

Major Forms of Cross Case Research

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



For more, see Ragin, C. (1987). *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies*. Berkeley, CA, University of California Press. This work can be cited as Howard, P. (2016). [Major Forms of Cross Case Research](http://philhoward.org). Retrieved from philhoward.org. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution - Non Commercial - Share Alike 4.0 International License.