



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

DIPARTIMENTO
DI PSICOLOGIA
"RENZO CANESTRARI"

PhD Program in Psychology

Seminar "Validity Issues: Self-report and Observer Ratings"

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20/02/2025 and 24/02/2025, 9:00 – 13:00

Bologna

Abstract

In psychology, we are faced with the problem of measurement. Variables such as personality dimensions or caregiving styles can be measured through a number of different means, such as observed behavior or self-reports. The question however remains of how we may know that the measures we choose are indeed measuring what we think they are measuring. This question lays at the heart of the topic of psychometric validity and its related issues. Validity is among the most important aspects in psychological testing, yet many research and clinical psychologists have trouble articulating the definition of validity, and even more trouble critically choosing a test for a specific use. With this in mind, this course will help you in gain a critical approach to the evaluation and selection of self-report and observer rating measures. Course activities may include a combination of didactic and experiential learning (e.g., group discussions, critiques of published and proposed research...), as well as two learning assessments at the end of both classes.

Readings:

Bakeman, R., & Quera, V. (2011). *Sequential analysis and observational methods for the behavioral sciences*. Cambridge University Press.

McCrae, R. R. (1994). The counterpoint of personality assessment: Self reports and observer ratings. *Assessment*, 1(2), 159–172.

McCrae, R. R., & Weiss, A. (2007). Observer ratings of personality. In R. W. Robins, R. C. Fraley, & R. F. Krueger (Eds.), *Handbook of research methods in personality psychology* (pp. 259–272). The Guilford Press.

Podsakoff, P. M., MacKenzie, S. B., Lee, J. Y., & Podsakoff, N. P. (2003). Common method biases in behavioral research: A critical review of the literature and recommended remedies. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 88(5), 879-903.