

RN21 - Quantitative Methods

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Nearly one decade after the beginning of the financial crisis, Europe is still facing turbulent times; we can even observe an accumulation of current challenges for the EU. Rapid societal changes in Europe, clearly visible as a consequence of the refugee flows in 2015, rising social inequalities (in the aftermath of the economic crisis), Euroscepticism and a lack of political trust and the widespread insecurities of citizens (expressed in fears of societal decline) can be seen as crucial developments which should be addressed from a methodological perspective in our network. We aim to focus particularly on the measurement of emerging social inequalities, of solidarity constraints and of subjective perceptions of crises. It seems that vulnerable groups in society are able to trigger the process of the unmaking, making or remaking European society in certain directions. There is the danger that populism, as a breeding ground of resistance to Europeanization and globalization, turns the clock back to a period of national closure and is thus able to erode the principles of European collaboration.

In our network on quantitative methods we plan to provide space for the discussion of adequate units of research in the European context, for simulation models regarding the emergence and potential destruction of social order, for innovative methodological approaches to measure anti-immigrant sentiment and radicalization tendencies and for elaborated concepts of wellbeing in transforming European societies. Besides those specific sessions in connection to the conference theme (see below) we appreciate contributions dealing with quantitative methods in general. Possible themes include but are not limited to:

- Strength and limits of multilevel models of individuals nested in countries or regions
- Measuring moral beliefs, judgements and actions (new methods and indicators)
- Sampling issues in quantitative research
- Response behaviour and data quality in surveys
- Harmonizing background variables for comparative research
- Social network analysis
- The challenge of big data in quantitative research

Quantitative methodologists and academics who are active in those proposed research fields or in specific topics related to the conference theme (see specific list of sessions)

as well as in alternative areas of quantitative research are highly welcome to submit their abstracts.

RN21_a: Open methodology session (General session)

RN21_b: Addressing the fragmentation of solidarities and formation of subjectivities in quantitative research

RN21_c: Monitoring societal change in Europe with cross-national data

RN21_d: Measuring enduring and emerging social inequalities in Europe

RN21_e: Addressing the subjectivity of crises perceptions: Societal dissatisfaction in Europe

RN21_f: Concepts and indicators of wellbeing in contemporary Europe

RN21_g: Measuring European values and attitudes in a cross-cultural perspective

RN21_h: Simulation models, especially with regard to the emergence and destruction of social order

RN21_i: Adequate units of analysis to highlight European transformations

RN21_j: Conceptualizing solidarity in quantitative research

RN21_k: Measuring anti-immigrant sentiment and radicalization in certain (comparative) case studies

RN01_RN21: Advanced quantitative analysis in ageing research (Joint Session with RN01 Ageing in Europe)

This joint symposium focuses on new or underutilized techniques applied to the study of human ageing. The focus will be on the theoretical aspects of performing analyses as well as on examples of the application of these advanced techniques. Special emphasis will be on the relation of techniques used of interviewing older respondents in large scale surveys, how to deal with longitudinal research (panel) and assessing quality of obtained data for analysis.

RN12_RN21: Decision Making and the Environment (Joint Session with RN12 Environment & Society)

RN20_ RN21_RN28: Innovative interdisciplinary methods in researching sports, physical activity and health (Joint Session with RN20 Qualitative Methods and RN28 Society and Sports)

RN21_KS: Explaining the Mechanism of Social Cooperation. From Experimental Research to Big Data Analysis (Arranged RN Keynote Session)

The RN keynote session “Mechanism of social cooperation” with a keynote given by Andreas Diekmann (ETH Zürich) addresses the following research questions: How does social cooperation in groups, markets, societies evolve? Under which conditions will cooperation decay? What are the pros and cons of various methods to study the emergence, stability and erosion of social norms and cooperation?