Using fsQCA to study diversity and its effects on emergence and robustness in institutions

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Abstract

I showcase how fuzzy-set qualitative comparative analysis (fsQCA) can be useful to identify institutional diversity in any given action situation, and how institutional diversity might be related to processes of institutional emergence and robustness. I do so through the analysis of a longitudinal comparative data set built to study of the governance of the protected area system in Costa Rica (1986-2006). Findings suggest that institutional diversity may play a more prominent role in the maintenance of institutional robustness than in processes of institutional emergence. More broadly, the study aims to provide theoretical linkages between the study of local common-pool resources and global environmental governance by clarifying the relationship between multi-level institutional linkages and conditions influencing the likelihood of successful collective action.

Keywords: QCA, diversity, emergence, robustness, institutions

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