

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR A SPECIAL ISSUE
in

Survey Methods: Insights from the Field (SMIF)

Advancing Comparative Research: Exploring Errors and Quality Indicators in Social Research

The importance of the comparative method has been emphasized since the early days of social science research. Starting with Émile Durkheim and continuing later with large-scale cross-cultural survey programs, ensuring comparability of data collected under different circumstances, with different methods or different languages, has been issued as a central challenge and a relevant methodological task. Accordingly, valid conclusions in comparative research require a number of conditions that have not yet been sufficiently integrated into a comprehensive quality concept.

Mixing modes and data sources, ensuring comparability to the previously collected data and results when implementing innovations, and collecting data on heterogeneous populations is associated with several not resolved comparability problems. Established theories in cognitive response behavior, concept of survey error, as well as modern validity theories do not consider such comparability issues in a systematic way. Furthermore, current and rapid developments in data analysis methods such as structural equation modeling, as well as in computational social sciences, enable theoretical and epistemological sampling and measurement comparability assumptions to be empirically evaluated. Against this background, the Special Issue is dedicated to the development and application of such a systematic comparability error framework for cross-groups and cross-time social science research.

We particularly invite conceptual papers, literature reviews, meta-analyses and original research papers dealing with comparability errors and/or quality indicators in comparative research. Relevant topics cover but are not limited to:

- Epistemological conceptualizations of necessary and sufficient conditions for valid comparisons of social phenomena across groups, situations, and/or time
- Theoretical models with real data illustrations and/or simulations that help to separate various sources of comparability error
- Research dealing with concept, construct, method and indicator equivalence as theoretical and methodological prerequisites for valid comparisons

- Measurement invariance, especially the development of invariant measurement instruments, test procedures as well as the causes and the handling of non-invariance
- Conceptual considerations on and empirical implications of the generation of comparable samples or comparability between probabilistic and non-probabilistic samples
- Conceptualizing and investigating systematic interdependencies between measurement and representation errors in comparative analysis
- (Computational) Social Science data analysis methods to evaluate comparability assumptions

The Special Issue is guest edited by:

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The deadline for the manuscript submission is **April 30 2024**. A First decision will be provided not later than July 31 2024. Revisions will be due to October 30 2024. The Special Issue will be published in **December 2024**.

Contributions will go through double-blind peer review. Submission does not guarantee inclusion in the Special Issue. We welcome contact with Heinz Leitgöb prior to submission.

Full papers should be prepared according to the author guidelines of SMIF (https://surveyinsights.org/?page_id=531) and submitted via the online submission portal available at <https://surveyinsights.org>.

SMIF is a double-blind peer-reviewed online journal. Its goal is to promote professional exchange on practical survey research issues and discussion on new and promising paths in survey research. The journal is orientated towards the daily work of surveying, including questionnaire design, sampling, interviewer training, fieldwork administration, data preparation, documentation and dissemination. The focus of the journal is on practical issues of survey research.