

Practioners' survey: Analysis of closed question

BLINDED

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Setup

Loading the required packages.

The analysis is done under the following parameters.

Analysis with self-declared methods

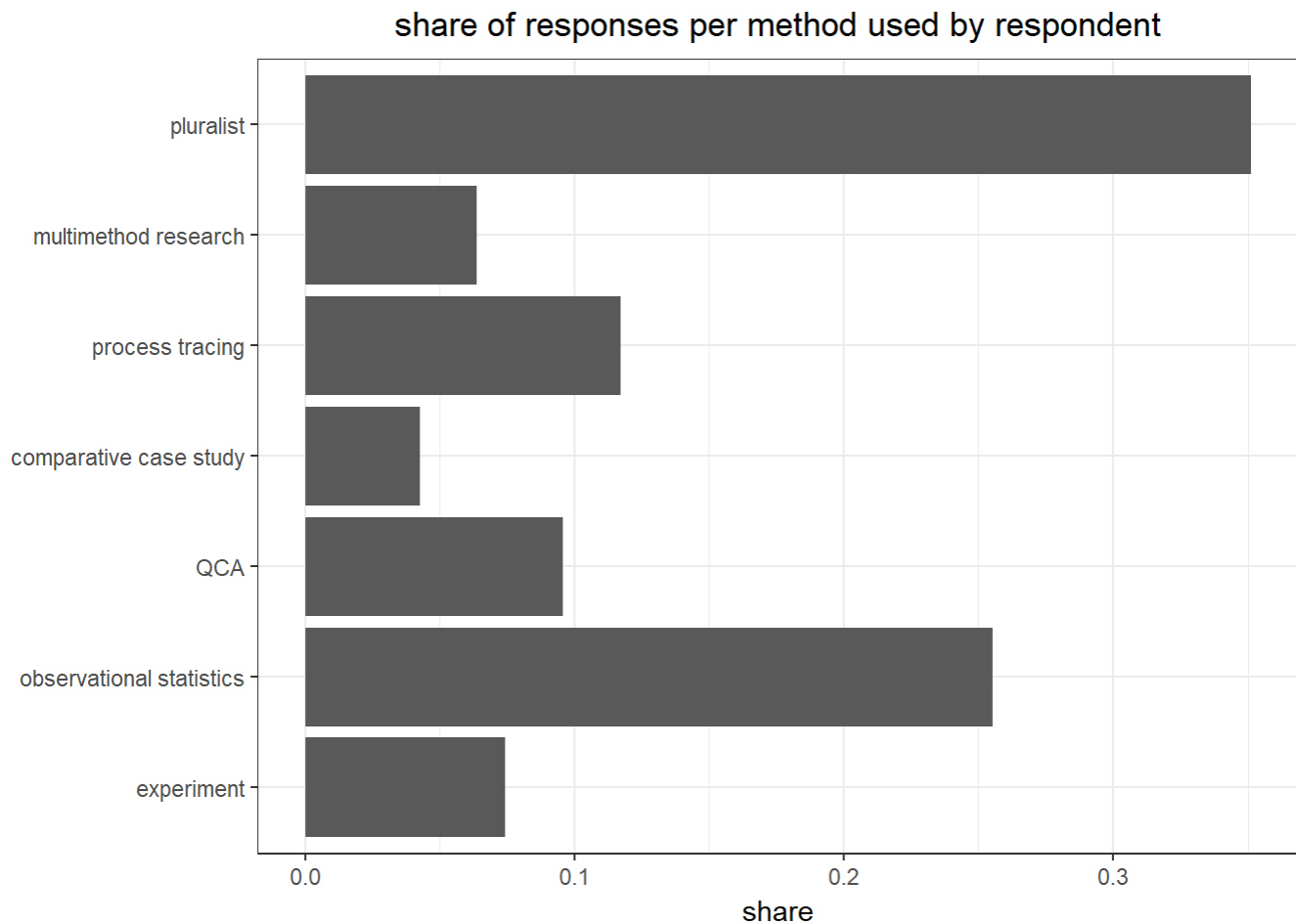
For now, we load the data prepared for analysis in Stata.

Descriptive statistics

The total number of respondents is 109. The number of completed responses is 94. Among the completed responses, 21 are methodologists working on any method and 73 are method users. Of the 94 respondents, 40 use a type-level method (experiment, observational statistics, QCA) and 15 a token-level method. 39 respondents cannot be assigned because they did a multimethod study or use multiple methods in their empirical research (referred to as pluralist in the following).

We identified participants for our survey based on the methods they used in empirical work designating them as authors of correspondence. A comparison of our designations with the self-declared methods for all completed surveys shows that they overlap to 71.28 percent. The difference can have three reasons (we assume that respondents correctly list the methods they use). First, the authors changed their main method since the publication of the article we sampled. Second, the authors of correspondence were not responsible for the empirical part of the article we selected. Third, we misclassified the sampled article for which we mostly used abstracts. Regardless of the reason for the mismatch, we do not see any downstream problems for our empirical analysis. As a check for classification sensitivity, we use self-designations for the main analysis and use identical self-designations and publication-based designations as a kind of robustness check.

We first plot the number of respondents according to the method they assigned to themselves in the survey.



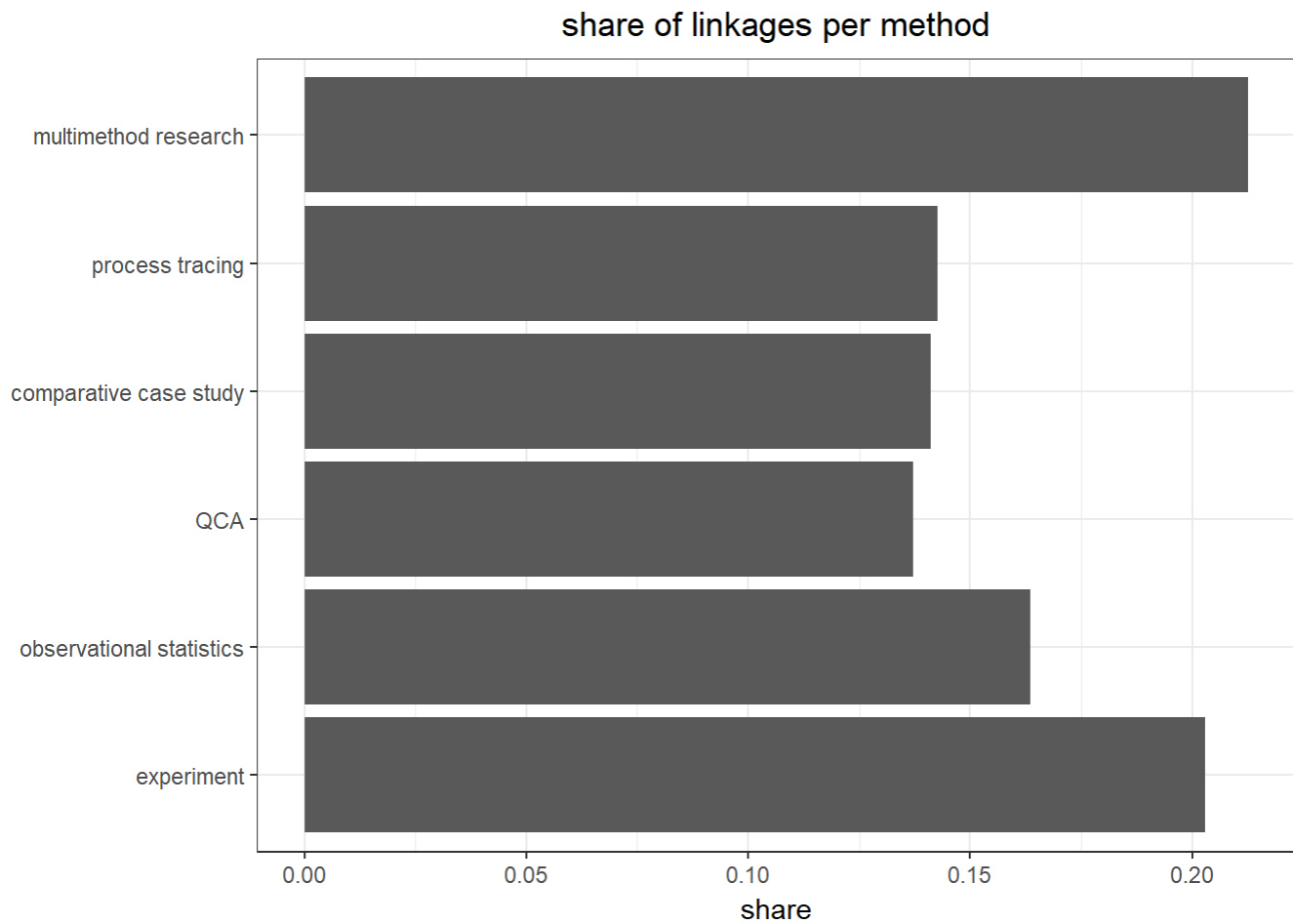
Analyzing closed questions

We prepare the data for individual methods for analysis below.

We aggregate and prepare the data for the analysis of responses.

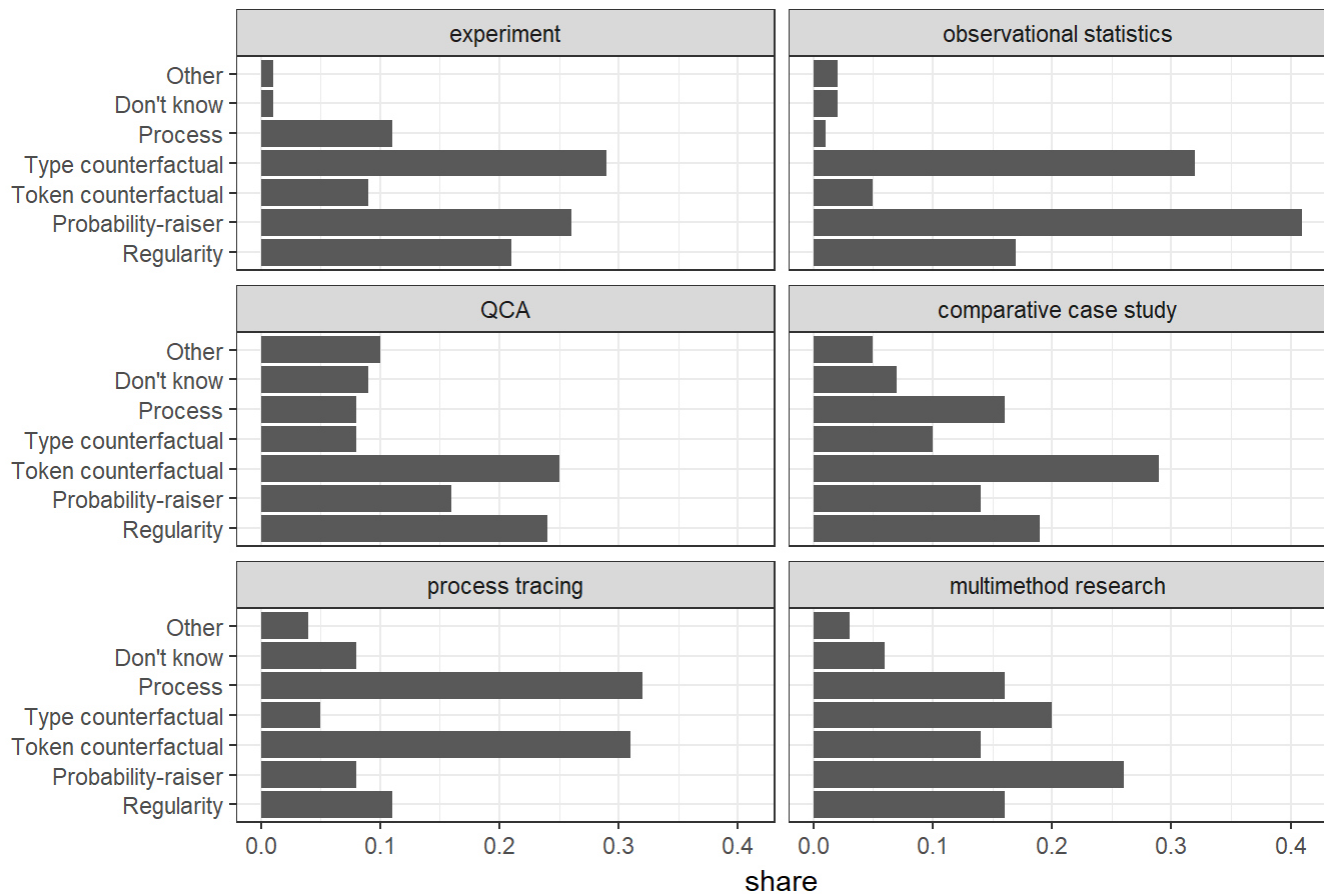
The total number of linkages made between a method and theory of causation is 1247. This makes, on average, 13.27 linkages per respondent across all six methods and 2.21 linkages per method.

The following chart presents the share of theory-method linkages for one method relative to all linkages. A share of 0.20 for experiments means that 20 % of all responses relate to how experiments can be anchored in theories of causation. A higher share denotes that the respondents considered more linkages possible, while a lower share selected fewer theories as compatible with a method.



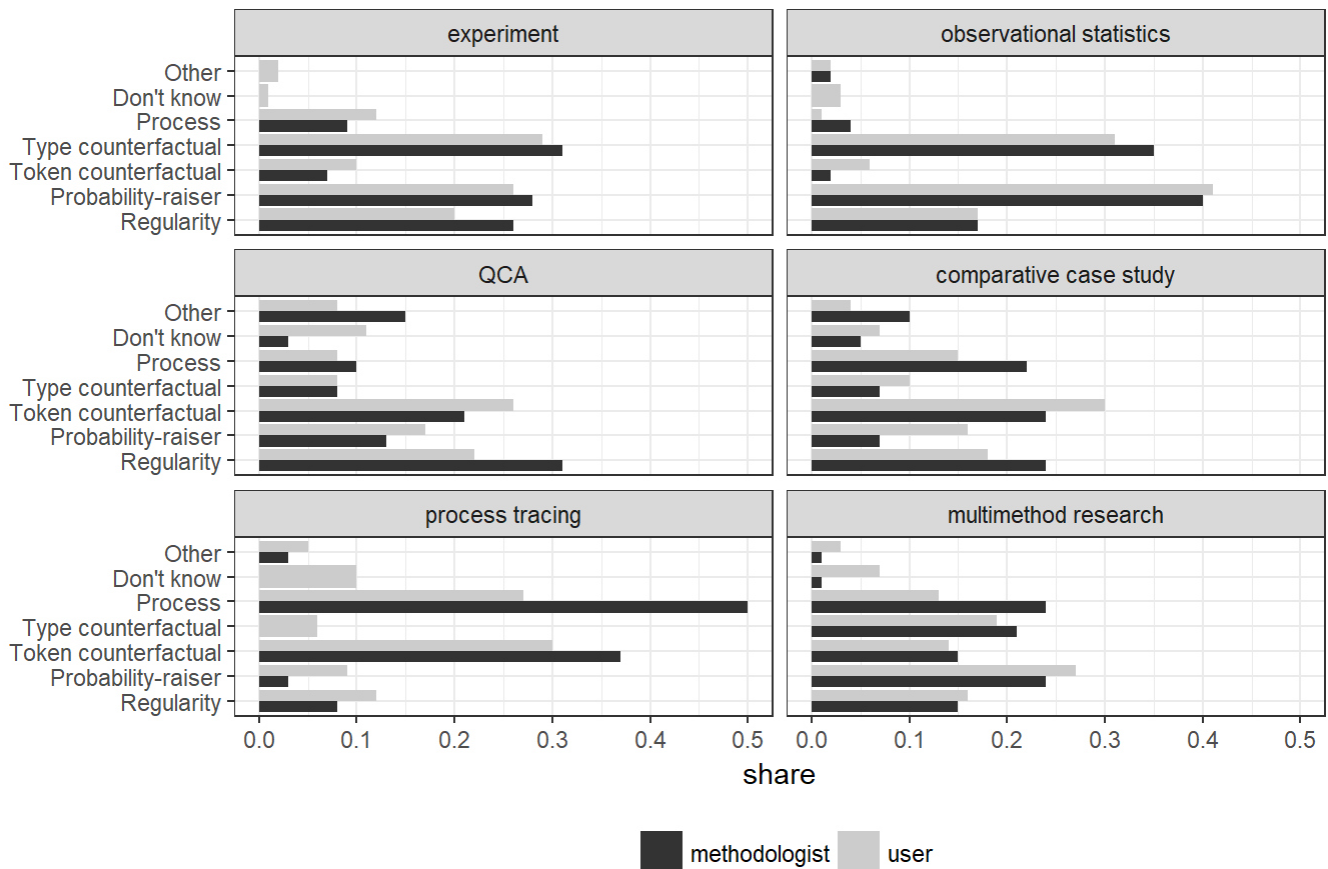
The next chart presents the share of linkages per method. The shares add up to 1 for each method. A share of 0.4 for probability-raising for observational statistics means that 40% of all linkages for observational statistics belong to the probability-raising theory.

share of responses by method



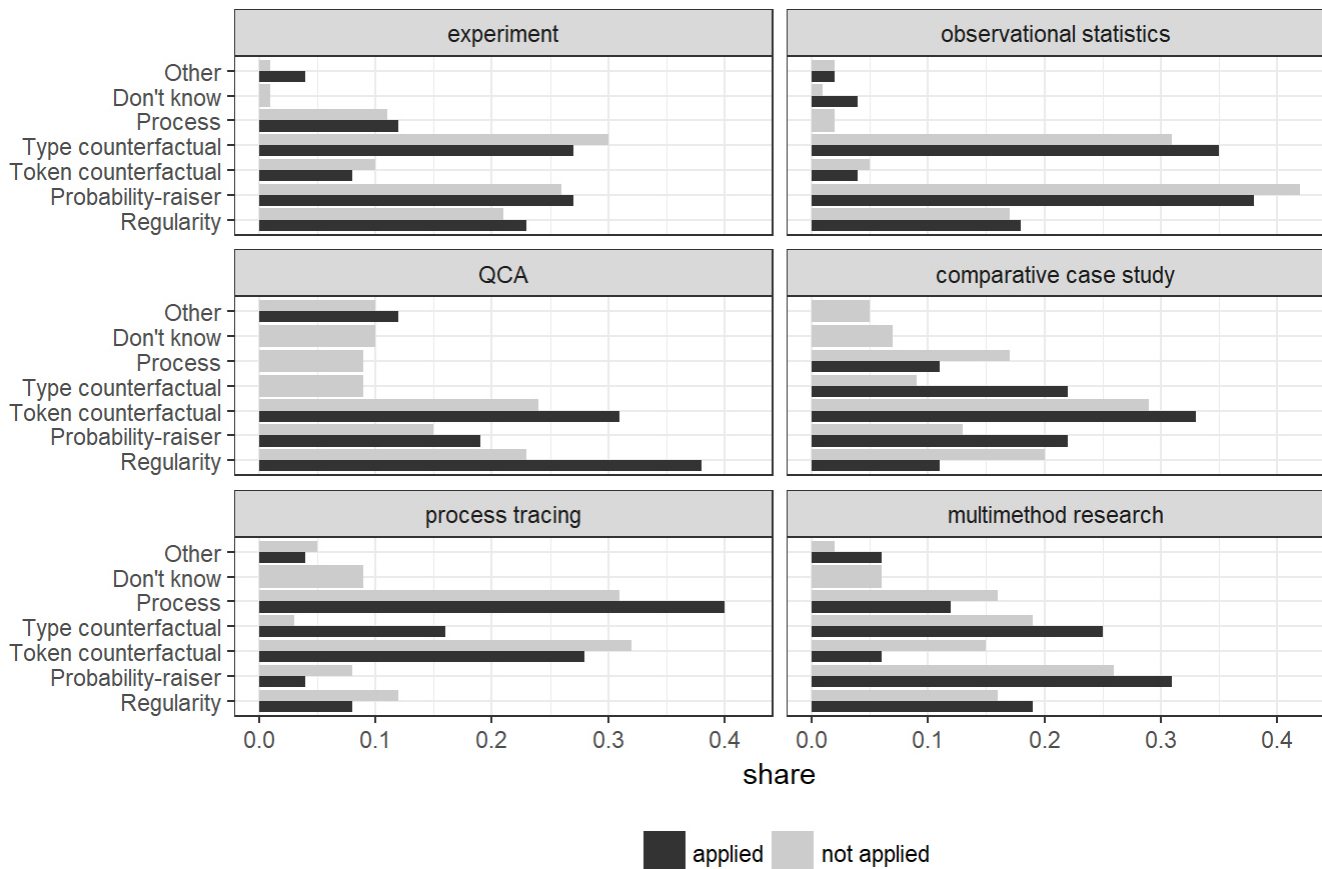
The next chart decomposes the pooled responses into responses by method users and methodologists. In this chart, the shares of responses by respondent type and method add up to 1. A share of 0.3 for token counterfactuals for users for comparative case studies means that 30% of all linkages made by users for case comparisons fall under this theory of causation. The same combination of method and theory received about 25% of all linkages made by methodologists for case comparisons.

share of responses by method and respondent type



The next chart decomposes the pooled responses into responses by respondents working with the method according to self-declared methods. We do not additionally distinguish between users and methodologists because the number of responses would be too small for many subgroups. About 15% of all linkages process tracing users made for process tracing fall on a type-level theory of counterfactuals. In contrast, less than 5% of all linkages made by non-users of process tracing fall on a type-level theory of counterfactuals for process tracing.

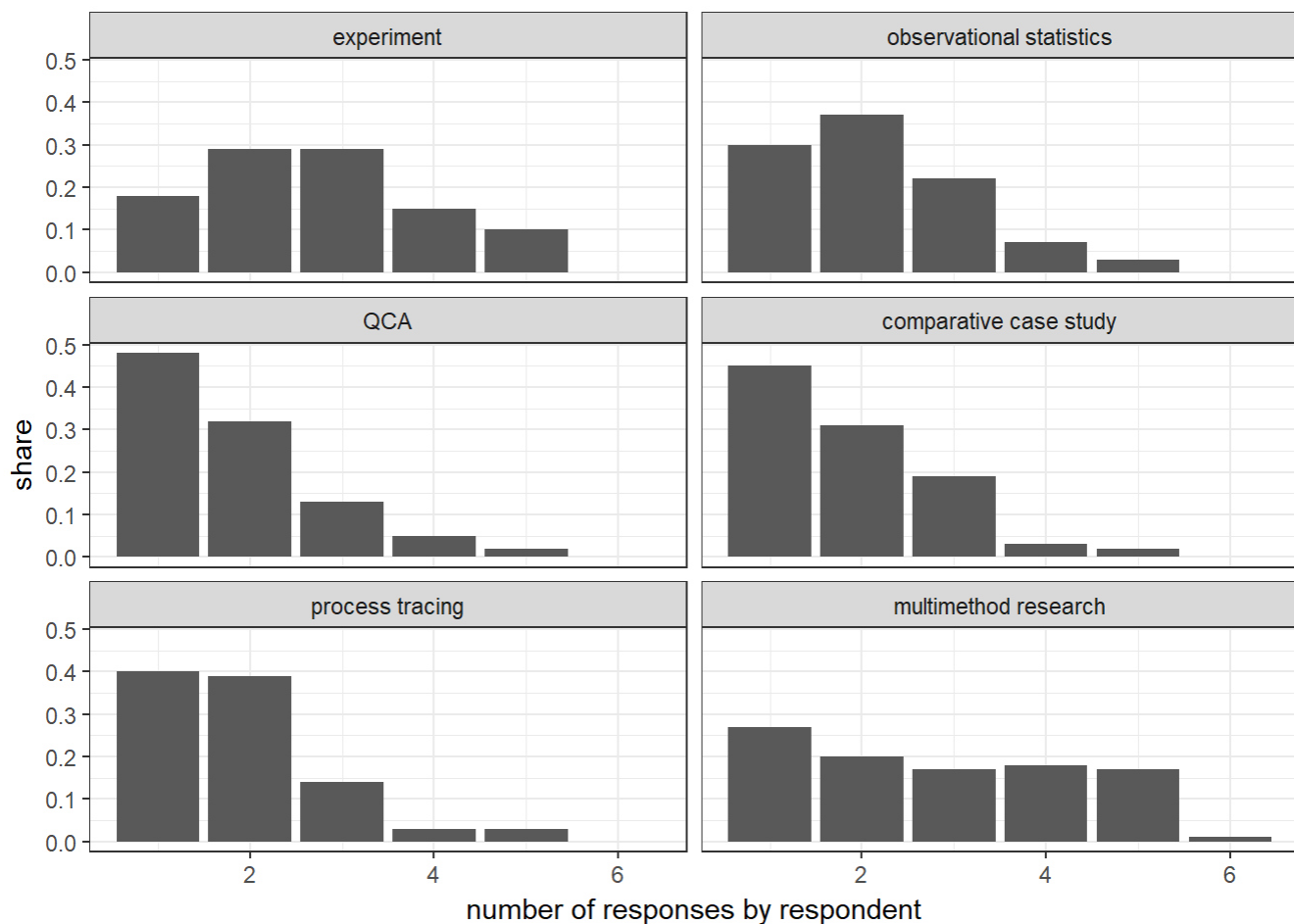
share of responses by usage of method



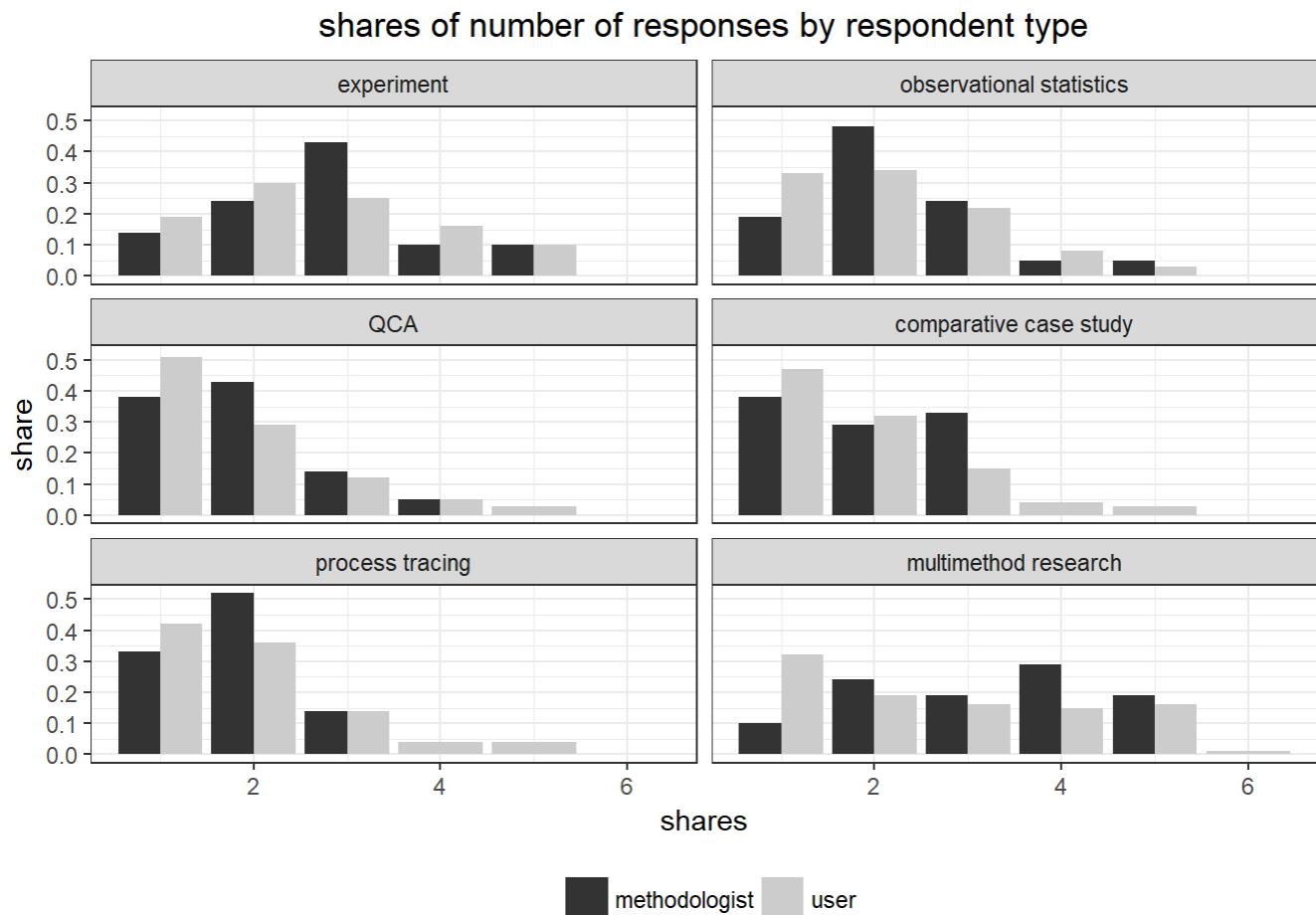
Distribution of responses per method

We look at the number of responses by respondents (see above for aggregate numbers). The distribution of responses denotes the variety of views on how many theory-method linkages are considered viable. We are only interested in the distribution here and not which responses are given because we studied this before.

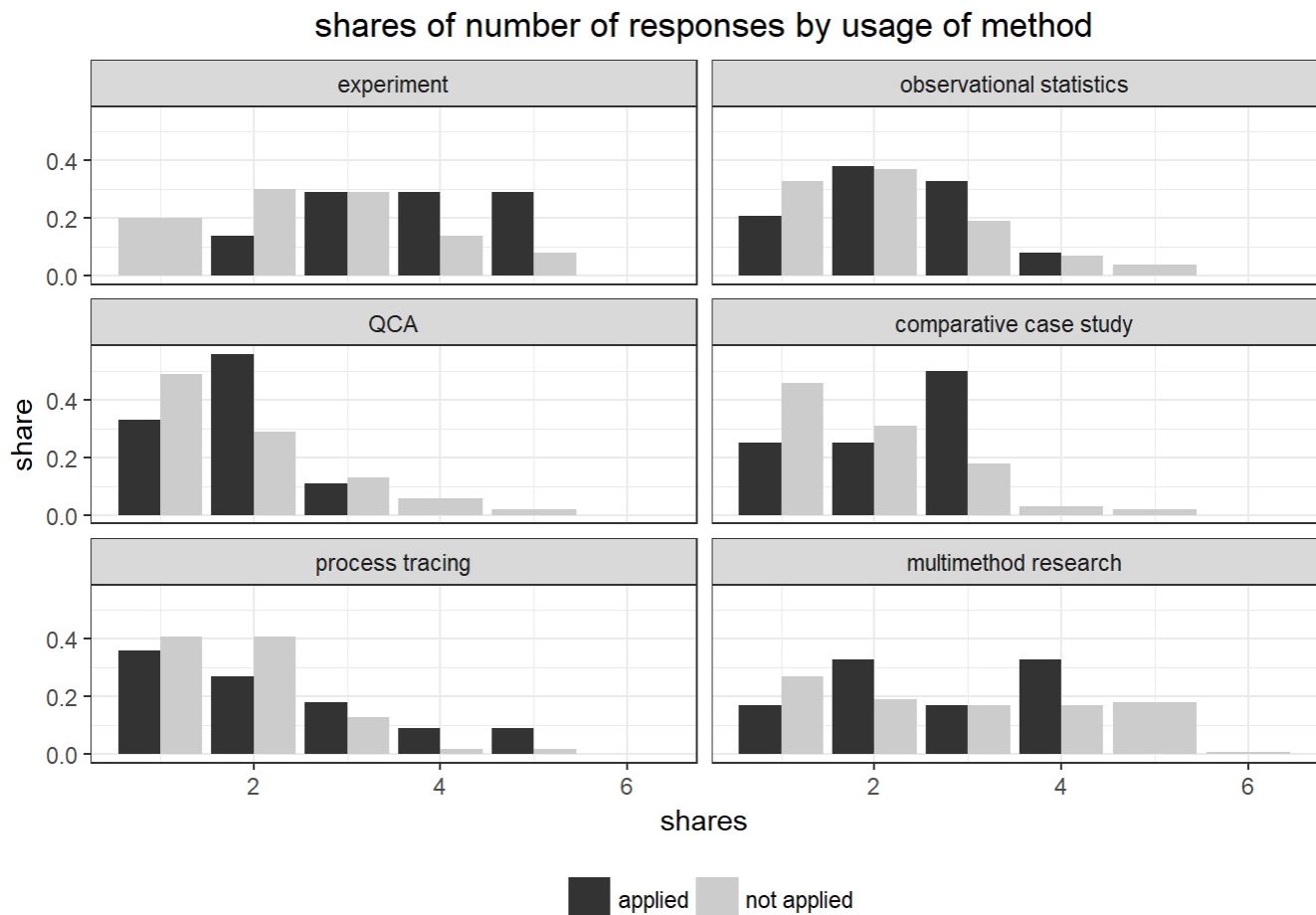
The shares add up to 1 per method. A share of 0.3 for two responses for experiments means that 30% of all respondents linked experiments to two different theories of causation.



The next chart decomposes these pooled responses into responses by method users and methodologists. The shares add up to 1 per method and respondent type. A share of about 0.4 for three responses for experiments for methodologists means that 40% of all respondents who are methodologists linked experiments to three different theories of causation.



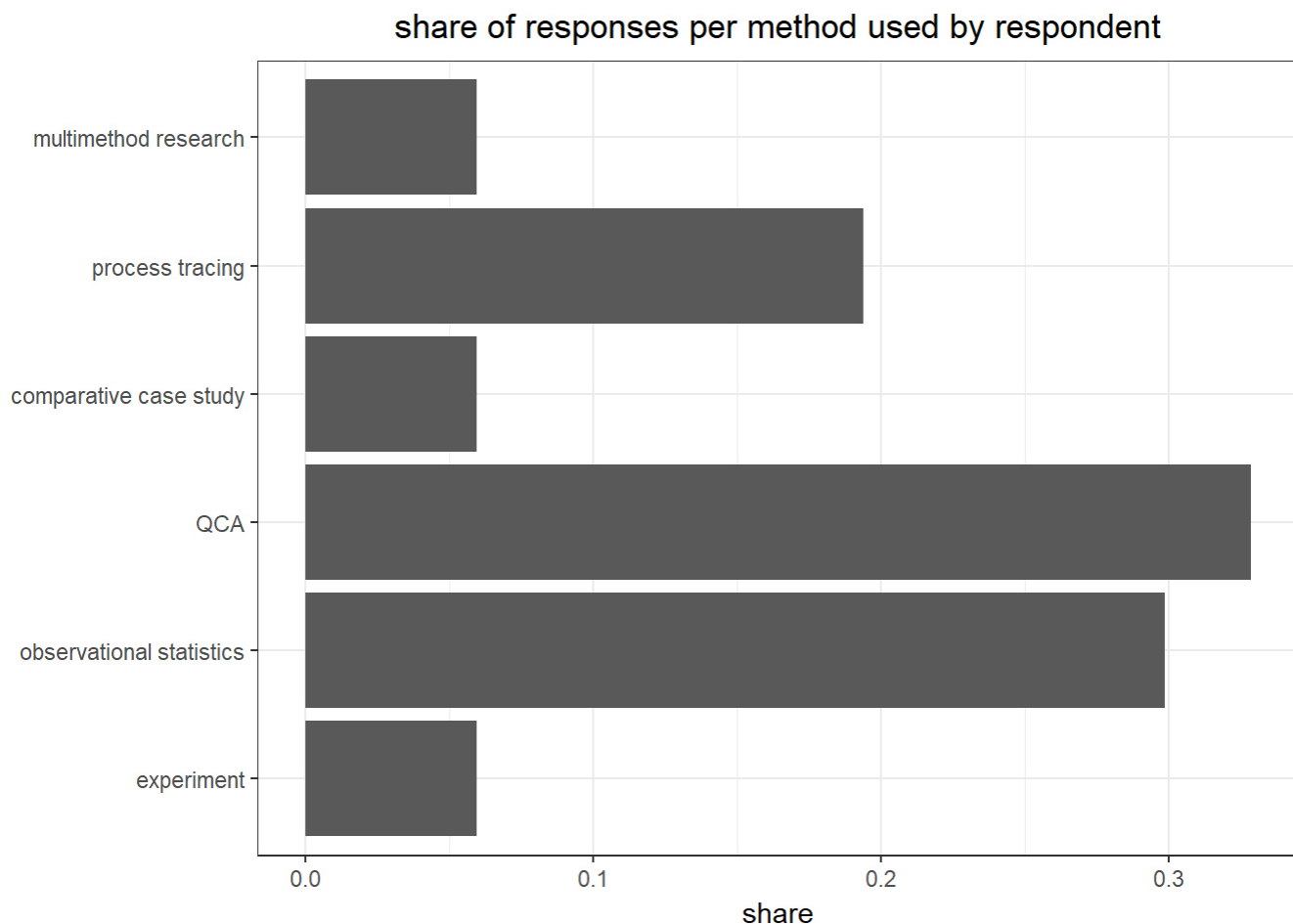
The next chart decomposes the pooled responses into responses by respondents working with the method. The shares add up to 1 per method and user type. A share of about 0.3 for three responses for experiments for users means that 30% of all respondents who run experiments linked experiments to three different theories of causation.



Analysis with matching publication-based designation and self-declared methods

We first select the subset of responses with identical designations.

Now we rerun the analysis for the remaining 67 responses.



The total number of respondents is 109. The number of completed responses with matching designations is 67. Among the completed responses, 14 are methodologists and 53 are method users.

Of the 67 respondents, 28 use a type-level method (experiment, observational statistics, QCA) and 12 a token-level method. 27 respondents cannot be assigned because they did a multimethod study.

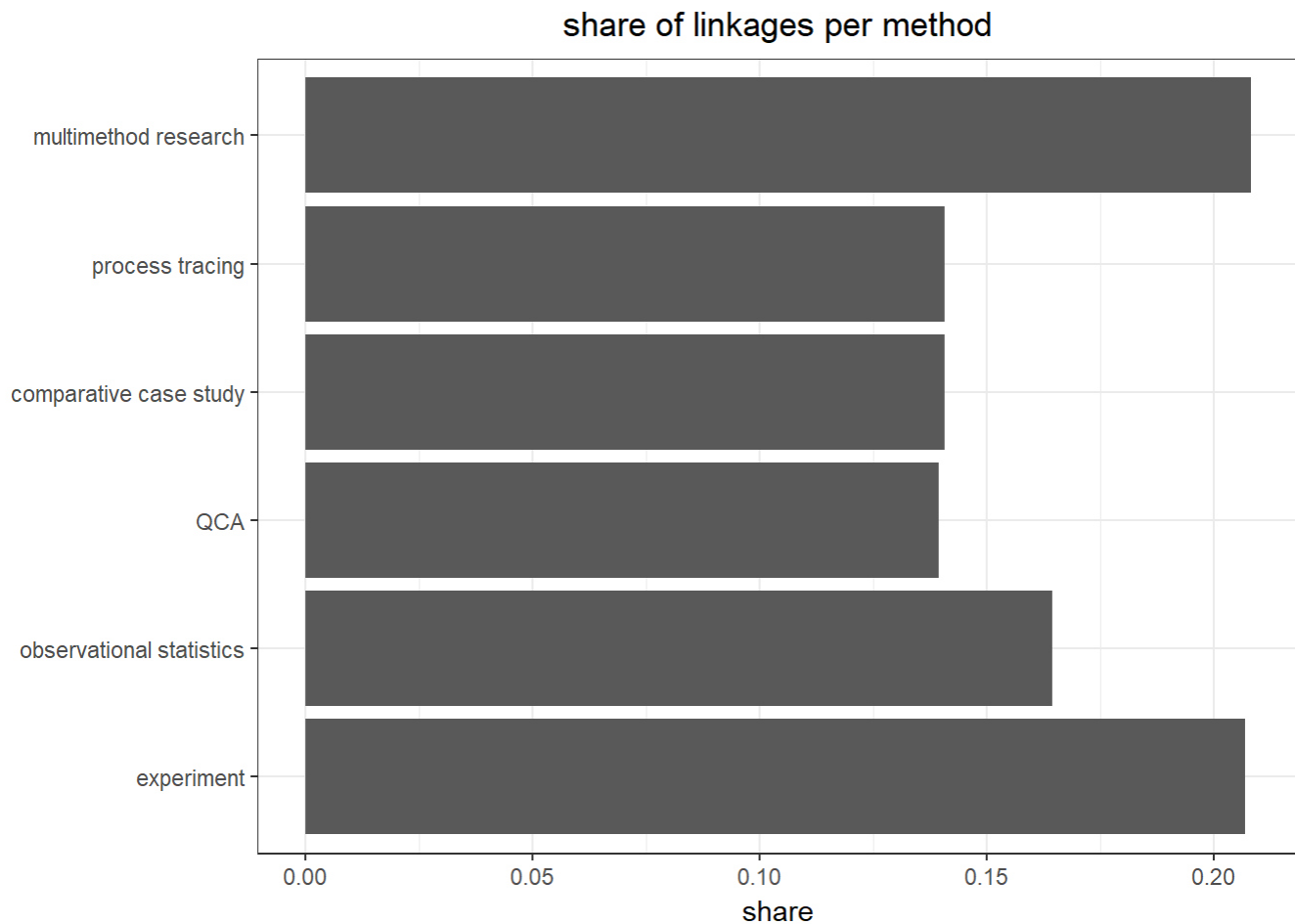
Analyzing closed questions

We prepare the data for individual methods for analysis below.

We aggregate and prepare the data for the analysis of responses.

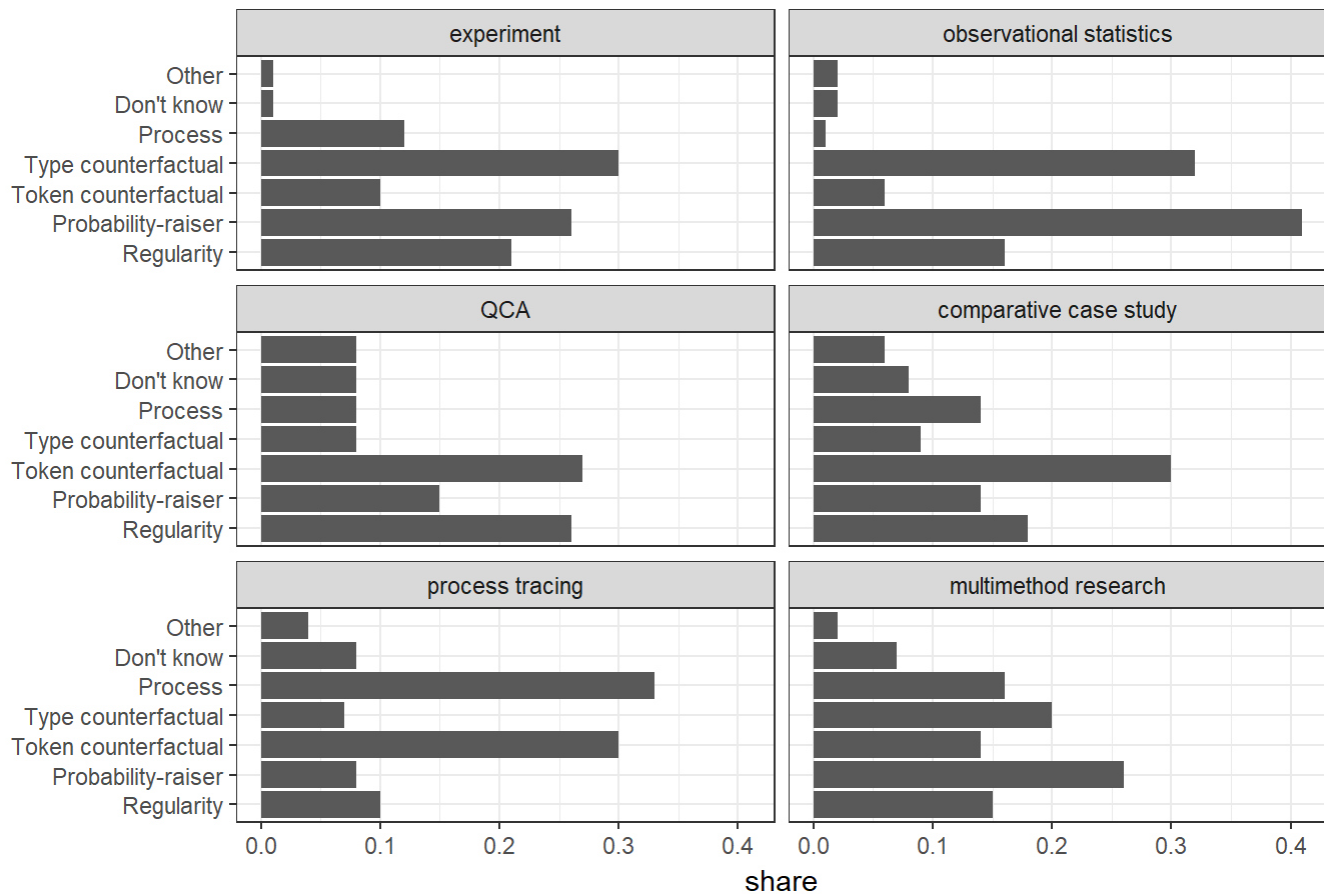
The total number of linkages made between a method and theory of causation is 846. This makes, on average, 12.63 linkages per respondent across all six methods and 2.1 linkages per method.

The following chart presents the share of theory-method linkages for one method relative to all linkages. A share of 0.20 for experiments means that 20 % of all responses we have in our data relate to how experiments can be anchored in theories of causation. Aggregating across all respondents, a higher share denotes that the respondents considered more linkages possible. A lower share means that fewer theories of causation are considered as compatible with a method.



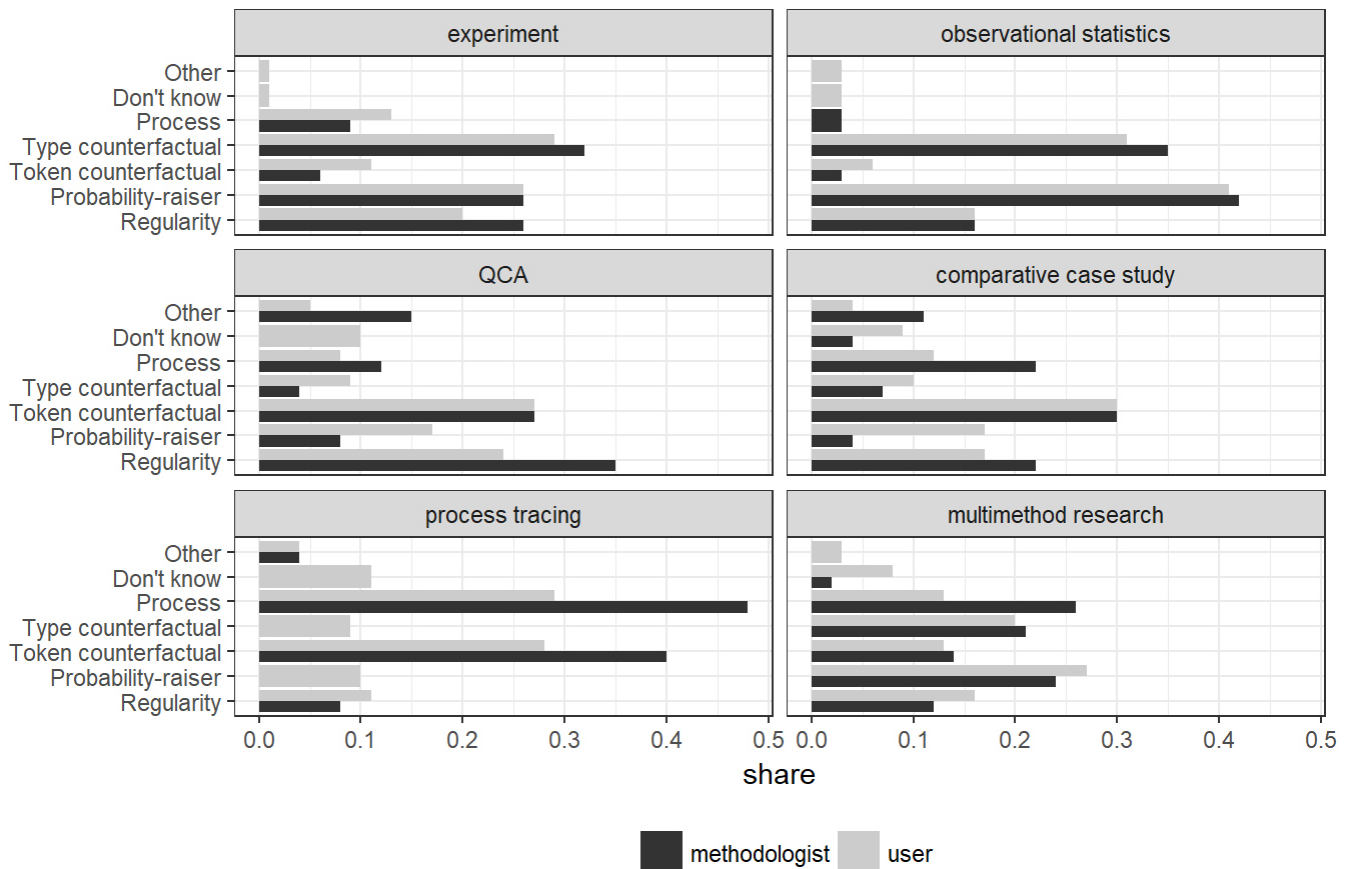
The next chart presents the share of linkages per method. For *each chart*, the shares add up to 1. A share of 0.3 for token counterfactuals for process tracing signifies that 30% of all responses made for process tracing belong to this theory. If the share was 1 for one method-theory linkage, all respondents would have only chosen this one theory.

share of responses by method



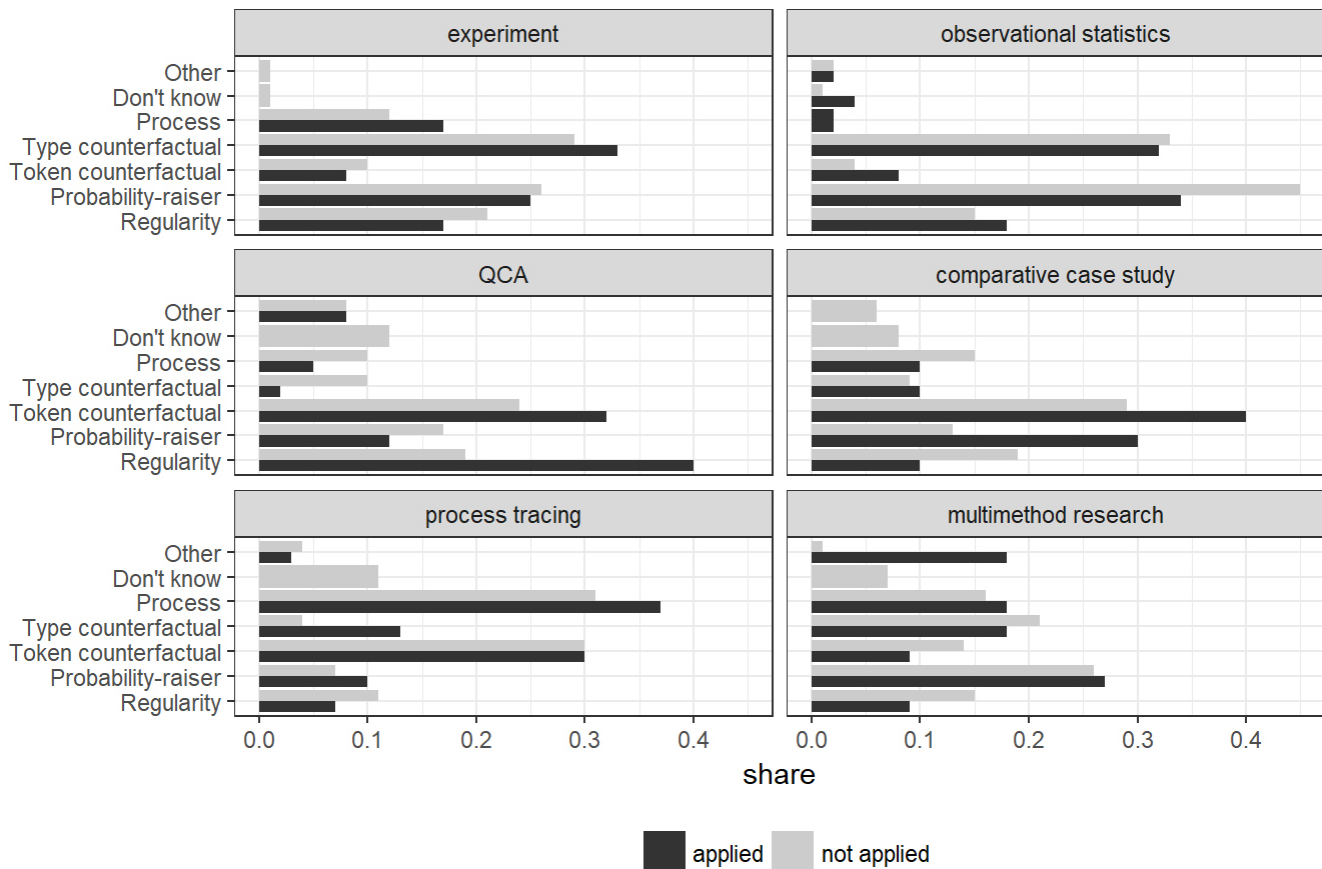
The next chart decomposes the pooled responses into responses by method users and methodologists.

share of responses by method and respondent type



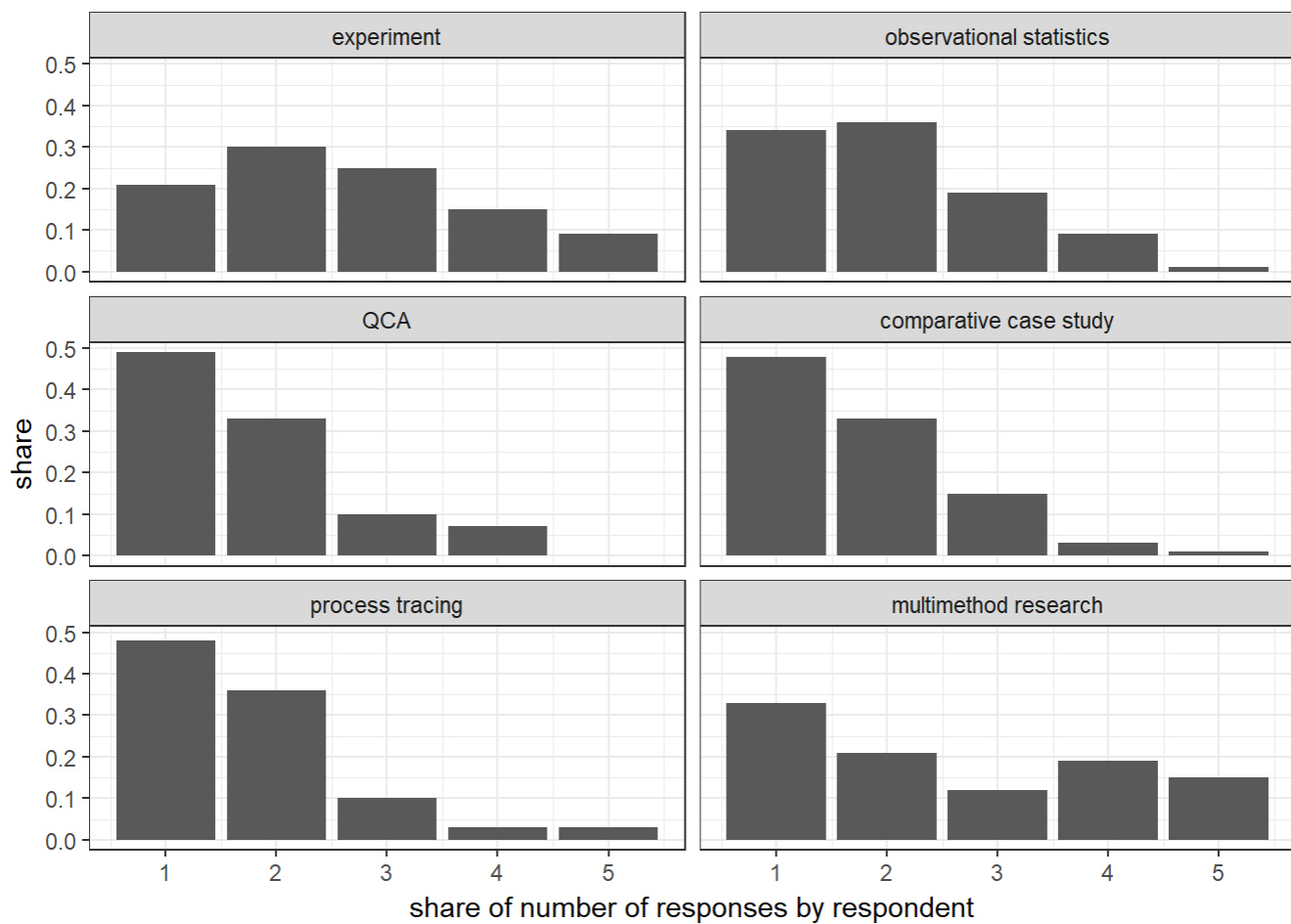
The next chart decomposes the pooled responses into responses by respondents working with the method, either as a user or methodologist, and those that don't (according to our *ex ante* classification).

share of responses by usage of method

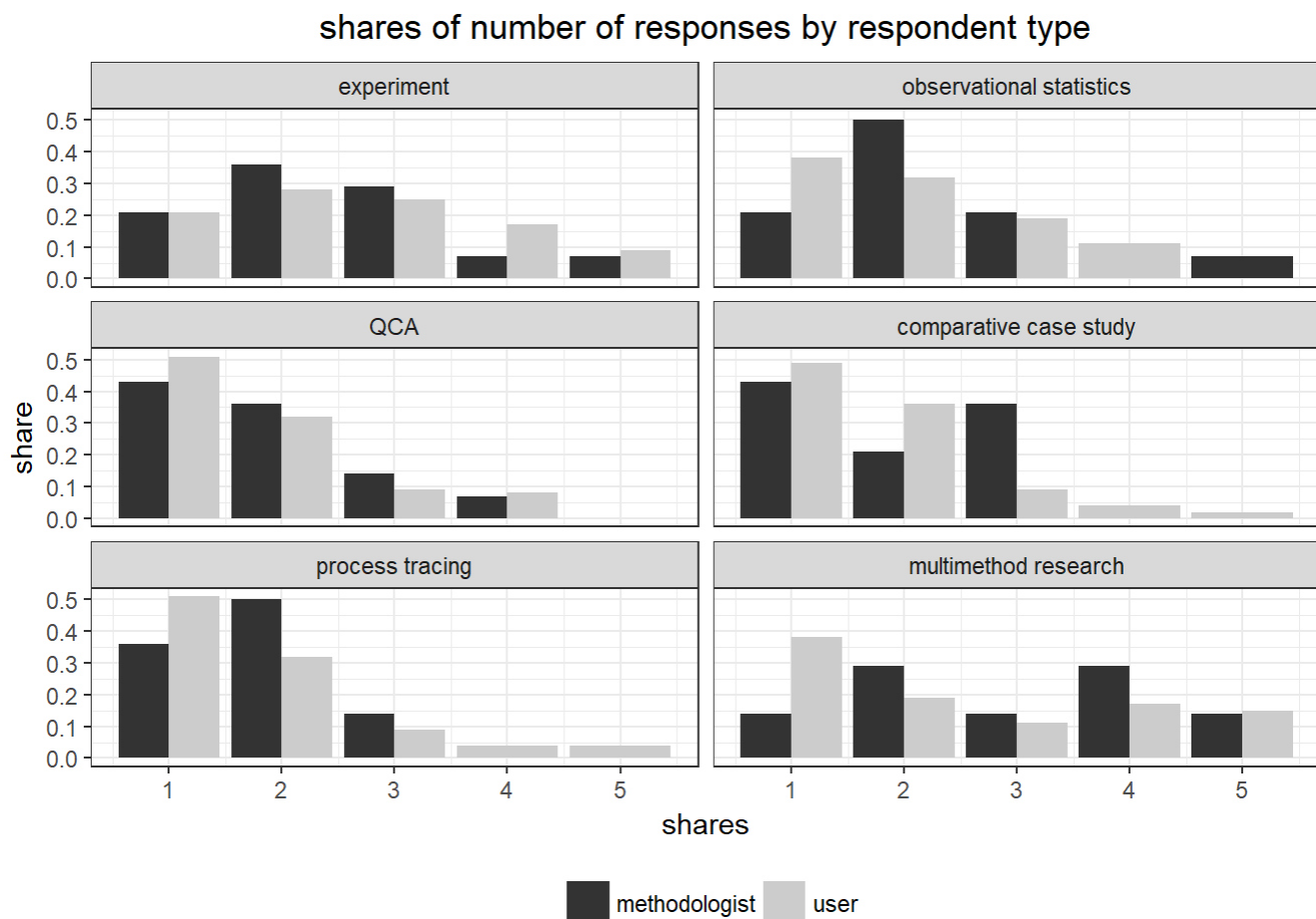


Distribution of responses per method

In this section, we look at the number of responses by respondents (see also above for aggregate numbers). The distribution of responses denotes the variety of views on how many theory-method linkages are considered viable. We are only interested in the distribution here and not which responses are given because we studied this before.



The next chart decomposes these pooled responses into responses by method users and methodologists.



The next chart decomposes the pooled responses into responses by respondents working with the method and those that don't.

shares of number of responses by usage of method

