

## Qualitative Methods Ideal for Studying Emergent Phenomenon: fsQCA and Narrative Analysis<sup>1</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

This study provides methodological reflection on the grounding of qualitative research on two levels: 1) the use of formalized qualitative comparative analysis (fsQCA) and 2) the use of mixed methods highlighting traditional strengths of qualitative methods alongside emergent methodological opportunities. We show how both of these qualitative methodological approaches provide unique strengths opaque to quantitative approaches. To do so, the research examines how we linked qualitative data from original questionnaires and interviews to a novel analytic technique: Formalized qualitative comparative analysis (fsQCA). The results show how these qualitative methodological approaches provide nuanced analysis maps multiple pathways to loan-aversion on the part of male and female high school students from a California high school.

Formalized qualitative comparative analysis (fsQCA) techniques are employed alongside processtracing with qualitative data to accomplish two analytical tasks: 1) distinguish distinctively female and male forms of prospective loan aversion and 2) explain how these types of loan aversion emerge. The fsQCA analysis is employed to identify three distinct near-sufficient pathways to loan aversion, the anticipatory pathway, the parental background pathway, and the borrowing experience pathway. Narratives from the interviews with the students who best exemplify each of these pathways are used to explore the generative processes behind them. These results are discussed as methodological exemplars to show how the use of qualitative methods sheds light on loan aversion arising from both genderdifferentiated expectations about the future as well as gender-differentiated experiences in the past. This being said, presentation of findings is secondary to the larger (and primary) discussion of qualitative methods, their strengths, and their potential uses in tandem with one another, as well as emergent qualitative approaches.

**Key words:** methodology, qualitative methods, Formalized qualitative comparative analysis

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