

JPSM/MPSM

Survey Methodology Seminar Series

Generalizing from Sample to Population

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Presenter

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Monday, November 3, 2014

4:00-5:00pm

Speaker will be at the University of Michigan
Video Room 368 - ISR South Basement
Room 1208 LeFrak Hall– Maryland

Abstract

We've been hearing a lot about "data" recently, but data are generally a means to an end, with the goal being to learn about some population of interest. How do we generalize from sample to population? The process seems a bit mysterious, especially given that our samples are far from random (unless you count a sample of 24 psychology undergraduates and 100 Mechanical Turk participants as a random sample). Nonetheless we can use data to learn about populations of interest, in part using Bayesian reasoning. We discuss principles, methods, and open problems, and issues of sample size, effect size, and interactions, in the context of examples in political science and psychology.