

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910154288903321
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Titolo	Intersectional Inequality : Race, Class, Test Scores, and Poverty // Charles C. Ragin, Peer C. Fiss
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago : , : University of Chicago Press, , [2016] ©2016
ISBN	0-226-41454-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (182 pages)
Disciplina	305
Soggetti	Equality Poverty - United States Race - Social aspects - United States Educational equalization - United States Equality - Research Social sciences - Methodology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: 2016.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- One. When Inequalities Coincide -- Two. Policy Context: Test Scores and Life Chances -- Three. Explaining Poverty: The Key Causal Conditions -- Four. From Variables to Fuzzy Sets -- Five. Test Scores, Parental Income, and Poverty -- Six. Coinciding Advantages versus Coinciding Disadvantages -- Seven. Intersectional Analysis of Causal Conditions Linked to Avoiding Poverty -- Eight. Conclusion: The Black-White Gap and the Path Forward for Policy Research -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	For over twenty-five years, Charles C. Ragin has developed Qualitative Comparative Analysis and related set-analytic techniques as a means of bridging qualitative and quantitative methods of research. Now, with Peer C. Fiss, Ragin uses these impressive new tools to unravel the varied conditions affecting life chances. Ragin and Fiss begin by taking up the controversy regarding the relative importance of test scores versus socioeconomic background on life chances, a debate that has raged since the 1994 publication of Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray's TheBell Curve. In contrast to prior work, Ragin and Fiss bring

an intersectional approach to the evidence, analyzing the different ways that advantages and disadvantages combine in their impact on life chances. Moving beyond controversy and fixed policy positions, the authors propose sophisticated new methods of analysis to underscore the importance of attending to configurations of race, gender, family background, educational achievement, and related conditions when addressing social inequality in America today.
