

Course Description

Research Methods 2, Forskningsmetodik 2. H19

7.5 credits, third cycle, full time

Course coordinator / teacher /examinator

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Course administrator

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Language

English.

Prerequisites and conditions for access to the course:

Admitted to third cycle studies in social science research subject, including public health.

Course Coordinator:

Department of Psychology, Stockholm University

Introduction

Psychological testing is a central part of both research and internship. The essence of evaluating testing is the term validity. The chosen definition of validity may differ depending on the research question. For more than 100 years, the definition of validity has been discussed in psychological research. This course is designed to enable PhD students to evaluate a variety of validity definitions used in psychological research (e.g., personality, abilities, attitudes, values, and related psychological constructs). This course addresses the following

- Philosophical theories about validity
- Reading of classical articles regarding psychological testing validity
- Psychometric models used for validity purposes
- Relation between reliability and validity
- Causality in measurement
- Interpretation of test results

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

After successful completion of the course, students will be prepared to define validity and evaluate psychological assessments that are targeted toward specific measurement purposes.

Learning environment

Active participation in the seminars.

Examination

The task is to write an individually theoretical and/or empirical paper (APA style) with a definition of validity and evaluate a psychological assessment process that are targeted toward specific measurement purposes. The study shall answer an important validity problem in your own research field.

The paper shall include:

- An introduction with a theoretical rationale for the definition of validity
- At least two examples of how the chosen definition of validity can be used within your own field of research
- (Empirical results)

- The author shall discuss advantages and disadvantages for the suggested definition of validity

The written paper shall be uploaded on Athena (date given at the beginning of the course).

The examiner will provide written feedback within two weeks and the students will then have the opportunity rewrite the paper within two weeks. The examiner will provide individual student grade on the final version of the paper.

Grades and grade criteria

To be approved, a written reflection is required after each main lecture (CTT, IRT and GT).

In the absence of this, this will be replaced by a written reflection of a chosen article from the reference list.

Pass. For a passing grade the student achieved the expected learning outcomes of the course shown in the paper

Fail. The validity paper is insufficiently in such a way that the expected learning outcomes are not met.

Students who have not been approved have the opportunity to rewrite the paper.

Plagiarism and self-plagiarism

It is of course permissible to quote other sources, but both direct and indirect quotes must always be provided with correct and complete reference data. Copying or printing of a shorter or longer section and identifying oneself as the author of the text is prohibited. It is considered plagiarism. It is not allowed in the longer pieces to quote your own previous graded texts (so-called self-plagiarism). Plagiarism is regarded as a fundamental breach, not only against an established research ethics code, but also on a general approach to their own and others' texts. Plagiarism is unauthorized cheats and will always be the subject of a disciplinary matter, which can lead to suspension.

Literature

Markus, K.A., & Borsboom, D. (2013). *Frontiers of test validity theory*. Routledge.

Articles

Campbell, D.T., & Fiske, D.W. (1959). Convergent and discriminant validation by the multitrait-multimethod matrix. *Psychological Bulletin*, *59*, 81-105.

Cronbach, L. J., & Meehl, P. E. Construct validity in psychological tests. *Psychological Bulletin*, *52*, 281-302.

Borsboom, D. (2006). The attack of the psychometricians. *Psychometrika*, *71*, 425–440.

Kane, M (2006). In praise of pluralism. A comment on Borsboom, *Psychometrika*, *71*, 441–445.