



Presentation by Dr. Barbara Byrne

When: April 4th, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Where: 270 Mabel Lee Hall

***Testing for Measurement Equivalence Across Multiple Cultures:
Many Problems and Few Solutions***

Abstract

A critical prerequisite to multigroup comparisons is knowledge that the assessment instrument is operating equivalently (i.e., it is invariant) across the groups of interest. More specifically, it is assumed that both the perception of item content and the dimensionality of the underlying construct are group-equivalent. Structural equation modeling provides the analytic means to testing for these equivalencies. When tests for invariance involve mono-cultural groups, procedures are relatively straightforward. However, when comparative groups represent different cultures, the process is much more complex and becomes increasingly so as the number of groups increases and the geo-cultural bases diverge. These complexities are reviewed and a modified approach to the usual tests for equivalence proposed when research involves large-scale studies of multiple cultural groups.

Dr. Barbara Byrne is Emerita Professor in the School of Psychology at the University of Ottawa, Canada. Her research focuses on construct validation issues related to the structure and measurement of self-concept, burnout, and depression as well as issues related to the analysis of covariance structures in the validation of measuring instruments and psychological constructs. Byrne is an internationally recognized expert in the area of structural equation modeling (SEM), particularly as it relates to tests for invariance across mono- and multi-cultural populations.

Dr. Byrne has conducted close to 75 SEM workshops at conferences, universities, and test publishers around the globe and is the author of five popular introductory books on the topic. These books include *Structural Equation Modeling with EQS: Basic Concepts, Applications, and Programming* and *Structural Equation Modeling with AMOS: Basic Concepts, Applications, and Programming* as well as *Measuring Self-concept Across the Lifespan: Issues and Instrumentation*. She is the recipient of three Distinguished Teaching Awards presented by the Canadian Psychological Association (1995), the American Psychological Association (APA; 2002), and the APA, Division 5 (Jacob Cohen Award; 2002). Dr. Byrne is a Fellow of APA's Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics (Division 5) and the International Psychology (Division 52). She is an elected member of the Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology. Dr. Byrne has served on both the Continuing Professional Education and Psychological Tests and Assessment Committees of the APA, and served as the APA representative on the Joint Committee for Testing Practices, as well as on the Executive Council of the International Test Commission.

This presentation is part of the Department's ***Century Speaker Series***

