

ESRA 2019

16-19 July, Zagreb, Croatia



# USING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INCOME ITEM NONRESPONSE AND PANEL ATTRITION FOR ADAPTIVE FIELDWORK MEASURES IN SHARE

Annette Scherpenzeel, Arne Bethmann, Michael Bergmann,  
Sabine Friedel

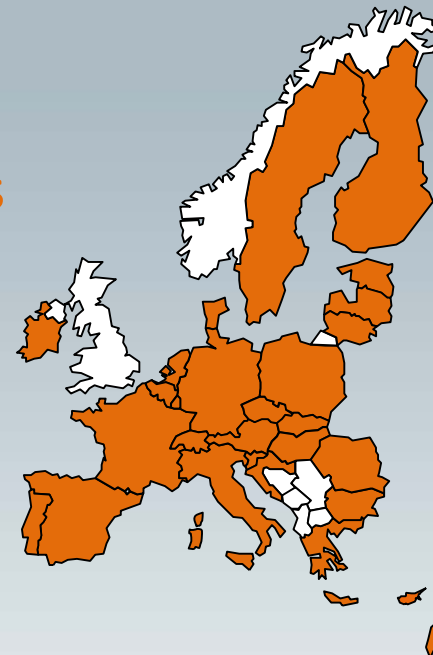
Chair for the Economics of Aging, Technical University of Munich  
Munich Center for the Economics of Aging (MEA)



# SHARE – Overview



- Study of population ageing
- Started in 2004 with representative samples of individuals age 50+ in **11 European countries** (now 28 countries in Wave 7)
- Panel: F2F interviews with the **same persons**, every two years



- **Broad range of measurements:** Subjective and objective measures, cognitive tests, linkage to administrative data
- Free data access for researchers: <http://www.share-eric.eu>

- Tested in SHARE Germany in wave 6

Michael Bergmann, Wednesday, 09:00 - 10:30, D17  
Fieldwork Monitoring Tools for Large-Scale Surveys

- One of the effects found in the monitoring:
- Income missing in w5 → lower response prob in w6
- In other waves too, and in other panels

## Other panels found it

1. German Socio-Economic Panel (Schräpler, 2004; Frick and Grapka, 2005)
2. Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family dynamics (Müller and Castiglioni, 2015)
3. Belgian General Election Study (Loosveldt, Pickery and Billiet, 2002)
4. English Longitudinal Survey of Ageing (Taylor, 2006)
5. British Household Panel Survey (Uhrig, 2008)

# Adaptive and responsive design

- Use this relationship in an adaptive design
- Tailored letter, extra incentive, more contact attempts, or...?
  - Who are they?
  - Do they never give their income?
  - Why?



First: explore the available SHARE data

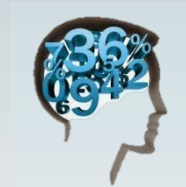
# Response pattern over waves

- No pattern of consistently not answering income questions across waves while remaining in the panel
- Income non-responders drop out of the panel in an early stage



# Who are they?

- NOT the oldest old, ill or cognitively challenged sample members
- BUT Working, highly educated and high income, good numerical abilities



**BUT: what is the reason??**

# Ask respondents: In-depth interviews

- Summer 2018
- 12 Interviews
- Respondents selected from online panel:
  - Same pattern!



# Ask respondents!

Interview	Gender	Education	Age
1	Female	Low	76
2	Female	Medium	51
3	Male	High	55
4	Female	Low	62
5	Male	Medium	65
6	Male	Medium	69
7	Female	Medium	60
8	Male	High	75
9	Female	Medium	67
10	Male	High	66
11	Female	Medium	72
12	Male	Medium	80

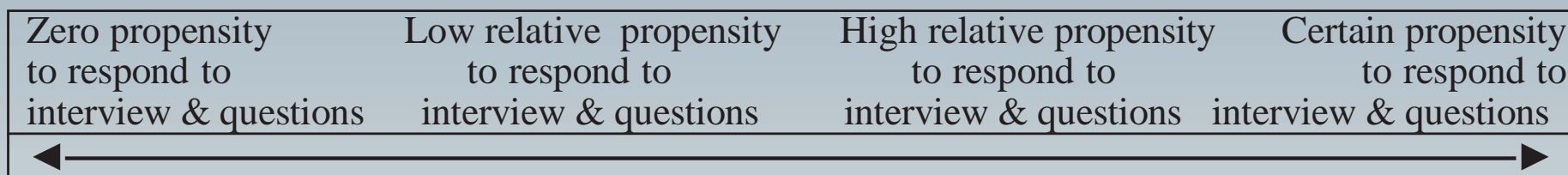
# Item nonresponse literature

Three groups of factors affecting the process of (not) answering a question are generally distinguished:

- Cognitive factors
- Sensitivity of the question or question topic
- Motivational or attitudinal factors

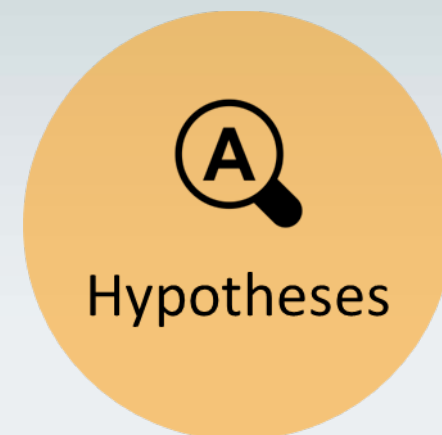
*Beatty and Herrmann (2002), de Leeuw, Hox and Huisman (2003), Tourangeau, Rips, and Rasinski (2000), Stocke (2006), Loosveldt, Pickery and Billiet (2002), Yan and Curtin (2010).*

- Reluctance / lack of motivation for surveys

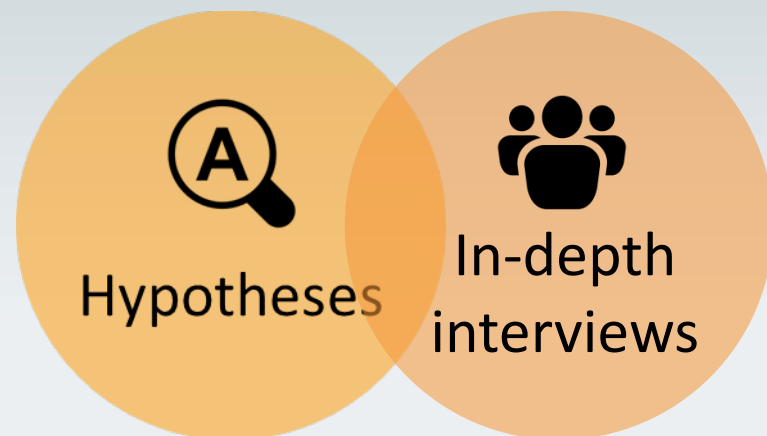


(Yan and Curtin, 2010)

- Privacy concerns
- Don't Know (health and cognition)

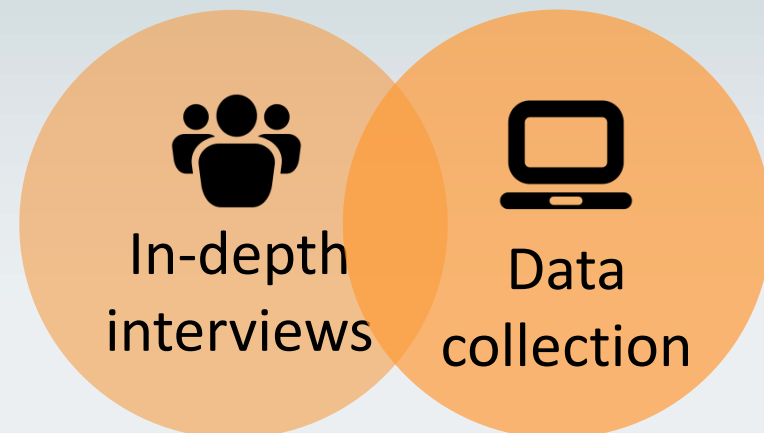


- ~~Reluctance for surveys~~ Changes in situation
- Privacy concerns: ~~disclosure~~, spam, hacking
- Don't Know: hidden refusal?
- Relatives/Proxies concern
- Taboo to talk about money



# Structured questionnaire for Wave 8

- General survey attitude
- Survey enjoyment
- Privacy concerns
- Concerns of proxies
- Fear of standing out
- Taboo to talk about money
- Trust
- Change in situation
- Relevance of topics



# Quantitative test

- Large refreshment sample SHARE Germany Wave 8
- Structured questionnaire as “drop-off”
- Relation CAPI income item missing x answers drop-off

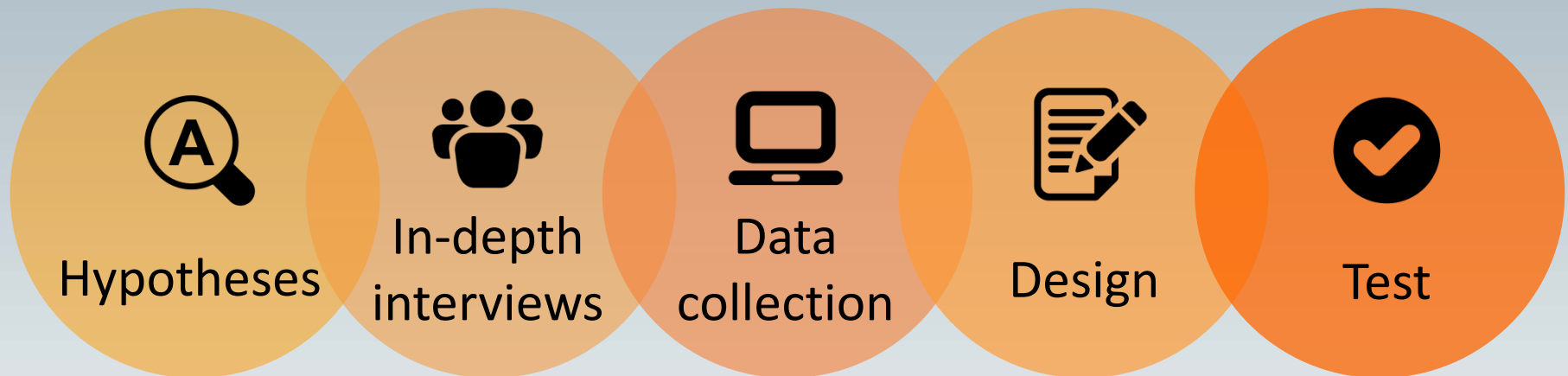


- Develop targeted measures



- Prevent attrition in Wave 9: Test

# Steps to take for each identified group?



A lot of time and effort for one group!

# Pass by at our booth

