MULTINATIONAL EVENT HISTORY CALENDAR INTERVIEWING

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Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional, and Multicultural Contexts
Chicago 2016
Event History Calendar (EHC) Interviewing

- Graphical time frame, enhance respondent’s recall
- Not much known on interviewer effects
- Even less known on intercultural effects
Interviewer skills in an EHC-interview

- EHC techniques
  - Cross-checking, Cueing
  - Probing for changes
- Standardized techniques
  - Reading questions & response alternatives
  - Inferences
- Cope with irrelevant talk
- Technical skills EHC instrument
EHC in a multinational study

- Epidemiologic case-control, April 2007-2008
- 26,000 respondents (patients)
- Countries involved in current study: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Slovenia
- EHC Timelines
  - Smoking history
  - Other relevant risk factors
  - Other life events: for cueing and cross-checking
Interview set-up
Monitoring interviewer performance

› Train-the-trainer model
› Training with practice and role-playing
› All interviews were audio-recorded
› Systematic sample behavior coding
› Interviewers receive feedback & recommendations
Behavior coding program

![Behavior Coding Program Screenshot]

- **Question reading:**
  - adequate
  - changes question
  - skips question

- **What is changed?**

- **Cross checking:**
  - balanced
  - unbalanced
  - no cross check

- **Data entry:**
  - correct
  - incorrect

- **Probing for changes:**
  - adequate
  - suggests
  - fails to probe
  - probing not necessary

**Note:**
The question is not read as worded, and its meaning has been changed. Specify the change by clicking the mouse on 'What is changed?' to select an option, or type the question as read by the interviewer.
Results: Number of cases

- **France**: Number of valid interviews - 1000, Total recruited respondents - 1000
- **Germany**: Number of valid interviews - 3500, Total recruited respondents - 4000
- **Greece**: Number of valid interviews - 1600, Total recruited respondents - 1800
- **Italy**: Number of valid interviews - 200, Total recruited respondents - 200
- **Slovenia**: Number of valid interviews - 1300, Total recruited respondents - 1300
Results: Percentage of audio-recorded interviews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>April-August 2007</th>
<th>August 2007-April 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>77.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>61.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Results: Feedback processing speed (in nr of days)
Results: Interviewer performance

Standardized behaviors

Calendar-specific behaviors
Use of different cross-checks across countries
Conclusion

› Complex multinational survey
› Standardization successful due to intensive interviewer training
› Cross-checking is essential in EHC’s and relevance of domains differs per country
› Recording rate and feedback processing speed differed per country
› Including paradata, also as a sample source for behavior coding, improved implementation of behavior coding
Thank you

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