

Call for Papers

Validity: Challenges in Conception, Methods, and Interpretation in Survey Research

A Special Issue for *Methodology – European Journal of Research Methods for the Behavioral and Social Sciences*

Guest Editors: Natalja Menold, Matthias Bluemke, and Anita Hubley

Coordinator: Jose-Luis Padilla

Aims and Scope

Validity is a central criterion of measurement quality and a key goal of measurement in the social sciences. As a quality aspect, validity does not refer to a measurement instrument per se, but to the adequacy of interpretations and uses of the measurement results. Researchers developing and using measurement instruments are faced with a diversity of validity conceptions and validation methods, which increases the complexity of validity interpretations. There is also a gap between survey research and psychometrics on conceptions of validity and practices. The goal of this special issue is to provoke a dialog on issues in conceptualizing validity, enhance knowledge and application of validation methods, and shed more light on challenges faced in interpretation and use of measures in survey research. It is particularly important given the background of the complexity and heterogeneity not only of concepts under investigation but also due to the increasing importance of mixed-modes, mixed-methods, or cross-cultural research. Research on the interplay between the survey context, survey situation, and response behavior can provide additional insights about which aspects are relevant when providing validity-related evidence and interpretations.

Suitable topics include, but are not restricted to:

- Validation methods: new developments and adoptions
- Interplay among validity, systematic biases, and reliability
- Response behavior and validity
- Validity within the framework of multicultural research
- Validity issues related to specific modes

We expect contributions that have potentially high impact on the field, deliver a strong message on the basis of sound

evidence. Out of scope are manuscripts focusing on newly developed measurement instruments. We also do not consider for publication technical papers dealing with very specific mathematical estimation problems.

We first invite you to submit extended abstracts (500–1,000 words), which will be evaluated by the guest editors. For the selected abstracts authors will be then invited to contribute full papers, which will be subjected to peer-review. To include as many papers as possible in the special issue, the word count of full papers is expected to be less than 6,000 words, as per editorial requirement.

Guest Editors

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More information on the journal, peer-review process, and manuscript preparation can be obtained here: www.hogrefe.com/j/med. Send your extended abstracts to one of the two editors of the journal:

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- Deadline for submission of the full papers: October 30, 2017
- Decision on the full papers: January 20, 2018
- Deadline for the submission of revised manuscripts: April 30, 2018
- Final decision: June 30, 2018

Important Dates and Deadlines

- Deadline for the submission of the abstracts (500–1,000 words): April 30, 2017
- Decision on the abstracts: May 31, 2017