

What is Measurement Error?

Abstract

Measurement error is a pervasive - yet often unacknowledged - problem in the Social Sciences. It is present in many of the survey and administrative datasets commonly used across different fields. In this seminar, Dr Pina-Sánchez will focus on the example of police statistics to illustrate some of the different forms that measurement error can take (random, systematic, additive, multiplicative, ...) and how they can impact the findings. He will also review a series of adjustment methods, which could be used as sensitivity tools, i.e. to assess the potential impact of measurement error when all we have is an educated guess about the form and prevalence of the measurement error mechanisms affecting the data.