



Course Title: Defining and Measuring Concepts in Social Sciences

Lecturer: Romana Careja, PhD; Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Andreß

Course number	1653
Location/Room	Room 327, IBW Building
Time	Wednesday, 17.45 – 19.15
Credit Points	6 ECTS
Type of course	Seminar
Course Language	English

1. Objectives

The course aims at the conceptualization, measurement and estimation of concepts and constructs which are relevant to the research of the participants.

2. Prerequisites

As the course is planned to help students in developing their theoretical framework, it is important that they have one or two relevant concepts, which they will work with during the course.

3. Relevance for study programmes

The course is addressed mainly to SOCLIFE and CGS Ph.D students. However, it is also open for other interested students, depending on the number of places.

4. Registration

Registration is necessary; the maximum number of students is 25.

5. Organization and Contents

The course is organised in three sections:

- The first section introduces the students to theoretical aspects related to concept definition and measurement.
- The second section presents different methods to construct concept measurements.
- The third section is based on in-class discussions of scientific papers from the point of view of concept formation and measurement.

Recommended Readings:

- Karl Popper. 1953. *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. (14th edition: 2001). Routledge: London, Chapter 3. (Other methodological textbooks which explain the differences between definitions, hypotheses, models and theories are suited equally well.)
- Gary Goertz. 2005. *Social Science Concepts: A User's Guide*. Princeton University Press.
- Giovanni Sartori. 1970 "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics" *The American Political Science Review* 64(4): 1033-1053.
- David Collier and Robert Adcock. 2001. Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research. *American Political Science Review* 95(3): 529-546.





- OECD (2008). *Handbook On Constructing Composite Indicators: Methodology And User Guide*. OECD Publishing (<http://composite-indicators.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>)
- Heinz-Herbert Noll (2002): Globale Wohlfahrtsmaße als Instrumente der Wohlfahrtsmessung und Sozialberichterstattung: Funktionen, Ansätze und Probleme. In: Wolfgang Glatzer, Roland Habich, Karl Ulrich Mayer (Hrsg.), 2002: *Sozialer Wandel und Gesellschaftliche Dauerbeobachtung. Festschrift für Wolfgang Zapf*. Opladen: Leske+Budrich. S. 317-336. (http://www.gesis.org/fileadmin/upload/institut/wiss_arbeitsbereiche/soz_indikatoren/Publikationen/Noll_Zapf-Festschrift.pdf)
- Hatcher, Larry Ph. D. (1994): *A Step-by-Step Approach to Using SAS for Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Modeling*. Cary, North Carolina: SAS Publishing
- Bailey, Kenneth D. (1994): *Typologies And Taxonomies - An Introduction to Classification Techniques*. Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences 102. Newbury Park / London / New Delhi: Sage
- Spector, Paul E. (1992): *Summated Rating Scale Construction - An Introduction*. Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences 82. Newbury Park / London / New Delhi: Sage

List of texts to be discussed in class will be distributed at the beginning of the semester.

6. Working requirements and assessment method

Students have to write a paper, assessing a concept of their choice. These papers present a theoretical and methodological overview of the chosen concept. The papers should also suggest operationalizations. If the concepts have already been estimated the empirical results can also be presented and discussed.

7. Teaching staff

Hans-Jürgen Andreß is head of the Chair for Empirical Social and Economic Research. He obtained his PhD from the University of Frankfurt / Main. Before his professorship in Cologne he has been Professor of Methods and EDP in the Social Sciences at the University of Bielefeld. His fields of research include methods of empirical social and economic research; statistics and multivariate methods; EDP usage in the social sciences; labour market research (in particular: unemployment); social and family policy (in particular: poverty).

Romana Careja obtained her PhD at the University of Bern. Her recent research has focused on conditions influencing economic reforms in post-communist countries.

8. Co-ordination/Contact

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