

Macro Data Analysis

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When researchers turn to validation processes of their theoretical models by using cross-country samples, their inferences are usually obstructed by typical features of macrosociological data. Two of the most common problems are the sample selection bias due to data restrictions and the violation of model assumption concerning the exogeneity of independent variables.

This session is soliciting papers on presenting solutions to such difficulties in macrosociological modelling, e.g. papers dealing with techniques about sample selection or endogeneity. Each paper should refer on the methodological aspect of macrosociological modelling and might answer questions like the following:

- Do sample selection techniques differ in their efficacy to exploiting the data, e.g. does it matter how the specification error is modelled?
- Are there typical selection variables or features of aggregate (country) data which occur more often than others?
- In that vein, are there certain conditions which contribute to the occurrence of selection problems at an aggregate level such as economic, political or social circumstances?
- Which criteria can be loosened if sound instruments for assessing the actual relationship between the independent and the dependent variable must be found?
- Are there working alternatives to the instrumental variable approach in avoiding endogeneity?