Cross-national and cross-level measurement equivalence of choice and gender equality values in the EVS 2017.

Boris Sokolov (NRU HSE)

In this project, I want to test for two different types of measurement invariance of two components of Welzel’s emancipative values (Welzel 2013), known as [pro]-choice values and [gender] equality values. Choice values reflect how permissible people in different countries find sexual self-determination in such matters as homosexuality, abortion and divorce. In turn, equality values measure how much emphasize respondents put on gender equality in such spheres as education, job market, and political leadership. Welzel’s Emancipative Values Index (EVI) was recently criticized for the lack of cross-cultural measurement invariance (Alemán and Woods 2016), which, according to the current methodological standards, means also lack of cross-cultural comparability for the EVI. Sokolov (2018), however, showed that for choice values approximate measurement invariance holds in a cross-national perspective. He also noted that “perceptions of issues related to gender equality can also be cognitively equivalent across different cultures” (Op. cit., 406). This study is aimed at further elaboration of the issue of cross-national measurement invariance of these two components of the EVI, with the use of multiple-group confirmatory factor analysis and the data from the latest, 2017 round of the EVS. In addition, using multilevel confirmatory factor analysis, it will for the first time test for cross-level invariance of choice values and equality values, an important methodological assumption ensuring that individual-level and country-level scores on the respective constructs have a similar substantive meaning and scale of measurement.