

Spring Conference of the Section Methods of Empirical Social Research of the German Society for Sociology (DGS)

„Measurement Error“

Date and Location: University of Mannheim 28/29 April 2017

Call for Papers

Measurement Error is a core element of the Total Survey Error approach. Measurement Error addresses the validity of inferences from empirical survey data to the theoretical concept under investigation, or the theoretical relationship between concepts. Together with the degree of representativeness regarding the target population, which addresses the quality of the realized sample, the quality of measurement determines the overall quality of empirical (survey) data. While methodological research over the last decades has focused on establishing international standards with respect to sampling design and non-response, the area of measurement was rather disregarded. The conference focuses on measurement quality and methods for the evaluation and reduction of measurement error in empirical data, against the backdrop of the Total Survey Error framework. We thus invite presentations focusing on estimating and improving validity as well as systematic and non-systematic measurement error. Measurement invariance and response effects in comparative and mixed-mode research, as well as interviewer effects on responses and coding errors are issues that can be addressed as well. Of particular interest is research capturing different sources of errors or different measurement quality aspects and therefore systematically analyzing measurement error from a holistic perspective. Examples of research questions would be: how do methods of item development and selection affect validity and reliability of the resulting data, including their comparability across groups? How can validity and reliability be estimated in the absence of multi-item measures? What are the mechanisms underlying response sets, e.g. over- or under-reporting as elements of systematic measurement error, and how can undesired effects of the measurement situation be reduced?

Authors interested in contributing to the conference should submit an abstract (max. 350 words) by December 31st, 2016. To submit an abstract please use the following website <http://www.gesis.org/unser-angebot/veranstaltungen/gesis-tagungen/fruehjahrstagung-methodensektion-dgs/>.

Individuals wishing to give a presentation to become a member of the methods section should contact Prof. Dr. Stefanie Eifler (stefanie.eifler@ku.de) before the submission. The presentations given to become a member can be on other methodological topic and must not be related to the topic of the conference.

The conference will be held at the University of Mannheim (Schloss, Ostflügel, Fuchs-Petrolub-Festsaal O 138). The conference starts at 11am on April 28th and ends at 1pm on April 29th. The language of the conference is German. Presentations in English are possible.

Conference registration via this website will open on January 15, 2017.

We look forward to welcoming you in Mannheim.

Organization

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Key Dates and Deadlines

31 December 2016 – close of call for papers

31 January 2017 – notification of acceptance

15 February 2017 – publication of the conference program

15 January – 31 March 2017 – registration