

RSS01.A1 Concepts and Conceptualization: Building Blocks of Social Science detailed program

Day 1: Introduction

The first lecture delves into different philosophical perspectives towards concepts and conceptualization. It addresses the basic questions of what a concept is and which role conceptualization plays in research design. It also touches upon classification, typologies and taxonomies.

Day 2: Types of concepts

The second lecture centres on experience-distant approaches to conceptualisation. It deals with Sartori's ladder of abstraction, classical concepts, diminished subtypes as well as family resemblance and radial concepts.

Day 3: Concept structures

The third lecture dives into different ways to structure concepts. We will study positive and negative concepts, difference in kind and difference in degree concepts, the issue of dimensionality as well as functional equivalence.

Day 4: Experience-near concepts

This lecture highlights an interpretivist approach towards conceptualization. It introduces participants to experience-near concepts and emphasizes the role of language, social actors and social context in shaping the meaning of concepts.

Day 5: Goodness of fit

This last lecture will deal with different ways to evaluate the goodness of fit of your concepts. We will do so for both experience-distant and experience-near concepts.