

## A large-N Qualitative Comparative Analysis

### What explains opposition towards immigration?

Regression based studies identified a number of single variables, potentially affecting attitudes towards immigration. Most prominent factors are:

- Economic competition
- Competition over welfare benefits
- Cultural factors, such as shared norms and values
- Ethnic competition
- Education

Comparing ESS survey responses in four countries, we aim at identifying important interactions and intersections of those variables. The cases are selected according to Esping-Andersen's welfare state typology (Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, and Italy).

### Why a large-N QCA?

Regression-based analysis of survey data provided a rather fragmented picture of explanations for attitudes towards immigration. The distinctive qualities of QCA can help us to complement this research for several reasons:

- Explore complex interactions between the explanatory conditions
- Explicit treatment of limited diversity
- Allows for asymmetric causal relations and equifinality
- Assesses substantive relevance of conditions by presenting coverage scores
- Semantic basis of survey data aligns very good with the logic of fuzzy sets

## Findings



- ➔ Factor analysis shows that causal variables from previous research capture the same dimension – in-group framing
- ➔ Having no immigrant friends is the only necessary condition for opposition towards immigration
- ➔ All countries show the same pattern of interactions between conditions: No immigrant friends, no tertiary education, and in-group framing
- ➔ The results for ethnic and economic competition are mixed, while social trust, unemployment, and having a foreign background do not matter