

Methods and Research Meetings 2010/2011*

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« Using a Multilevel Structural Equation Modeling Approach to Explain Cross-Cultural Measurement Noninvariance »

Eldad Davidov (Institute of Sociology, UNIZH) and Hermann Dülmer (University of Cologne, Germany)

Abstract :

Testing for invariance of measurements across groups (such as countries or time points) is essential before meaningful comparisons of correlates and means may be conducted. However, when tested, invariance is often absent. As a result, comparisons across groups are potentially problematic and may be biased. In the current study we propose utilizing a multilevel structural equation modeling (SEM) approach to provide a framework to explain item bias. We show how after accounting for the variance of measurements on the individual and contextual levels of analysis, variation in a contextual variable may explain noninvariance. For the illustration of the method we use data from the second round of the European Social Survey (ESS).

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