ENVIRONMENT-RELATED MIGRATION WITHIN FARMING HOUSEHOLDS IN THE ETHIOPIAN HIGHLANDS

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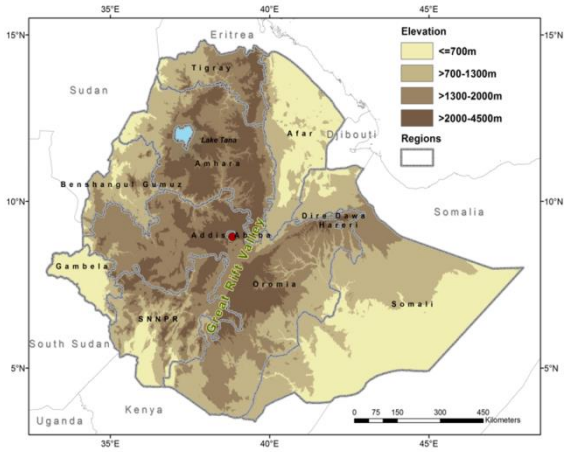
A QUALITATIVE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS



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Environmental Non-Migration: Frameworks, Methods and Cases
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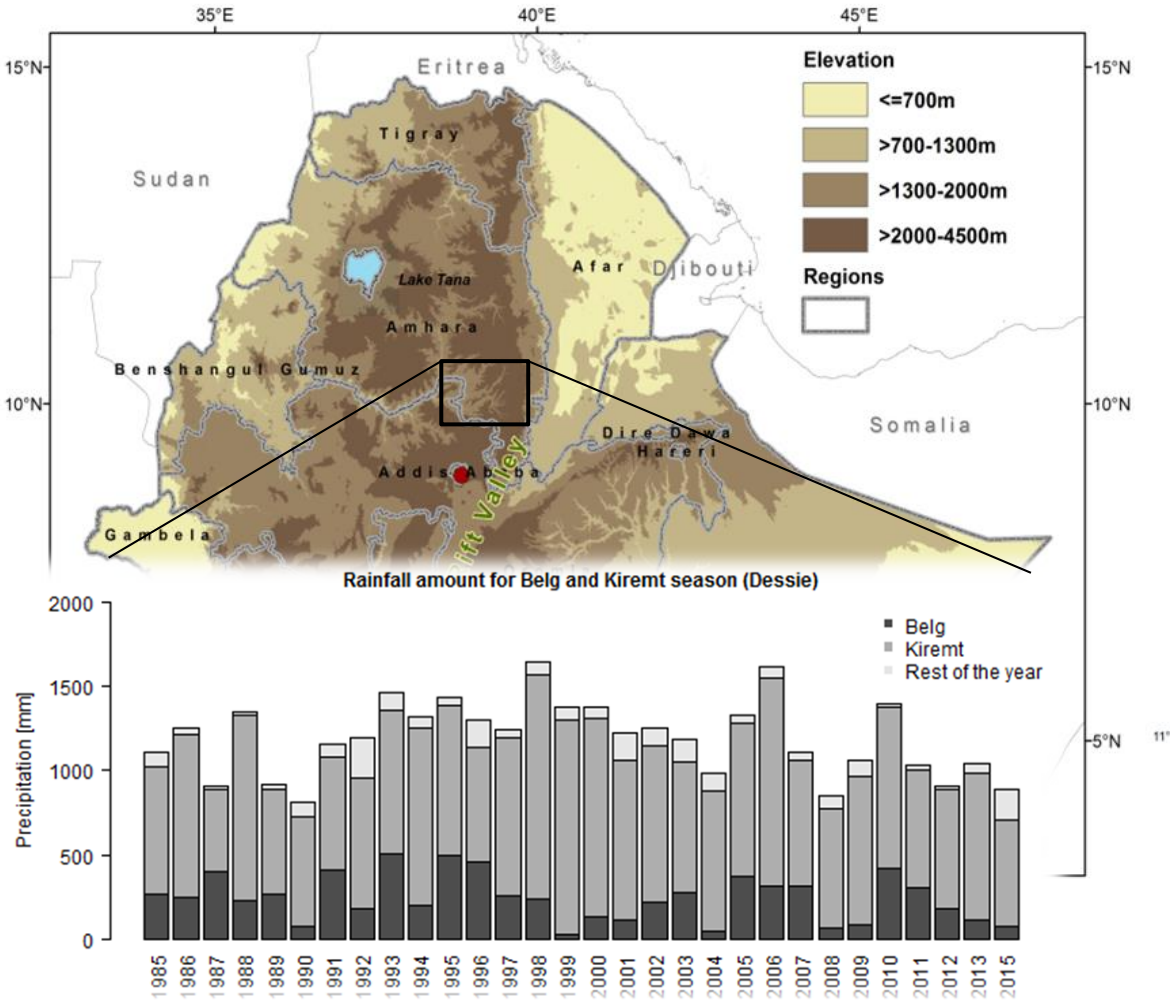
SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL PRESSURE IN THE ETHIOPIAN HIGHLANDS

- Rainfall: -20%, increasing variability
- Droughts
- Land degradation
- Food insecurity
- Land scarcity
- Rapid population growth and migration



RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

What are the circumstances under which households engage in migration?

- What is the influence of agro-ecological and socio-economic features?
- How are non-environmental and environmental factors interlinked?

→ receive an **in-depth understanding** by applying a qualitative case study design

→ **considering context** factors by using a multi-site approach

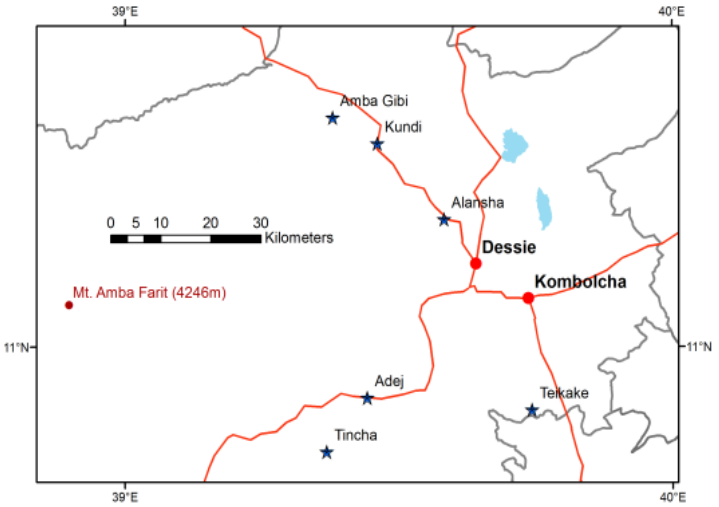
→ detect patterns in and interlinkages between intertwined influence factors of migration

→employ a **formalized and systematic** analysis

RESEARCH DESIGN

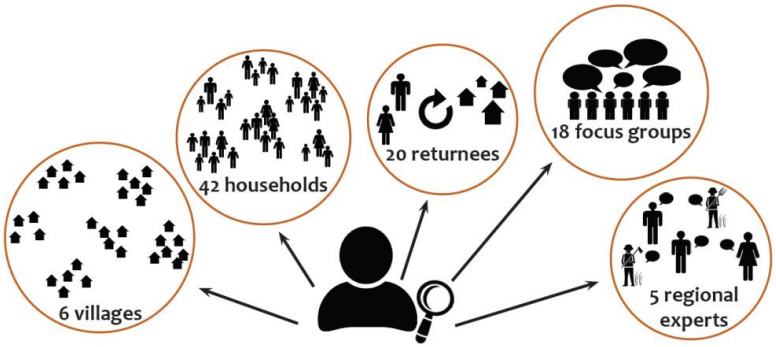
Multi-site approach

6 villages located in three different agro-ecological zones, differ in road connections and market availabilities



Multilevel qualitative data

- Interviews with regional experts (n=5)
- Focus Groups within villages (n=18)
- **Household interviews (n=42)**
- Interviews with returnees (n=20)



Data Analysis (QCA)

- **Q**ualitative **C**omparative **A**nalysis

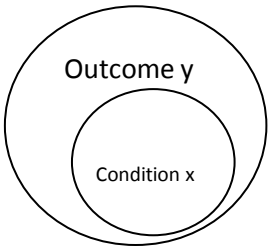
→ Identify patterns, factor interlinkages, formalized tool

WHAT IS QCA?

QCA is a **case-based**, **comparative**, **set-theoretic** research approach to detect causal relationships

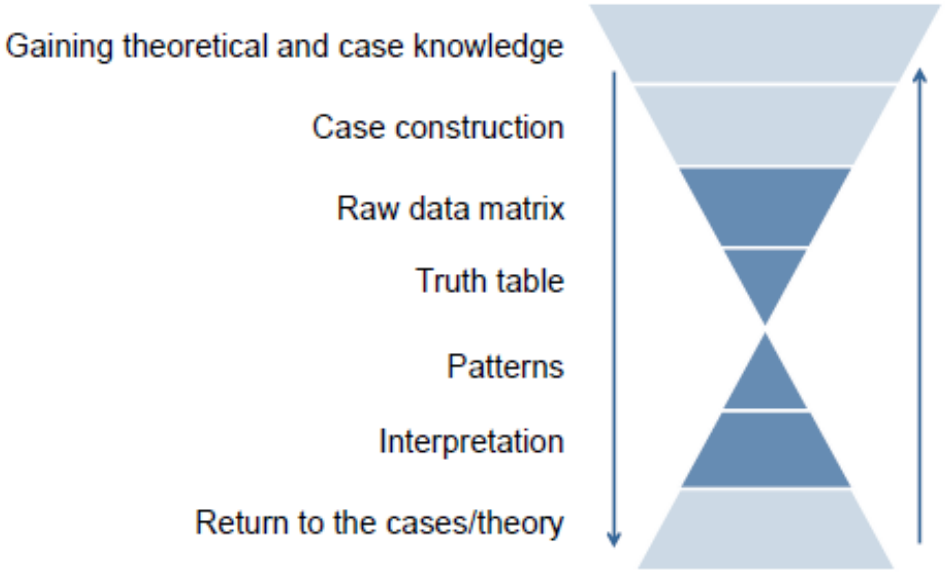
It aims to *"gather in-depth insight in the different cases and capturing the complexity of the cases"* and to *"produce some level of generalization"* (Rihoux and Lobe, 2009)

- Set-theory
  - **Sufficiency**, necessity and INUS



Terminology

- **Condition** ~ Independent variable
- **Outcome** ~ Dependent variable



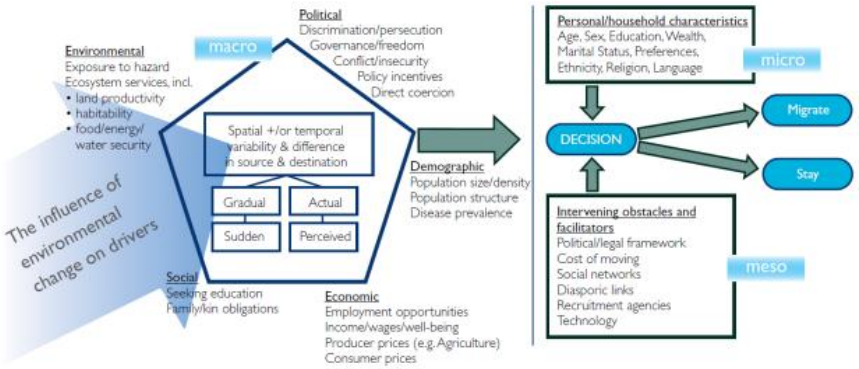
→ **an iterative process!**

QCA approach, modified after Verweij S., 2015

QCA AND ENVIRONMENT-RELATED MIGRATION

The nature of ERM…

- **Complex causalities**



Foresigth 2011

The nature of (set-theoretic) QCA…

- **Configurational** (Logical AND)

Combinations of conditions produce an outcome

-> Multiple, intertwined direct and indirect influence factors of migration

- **Equifinality** (Logical OR)

Different conditions can produce the same outcome

-> Multiple (and equally valid) pathways can explain migration outcome

QCA – STEPS

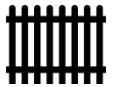
1. Define an outcome and conditions

Outcome: migrating family member in past 5 yrs, > 1month

Conditions:

- Household engaged activity beyond cropping and livestock keeping (*additactive*)

- Perceived land size is too small for fulfilling the households food needs (*landscar*)



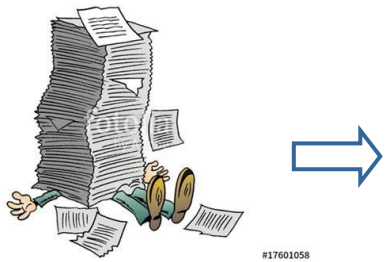
- Households exclusively using belg rainfalls (*belgonly*)

- Village has own market or asphalt road (*marketroad*)

- Migration experience within household (*migratexper*)

QCA – STEPS

2. Calibration: translation of empirical information into numerical formats

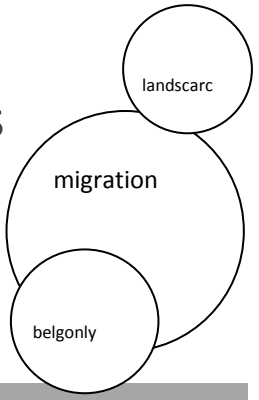


Cases	Conditions				Outcome
Household	additactive	migratexper	landscar	…	migration
1	0	1	1	…	1
2	1	0	0		0
3	1	1	1		1
4	…	…	…	…	…
…					

here: crisp-set QCA -> binary format -> the absence (0) and presence (1) of conditions within cases (households)

3. Detecting patterns using logical minimization process

-> Identification if (the combination of) conditions are necessary and/or sufficient for migration



QCA – KEY FINDINGS SOUTH WOLLO

Sufficient condition combination

Solution term	**migratexper * (~belgonly + additactive) → migration**	
Solution coverage	85 % (17 out of 20)	
Causal pathways	migratexper * ~belgonly	migratexper * additactive

* = AND + = OR ~ = absence of → = sufficient for

Migrating households (positive cases) : n = 20

Non-migrating households (negative cases) : n = 22

… households with migration experience and which have kiremt season choose to migrate

AND

… households with migration experience and activities outside agriculture choose to migrate

AND

… social networks and diversification options for livelihoods are crucial for the ability of people to migrate

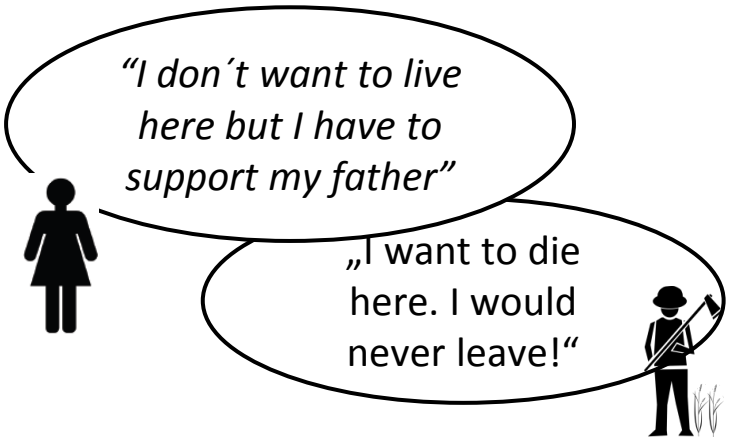
CONCLUDING REMARKS

Rural South Wollo
- Severe land degradation and increasing rainfall variability
- land scarcity
- population pressure
- lack of job opportunites

people want to leave...

Household Enabling Factors for Migration
- Migration experience of family members, neighbors and friends
- Income activites which are beyond cropping and livestock activites
- Kiremt season used for cropping

But not all of them migrate!
Why?
Who is enabled to leave?



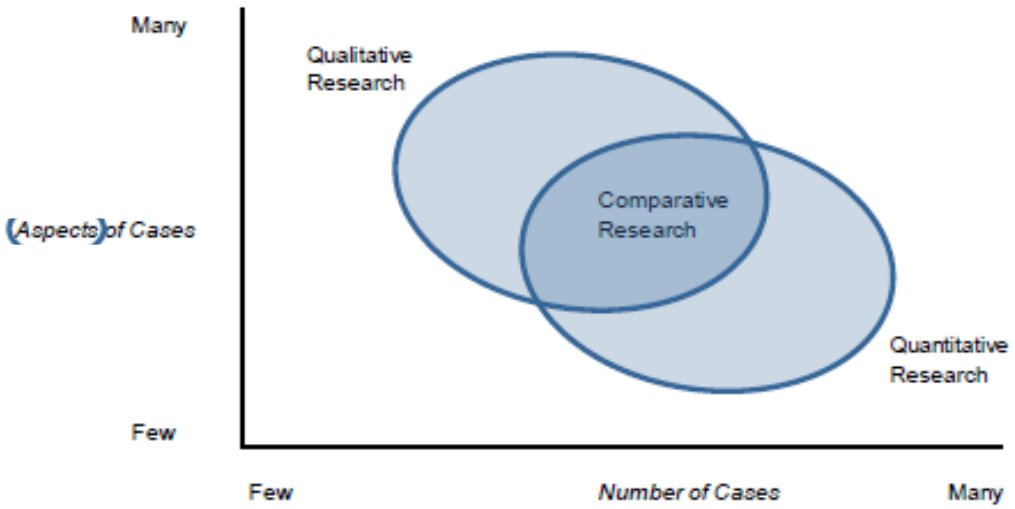
Motives for non-migration
- Social dependency
- Age/Health
- Strong ties to origin

Possible future QCAs

- **Non-migration:** to detect patterns explaining explicitly the non-migrating cases
- **Type of migration:** Understand migration distances and duration by applying fuzzySet-QCAs
- ...

CONCLUDING REMARKS – QCA

- Combines **advantages of qualitative and quantitative analysis**
  - **Replicable** and **generalizable** but still case-based
- Ideal for **small-to-intermediate-N** research designs
- Provides powerful tool for dealing with **causal complexity** in the context of ERM



modified after Verweij S., 2015

THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR ATTENTION ☺

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