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Judgement of the employment by systematic data collection method
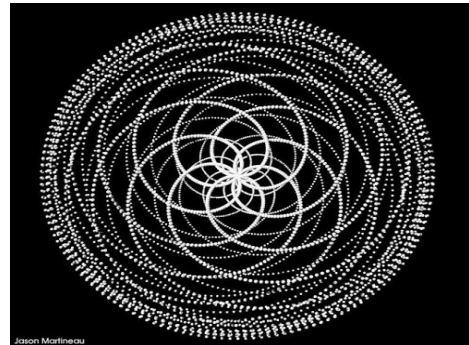
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Szeged, 19-21.11.2009

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Policy ⟶ Strategy ⟶ Public mind
on the labour market

Jason Martineau

University of Miskolc

Employment rate in Hungary and in the EU, 1997-2007
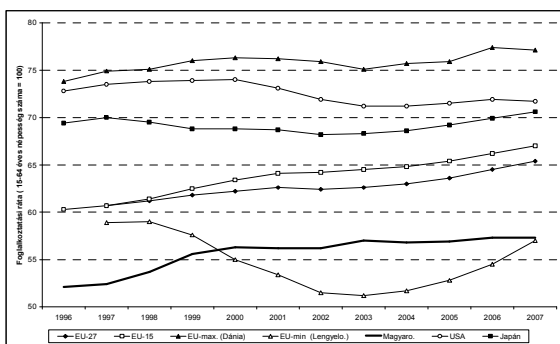
Source: Belyo Pál ECOSTAT

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Taking into account environmental effects the strategy of certain interests understood as a means of validation (Korompai 1995)

DIAGNOSIS
- Disorder of conceptions
- Often varying definitions of concepts
- Social dissatisfaction
- Unefficient instruments of employment policy

A part of the SOLUTION
- The removal, and simplification of the conceptual confusion

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The official term use should be reflected in the perception of society

Social consensus necessary for effective labour market policy, this is a more transparent conceptual system

1. Knowledge of the concept using of the society
2. Reviewing the official terms
3. Offering the conceptual system transformation and consolidation

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Knowledge of the society view is complicated, because the human and material resources are meanly available by a research.

The aim is to develop methods of application of a better efficiency than traditional interviewing.

To do this, our institute has tried to present an effective research method. We would like to introduce a future research project.

Systematic Data Collection

- Developed in the 1980's Susan C. Weller, A. Kimball Romney in the USA
- Each informant is asked the same set of questions diminishes sample size
- Useful for studying attitudes and beliefs at the beginning: informal exploratory interviewing to define the area of inquire – free listing
- Later: formal methods to measure accurately the phenomena under consideration

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Free listing

- To find how respondents define the boundaries of the domain of interest
- A domain may be defined as an organized set of words, concepts or sentences
- The items included in the final study depends on
  - the purpose of the study;
  - the frequency of the items mentioned in the free listing;
  - the type of formal data collection format to be used in the final study.

Defining Sample Size

Consensus theory: the number of informants needed depends on

- the average level of competence
- the confidence level – 95%
- the minimum rate of questions we would like to classify correctly

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Minimal number of informants

Proportion of Questions	Average Level of Cultural Competence				
	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9
0.95 confidence level					
0.80	9	7	4	4	4
0.85	11	7	4	4	4
0.90	13	9	6	4	4
0.95	17	11	6	6	4
0.99	29	19	10	8	4
0.99 confidence level					
0.80	15	10	5	4	4
0.85	15	10	7	5	4
0.90	21	12	7	5	4
0.95	23	14	9	7	4
0.99	*	20	13	8	6

* Well over 30 informants needed

Source: Susan C. Weller, A. Kimball Romney: Systematic Data Collection

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Formal methods

- Pile sort
  - used to get similarity among a large number of objects
- Triads
  - used to collect similarity or ordered data;
  - three items are presented to the informant at a time and he/she picks the one most different from the other two
- Rating scales
  - to collect ordered data
- Balanced incomplete block designs
  - used to shorten and simplify triad and paired comparison
- Sentence frame
  - when the items in a domain are characterized by a variety of features

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The method was tested by Eszter Nándori (2008)

- The test aimed to explore the concept of poverty
- Two methods of research:
  - systematic data collection and
  - traditional large sample used for the interviews.

The two methods had the same results.

SDC and the employment policy

- Who is considered to be unemployed ?
- What does social aid exactly mean?
- What is the difference between the short-term unemployed and the long-term one?

Conclusion

Our recommendations are the following:
- This method is very useful in social reseraches.
- We would like to carry out this research to analyse employment.

Thank you for your attention!

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