

Keynote speaker: Caroline Strobl (University of Zurich)

Title: “Bringing owls to Athens: Some thoughts on what makes a good simulation study in methodological research”

Abstract:

Simulation studies are an important tool for investigating and comparing quantitative methods with respect to various performance indicators. Many of us use and read about simulation studies on a daily basis in their methodological research. Just like the empirical sciences, who have been forced by the replication crisis to debate and reflect upon their accustomed tools for accumulating knowledge, I believe our discipline would profit if every now and then we thought and talked about why and how we typically do simulation studies. In this spirit, I dare to bring owls to Athens by presenting some thoughts on what makes a good simulation study, what distinguishes simulation studies from methods comparisons based on empirical data sets, and whether/how open science practices like preregistration can improve our ways of accumulating knowledge on quantitative methods like they do for research questions in the empirical sciences.