

Advances in Comparative Survey Research and Survey Data Harmonization

Week 2 (Regular course)

Duration: 12 hours

Format: In person and online

Instructor: Marta Kołczyńska

Course description: This course will focus on techniques for improving the quality of comparative analyses of survey data and introduce learners to the opportunities created by combining data from different sources (survey data harmonization) as well as the related challenges and ways of addressing them. The course will start with discussing Total Survey Error as the guiding framework, the concept of survey data quality and approaches to measuring it. The next two days will be devoted to two main groups of errors, those related to representation and to measurement, and ways of dealing with them in comparative research. Regarding representation, we will cover the use of survey weights and post-stratification. The discussion of measurement comparability will focus on modelling ordinal rating scales such as those used to measure attitudes. The course will use examples from published research as illustrations, and hands-on exercises to demonstrate the application of the discussed techniques and their effects on analysis results.

Learning schedule:

Day 1		<p>Cross-national surveys: data sources and research opportunities</p> <p>Survey data quality and comparability: the Total Survey Error framework, cross-survey differences in measurement and representation, survey quality and how to measure it</p>
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Day 2		Comparability of representation: survey weights and post-stratification Demonstration and exercise
Day 3		Comparability of measurement: ordinal rating scales Demonstration and exercise Wrap-up

Prerequisites: Familiarity with basics of survey research and statistical concepts.

Software: Exercises and illustrations will use R. Some level of familiarity with R is expected as there will be no time to provide an intro to R in class. R needs to be installed beforehand.

Readings:

Dubrow, J.K. & Tomescu-Dubrow, I. (2016). The rise of cross-national survey data harmonization in the social sciences: emergence of an interdisciplinary methodological field. *Quality and Quantity* 50, 1449–1467. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11135-015-0215-z>

Valgarðsson, V. O., & Devine, D. (2022). What Satisfaction with Democracy? A Global Analysis of “Satisfaction with Democracy” Measures. *Political Research Quarterly*, 75(3), 576–590. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10659129211009605>

Gangl, M. (2023). A Generalized Ordered Logit Model to Accommodate Multiple Rating Scales. *Sociological Methods & Research*, Online first. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00491241231186655>

Claassen, C. (2020). In the Mood for Democracy? Democratic Support as Thermostatic Opinion. *American Political Science Review*, 114(1), 36-53. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055419000558>

Tai, Y.C., Hu, Y., & Solt, F. (2022). Democracy, Public Support, and Measurement Uncertainty. *American Political Science Review*, 1-7.
<http://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055422000429>

Kołczyńska, M., Bürkner, P., Kennedy, L., & Vehtari, A. (2020). Modeling public opinion over time and space: Trust in state institutions in Europe, 1989-2019. *SocArXiv*.
<https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/3v5g7>



Instructor short bio: Marta Kołczyńska is an assistant professor at the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland. She received her PhD in sociology at The Ohio State University, and was visiting researcher at TU Chemnitz, Aalto University, and at the Research and Expertise Centre on Survey Methodology at Universitat Pompeu Fabra. She is associate editor at the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*. Her research interests center around political attitudes and political engagement, public opinion, and cross-national survey methodology.