



Presentation by Dr. Barbara Byrne

When: September 18th, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Where: Buros Library

Testing for Instrument Equivalence across Cultural Groups: Procedures, Issues, and Complexities

Conducting multigroup comparisons assumes that both the item measurements and dimensionality of the underlying construct(s) are group-equivalent. Structural equation modeling (SEM) represents one procedure for testing the validity of these equivalencies. When tests for instrument equivalence involve mono-cultural groups procedures are relatively straightforward. However, when comparative groups under study represent different national cultures, the process is much more complex and becomes increasingly so as the number of cultural groups expands and their socio-geographical roots become more widely divergent.

This presentation will:

- (a) briefly review the basic SEM strategy used in testing for measurement and structural equivalence**
- (b) illustrate these procedures for three cross-cultural applications**
- (c) identify methodological, and statistical issues that can complicate this process when testing across multiple cultural groups**
- (d) suggest a few alternative approaches in addressing these difficulties**
- (e) illustrate one alternative strategy that takes into account the hierarchical structure of cultural data**
- (f) examine primary and secondary explanations for findings of nonequivalence.**

All attendees will receive access to a free, time-limited download of the recently updated EQS 6.2 program.

