

Acknowledgements

An increased uneasiness with more traditional evaluation methods in the realm of infrastructure development from our side coincided with the incipient arrival and broader acceptance of Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) in the social sciences. Evaluations are pivotal in societies' attempts to become *better* – and we use that term here on purpose – at planning, constructing, and operating infrastructures. There is a catch, however. If evaluation methods and techniques have a botched understanding of the complexity of infrastructure projects, it is unlikely that they will lead to learning effects. After all, what use does an evaluation have if an individual project manager, contractor, or consultant believes that 'it doesn't apply here because our project is different'? QCA offers an opportunity to bridge the gap between the complexity of single projects and the identification of general trends across a larger group of projects. This book aims to open up the method to anyone working with such projects – regardless of being a government official, a consultant, or an academic – in order for it to be put to good use in evaluations.

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