
August 11, 2015

4100 Calit2 Building
UCI, California, 92617
Phone: (251) 510-0864
Email: cbgibson@uci.edu

Tim Futing Liao
Sociological Methodology
University of Illinois

Dear Editors:

Attached, please find a submission to *Sociological Methodology* entitled *The Irvine Assessment for Qualitative Comparative Analysis*. The paper first generally assesses the robustness of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) to random data; it then systematically tests the ability of existing QCA robustness assessments to protect against randomness; finally, it proposes a new method of determining whether a QCA result is due to random chance, with a similar interpretation to a p-value. We find that existing QCA checks greatly vary in effectiveness given the structure of data, and our method allows the researcher to use a principled way to determine whether the checks are indeed effective, and can provide threshold recommendations for these checks to researchers.

We believe this to be a good fit for *Sociological Methodology* due both to the fundamental assessment of QCA generally, and a principled methodological approach to determine its robustness. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Complete contact information for the corresponding author is below:

C. Ben Gibson
Department of Sociology
University of California, Irvine
4100 Calit2 Building
UCI, California, 92617
Phone: (251) 510-0864 (cell)
Email: cbgibson@uci.edu

Sincerely,

C. Ben Gibson
