

Workshop: "Quantitative Methods"

The workshop "Quantitative Methods" is part of the module "Research Methods" for 2nd year Master students of Applied Linguistics. Due to the small group of students we can offer 17 additional slots to 1st year MA and 3rd year BA students. Places are assigned on a first come, first serve basis.

If you would like to participate or have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the module instructor Dr. Stefanie Pohle at s.pohle@uni-bonn.de. Please include your full name, uni-bonn e-mail address, and the study programme you're enrolled in.

Date and location

Friday, 13 December 2013, 2pm – 6pm (minibreaks in between); IAAK, Konferenzzimmer

Saturday, 14 December 2013, 9am – 12am and 1.30pm – 6.30pm (minibreaks in between); IAAK, room A

Aims and scope

The workshop is aimed at students of English linguistics with no or little previous knowledge in statistics but with some experience in conducting an empirical research study.

Please do not expect to acquire comprehensive statistical skills within two days. The purpose of this workshop is rather to equip you with some basic knowledge and competencies in quantitative methods and to raise your awareness of the necessity of further statistics courses if you consider doing quantitative research in linguistics in the future. A further objective is to help you to critically read and evaluate sections on quantitative methods and results in existing research publications.

You will first be introduced to key terms and concepts in statistics (provisional list of topics see below). The rest of the workshop will be dedicated to concrete examples and concerns relating to students' projects as well as to questions that have come up while reading research literature.

Since you will do practical exercises throughout the workshop to allow you to apply your newly acquired knowledge, please bring a scientific calculator.

Trainer

PD Dr. Iman M. Laversuch Nick

Iman M. Laversuch Nick is a sociolinguist and English lecturer at Cologne University. She holds the following degrees: BA (Germanics); Bsc (Clinical/Abnormal Psychology); MA (German Linguistics); PhD and "Habilitation" (English Linguistics). For each of these degrees she obtained university and departmental honours. Her primary research areas comprise multilingualism, language-policy, the Holocaust, and forensic linguistics. She's presently completing a MSc (Forensic Psychology) from Liverpool University and is first Vice President of the American Name Society and President of the Linguistic Society of America's Committee for Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics.

Preparation

The 3rd semester Master students are required to prepare the workshop in the way described below, using a template available on e-campus. Other students who will participate are encouraged to do the same to get the most out of the workshop:

- Complete the research project proposal (term paper and/or BA/MA thesis project). Which research questions and hypotheses do you have? What do you want to study and how?

- Based on this proposal, write an abstract of your research project of max. 100 words.
- Collect any statistics-related concerns and questions you may have in connection with your project or other publications you have read. Be very precise and explicit; give references to specific publications, etc.

You are invited to join our preparatory session on Thursday, 14 Nov, 8.30-10.00 when the 3rd year Master students will present their projects and related questions, and to contribute to discussions. Following this session, we'll send the abstracts and concerns/questions to Iman so she can prepare the workshop.

Topics (provisional)

Key terms and concepts

- Different "types" of statistics – what can they be used for?
 - Descriptive statistics
 - Inferential statistics
- Data types / levels of measurement
 - What can I do with these data types? What not?
 - How can I find the most suitable statistical method(s) for each data type?
- Sampling
 - How do I choose participants "in the right way" in relation to my research question/hypothesis?
 - How big does my sample have to be to be able to conduct specific statistical tests?
- Absolute and relative frequencies
- Diagram types and elements
- Normalising data
- What is...
 - Mean, median, mode, range, variance
 - Probability
 - Normal distribution
 - Statistical significance
 - Confidence intervals
 - Effect size
- ... and what does it tell us?
- Statistical methods and tests (overview of tests and what they are used for)
 - What do I need to learn more about statistics to be able to pick the right statistical method?
 - How can I learn to conduct these tests (formula, software such as Excel, SPSS, R, etc.)?
- Interpretation of statistical results
 - How can I learn to interpret my own data?
 - How can I learn to evaluate other researchers' statistical methods?
 - How do I draw the right conclusions from statistical tests?
 - How much can I generalise?

Presentation of useful resources for self-study (statistics for applied linguists)

- Useful internet resources
- Publications
- Online and on-site statistics courses (ideally tailored to linguistics needs)