python is renowned for its simplicity, readability, and vast array of libraries and packages. This course is designed to open the doors to Python's immense potential in data analysis and visualization, making it an essential skill for researchers, policy analysts, and anyone involved in data-driven decision making, complex policy evaluation, social network analysis, or other areas of sustainable development, this course will enhance your ability to handle data effectively and insightfully. Course held by **Samuele Pelloni**, researcher at CeSPI.