

School Meetings

Psychological
Sciences PhD



Thursdays at 1 pm
Cesare Musatti Hall, Psico 1 building

Analytical approaches in studies of societal trends in adolescent health and health behavior: The HBSC study as a case



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A number of successful crossnational comparative research studies on adolescent health and well-being has emerged during the last 40 years, providing the research community with a rich and open infrastructure for comparative and crosscultural psychological research. Many of these studies have a repeated crosssectional design, with surveys of the the same countries and regions across historical time, but with different cohorts at each measurement. Repeated crosssectional surveys are not without challenges, on nearly every aspect of methodology: sampling, data collection methods, measurements, as well as data analysis and data documentation. In this talk I will center on data-analytic challenges in comparative repeated crosssectional studies, using the Health Behaviour in School-aged children study (HBSC) as an example, What data-analytic tools are required to analyse research questions about the individual in a national context across historical time? I will briefly present and discuss some of the most relevant analytical approaches, moving from simple regression techniques via multigroup structural equation modeling, to multilevel modelling and and meta-analysis. All of these approaches are relevant, but as the talk will demonstrate, they differ sharply in the ability to integrate information from different levels.

Torsheim is a Professor of psychometrics and research methods at the University of Bergen, where he teaches in the psychology program. He is also a trained psychologist. Torsheim's research profile is applied, collaborative, and multidisciplinary, covering psychometrics, developmental psychology, public health and health promotion. His research deals with contextual influences on adolescents' health and health behaviour, and how to measure across countries. Key specific interests include the application of psychometric theory to measurement of socioeconomic position, and application of psychometrics as a tool to make valid conclusions across countries. What kind of conclusions are permissible or not from a psychometric standpoint?

