Crash Course in Statistics for Sociological Research

Proposing professor: prof. Stefani Scherer  
Teacher: dott. Guido Salza

Introduction: Sociological Questions and Statistics  
Types of variables; Descriptive univariate statistics, the description of the variables: centrality, dispersion, and shape

Probability distributions, random variables, sample, and population

Inferential statistics (introduction): from the sample to the population, the sample mean and the standard error of the sample mean, Central Limit Theorem

Confidence intervals, significance tests for a mean and a proportion, exercises

Bivariate statistics: comparison of two groups, contingency tables

Bivariate statistics: independence (chi-squared test), correlation

Multivariate analysis: the third variable

Multivariate analysis

Summary and exercises

Why this crash course and for whom?  
The crash course is thought for (future) students of the MA program in Sociology and Social Research. It will provide the necessary basics in statistics for the mandatory courses of the first year for those who previously had no or little training on the topic during their BA studies. Participation is not mandatory but strongly recommended in particular to all the students who do not have an adequate statistical background (including inferential statistics and multivariate reasoning). No credits are provided for attending the course. The participation to the crash course does not require the enrollment in the MA program in Sociology and Social Research. For further information: guido.salza@unitn.it (teacher) stefani.scherer@unitn.it (programme director).

Organization: The final timetable may be subject to changes. Classes will be held in-person (unless changes related to the Covid19 emergency).

Aims: This short course introduces the necessary theoretical and methodological elements to understand and correctly employ statistical analyses in social science research. By using various examples from the social sciences, the course helps students to critically analyze survey data and to correctly interpret the results, both from a statistical and a substantial point of view. During the course, students will have the opportunity to carry out exercises coming from social survey data.

How to enroll: on-line here http://www.sociologia.unitn.it/100/seminari-di-credito until September 11, 2022 (no more than 25 people admitted)

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