

Call for papers: A Special Issue in SRM on „Methodological and substantive advances applying the Schwartz theory of basic human values“

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Values are central to public discourse today and are viewed as necessary to the understanding of attitudes and behavior. In 1992, Schwartz introduced a theory of basic human values. It includes 10 motivationally distinct values that are presumed to cover the main value orientations across cultures. Several instruments have been developed to measure these values. A short version of one of these instruments has been included in all four rounds of the European Social Survey. These instruments have revived a lively methodological and substantive discussion related to the value concept in recent years in ESRA and other conferences as well as in various journal articles.

We believe that such a discussion between methodologists and substantive researchers can advance the theory. To facilitate and encourage this, a special issue of SRM will focus on applications of the Schwartz theory of basic human values. It will include articles dealing with:

- (a) methodological developments tested on measurements of some or all of the values postulated by the theory;
- (b) applications of existing (advanced) methods that measure some or all of the values in the theory as well as other variables and provide new theory-relevant insights.

Examples of types of topic that would be appropriate include:

- (1) using panel data and appropriate methods to test for the stability of human values over time;
- (2) proposals of new or revised scales to measure human values that overcome some of the problems of convergent and discriminant validity identified in the European Social Survey data;
- (3) comparisons of the human values instruments with measurements of values based on other theories (like that of Inglehart);
- (4) multilevel applications to explain variations of values and/or their measurements across countries or other contexts;
- (5) mixture modelling, for example to identify clusters of value patterns within societies or across societies;
- (6) tests of the circumplex structure of the theory.

Studies on these and similar topics may include examinations of relations between values and other variables of theoretical interest. If you are interested in submitting an article for this issue, please prepare an abstract (up to 500 words; in Word but not in Word 2007) and submit it by 30.11.2009 to davidov@soziologie.uzh.ch. Abstracts should include the

- (1) research question to be addressed
- (2) added value (or “what is new”)
- (3) method(s) applied
- (4) data set to be used

Based on the abstracts received we will make a first selection of potential manuscripts for the special issue. The deadline for submission of a first version of the *selected* manuscripts is 31.08.2010.