

Interviewers and Coverage Error

Stephanie Eckman
Institut für Arbeitsmarkt und Berufsforschung

Vortrag im Rahmen des Institutskolloquiums
21. Juli 2010, 16:15 Uhr
Seminarraum, Ludwigstraße 33 I

In the absence of a national population or housing register, field work organizations in many countries use in-field housing unit listings to create a sampling frame for in-person household surveys. The quality of these frames is critically important for the overall survey quality. Previous work on housing unit frame quality has focused largely on estimating net coverage rates and identifying the types of units and segments that are vulnerable to undercoverage. This research advances our understanding of the listing process, using sociological and psychological theories to derive hypotheses about errors in two listing methods.

I first look at traditional (or from-scratch) listing as a principal-agent interaction, but do not find support for the ability of this theoretical framework to explain undercoverage in traditional listing. I have more success finding a mechanism of error in dependent (or update) listing: listers tend not to correct the errors of inclusion and exclusion on the frame they update, leading to undercoverage and overcoverage. Finally I estimate the bias due to the observed undercoverage, but find little evidence that lister error would lead to substantial changes in survey estimates.