

Summaries

Success and failure of policy making and non-response: an empirical study of mail survey response among Dutch municipalities

by H. van Goor and B. Stuiver

Due to a lack of pertinent data, not much is known about non-response in substantive, generally 'dependent' variables and its consequences. However, in a study on policy performance of Dutch municipalities, we fortunately were able to gather performance data for respondents and non-respondents from independent sources. Our study shows that very successful and very unsuccessful municipalities respond least, while intermediately successful municipalities respond most. This 'curvilinear' relationship between performance and non-response can be interpreted as an interaction effect between interest in the topic of research and evaluation apprehension. As a consequence, the relationships between variables are also somewhat biased. To correct for this bias we made several weighting attempts, using post stratification as our weighting technique. Weighting by post stratification is based on the assumption of equal response probabilities. Our study, however, shows that this assumption is not met. Furthermore, our results indicate that weighting by one or two independent variables does not lead to better results, no more than weighting by policy performance alone. Interestingly, only weighting by a dependent and independent variable in combination leads to acceptable results.

Trends in the quality of employment of female and male graduates between 1973 and 1992: emancipation or inflation?

by Marian Bos-Boers, Anneke van Doorne-Huiskes and Ad Nooij

This study reports on research into the causes of disparities in the quality of employment between female and male graduates. In this study the quality of a job is measured in terms of four indicators: occupational prestige, rate of remuneration, the level of education required for the job, and job security.

In 1993 and still in 1992 the female graduates scored on all four indicators of the quality of employment lower than the male graduates. Although the score for women increased and that of men declined and the disparities decreased, there remained disparities in the quality of their jobs.

For changes in the disparities of quality of employment for men and women, attention is given to two mayor explanatory mechanisms: emancipation and inflation. Inflation plays a role while in 1992 academic education was less decisive for the quality of employment than it was in the 1970s because of the rising educational level of the labour force. Emancipation has brought more women into paid employment, it has have enlarged their human capital

decreased the discrimination against women, and made marital status less restrictive.

The ambiguity of 'occupational class': on the economic liberalism and cultural conservatism of the 'working class'

by Dick Houtman

The article offers a critical reassessment of the sociological custom of indicating one's 'position in society' by means of one's 'occupation'. Whereas the 'working class' (occupational classes VI and VII in Goldthorpe's scheme) can be shown to be both culturally conservative and economically liberal, it can also be shown that this is caused by two entirely different mechanisms. Cultural conservatism is caused by a restricted 'socio-cultural position' (low level of education, but also a technical rather than a socio-cultural type of education and limited cultural participation). Economic liberalism, on the other hand, is caused by a weak 'socio-economic position' (mainly low income and frequently experienced unemployment). Therefore, it is argued that behind 'occupational class' two different types of position remain concealed: level of education and income are not simply 'two aspects of the same thing', as is assumed in the scaling of occupations. Finally, additional reasons for a critical reassessment of the latter procedure are discussed.