## Major Forms of Cross Case Research

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Qualitative</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Quantitative</th>
<th>Experimental</th>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Computational</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Main Focus</td>
<td>Commonalities</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>Co-variation</td>
<td>Managed Variation</td>
<td>Relation</td>
<td>Completeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Error</td>
<td>Little or none</td>
<td>Uniqueness</td>
<td>Explicit vector</td>
<td>Explicit vector</td>
<td>Explicit vector</td>
<td>Little or none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Theoretical Fit</td>
<td>Nearly perfect</td>
<td>Close</td>
<td>Loose</td>
<td>Close</td>
<td>Bounded</td>
<td>Nearly perfect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Goals</td>
<td>Giving voice, or cultural significance</td>
<td>Diversity of types and patterns</td>
<td>Test, predict, generalize</td>
<td>Identifying specific effects</td>
<td>Explaining units and connections</td>
<td>Generalizing from the universe of cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cases or Units</td>
<td>Unknown at first</td>
<td>Historically delimited</td>
<td>Generic</td>
<td>Researcher selected</td>
<td>Generic</td>
<td>Users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Analytic Frame</td>
<td>Fluid</td>
<td>Flexible</td>
<td>Fixed</td>
<td>Fixed</td>
<td>Flexible</td>
<td>Fluid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Basis</td>
<td>Case</td>
<td>Case and variable</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>Node and Tie</td>
<td>Incident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. N of cases</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>As Needed</td>
<td>As Needed</td>
<td>Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Causation</td>
<td>Conjectural</td>
<td>Multiple conjectural</td>
<td>Linear and additive</td>
<td>Directed</td>
<td>Contagion</td>
<td>Curvilinear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Context</td>
<td>Important</td>
<td>Incorporated</td>
<td>De-emphasized</td>
<td>Natural or Unnatural</td>
<td>Embedded</td>
<td>In meta-data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Parsimony</td>
<td>Not important</td>
<td>Some concern</td>
<td>Key concern</td>
<td>Key concern</td>
<td>Some concern</td>
<td>Not important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Technique</td>
<td>Synthetic</td>
<td>Analytic or synthetic</td>
<td>Analytic</td>
<td>Analytic</td>
<td>Analytic or synthetic</td>
<td>Synthetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Generalizing</td>
<td>Very limited</td>
<td>Modest</td>
<td>Broad</td>
<td>Focused</td>
<td>Specific</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Attributes</td>
<td>Many</td>
<td>Moderate number</td>
<td>Few</td>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>Node and Tie</td>
<td>All, within platform</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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