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Secondary data analysis across studies: An introduction to cross-study research

This half-day pre-conference workshop will provide an insightful introduction to the methodology and techniques of secondary data analysis across studies, with a focus on longitudinal cohort study data. The workshop begins by outlining the conceptual underpinnings of cross-study research, highlighting its relevance in various disciplines including social sciences, healthcare, and education. Participants will be introduced to key concepts of data harmonisation, equivalence and standardisation and will explore the advantages and challenges of undertaking cross-study research. Through a combination of interactive lectures and hands-on exercises, participants will learn about practical strategies for navigating the intricacies of secondary data analysis across studies, as well as understanding the benefits of cross-study research for academic investigation.

Extended abstract

The UK is home to some of the world's largest and longest-running longitudinal population studies and cross-study analysis can help to understand more about group differences, the role of contextual factors, and how societal changes may impact on outcomes for individuals over the life course or across generations.

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Through a combination of interactive lectures and hands-on exercises, participants will learn about practical strategies for navigating the intricacies of secondary data analysis across studies, as well as understanding the benefits of cross-study research for academic investigation.

Through real-world examples and best practices, attendees will learn how to identify compatible datasets, access harmonised datasets, and explore cross-study data guides on a range of themes. Moreover, participants will engage with examples of published academic research to understand the diverse applications and insights that cross-study research can bring to the study of change over time and across generations.

By the conclusion of the workshop, participants will have acquired a comprehensive foundation in the principles and techniques of cross-study research, providing them with the confidence to use existing harmonised datasets, undertake their own data harmonisation

and undertake research that exploits the full potential of cross-study analysis in their respective fields of inquiry.