

Ph.D. in “Life Course Research” – Socio-demographic curriculum

Academic Year 2023-2024

Survey methodology (April 8-11, 2024)

Survey errors, methods of data collection, complex sampling

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In collaboration with prof. Sandro Formica¹ (sformica@fiu.edu) and
prof. Mauro Ferrante (mauro.ferrante@unipa.it),

Objectives

Over the past decades, a set of theories and principles has evolved that offer a unified perspective on the design, conduct, and evaluation of surveys. This perspective is most labelled the "total survey error" paradigm. The course aims to describe the basic principles of survey design discovered in methodological research over the past years and the guidance they offered for decisions that are made in the execution of good-quality surveys. The critical components of the total survey error paradigm are presented, and examples of error components are provided by referencing the example surveys.

Program

Monday (08/04) morning (Instructor: De Cantis, 10:00-13:30). Introduction to Survey Methodology; examples of error components; a classification of survey errors; classroom discussion and icebreaker activities; the research projects of PhD students in the perspective of survey methodology.

Tuesday (09/04) morning (Instructor: Ferrante, De Cantis, 10:00-13:30): Estimation strategies in complex sampling design.

Wednesday (10/04) afternoon: (Instructor: Formica, De Cantis, 15:00-18:30): The theory construction, from theory to data.

Thursday (11/04) morning (Instructor: De Cantis, 10:00-13:30): The “total survey errors paradigm”: Inference and errors in survey. Examples of social and demographic surveys.

Final assignment: Select a paper in a top journal related to the topic of your research project. Review the paper according to the “total survey error” paradigm. Finalize the review of the paper and submit it by email to: stefano.decantis@unipa.it

Reference Manuals

Groves R. M., Fowler Jr F. J., Couper M. P., Lepkowski J. M., Singer E., & Tourangeau R. (2011). **Survey methodology**, (Vol. 561). John Wiley & Sons.

Weisberg, H. F. (2009). **The total survey error approach: A guide to the new science of survey research**. University of Chicago Press.

Requirements

Statistical inference; sampling and sampling design; data collection methods; sampling error

¹ Prof. Formica is a lecturer and a Visiting Professor at Florida International University
(<https://hospitality.fiu.edu/faculty/profiles/formica-sandro--phd.html>; <https://www.sandroformica.com/>)