

Call for paper-abstracts for the session

“Different methods, same results? Comparing the consequences of alternative methods of data collection and analysis”

at the 7th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA),
Lisbon, Portugal, July 17th-21st, 2017

No doubt about it – recent years have seen an ever increasing proliferation of methods for survey data collection and analysis. Think about the growing administration of surveys via the internet and mobile devices, the combination of large-scale surveys with experimental designs, the multiple approaches available to examine data from respondents nested in different levels of analysis or the wider application of Bayesian statistics. Such methodological innovations certainly help to open up important novel avenues for research. However, a central yet somewhat understudied question coupled with the plurality of methods is:

To what extent do different strategies of survey data collection and analysis applied to the same research question lead to converging conclusions?

Specifically, this session starts from the observation that for most research problems a single appropriate strategy of data collection or analysis does not exist. Instead, researchers typically face alternative defensible methods which may or may not converge in their results. Thus, the aim of this session is to stimulate the debate on the methodological as well as substantive issues that might arise when applying multiple methods of survey data collection or analysis. Does the application of alternative research designs or statistical methods lead to converging results? Are social science results with different methods replicable? We invite researchers to submit papers discussing the consequences of applying alternative methods of survey data collection or analysis in the following two scenarios:

- A. Same research question, comparing at least two different methods of data collection
- B. Same research question, comparing at least two methods of data analysis

The paper abstracts for the 7th ESRA conference consist of a short abstract (max. 100 words) and a long abstract (max. 500 words) and the deadline for paper abstract submissions is December 4th, 2016. To submit a paper abstract for this session please create an account and log in to the ESRA conference management system at <http://www.europeansurveyresearch.org/conferences/register> Create a new paper abstract and choose “Survey methodological research” or “Data analysis and statistical models” as topic area, then select “Different methods, same results? Comparing the consequences of alternative methods of data collection and analysis” from the list of sessions.

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