Sampling strategies and Longitudinal Study Design

RSM 321 (Lecture 11 & 12)

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Outline

Sampling strategies Longitudinal Study Design



Sampling (Kumar chapter 12)

What is sampling? Sampling is the selection of research units from a population

Why sampling?

Sampling is necessary because 'you cannot study everyone everywhere doing everything'

Sampling in quantitative research may mean 'people sampling', 'sampling of enterprises', 'sampling of soil', etc.



1. The definition of the research unit and population (i.e. target population)

2. The finding of a sampling frame (i.e. study population)

- 3. The choice for a particular method of sampling (Kumar:
- sampling design or sampling strategy)
- 4. The decision about the sample size



Target population:

Population to which you want to generalize the results

Example 1: all home based tapioca producing enterprises in Ho Chi Minh city (Vietnam)

Example 2: all habitats where bees live in a country or region



2. Sampling frame

- Ideally, the sampling frame would list every research unit in the target population separately and only once
- In practice, such lists can seldom be constructed, and we end up with an incomplete list or a list with superfluous units (the study population)
 - Example 1: the list of all home based tapioca producing enterprises in HCM city (Chamber of Commerce?)
 - Example 2: the surface (e.g. all elements of a grid) of one specific National Park (with mowed and unmowed area) where bees live



3. Sampling designs

Random (= probability) sampling

- All elements in the population have a nonzero and known chance of being selected
- Types: simple random, systematic, stratified random, cluster

Purpose:

- To avoid bias
 - → representativeness

Non-random (= non-probability) sampling

- Selection (partly) based on the judgement of the interviewer or researcher
- Types: quota, accidental/ convenience, judgemental/ purposive, snowball

Purpose:

- to obtain a workable sample when developing a sampling frame is near impossible or too time consuming
 - → representativeness..?



Random sampling designs (1)

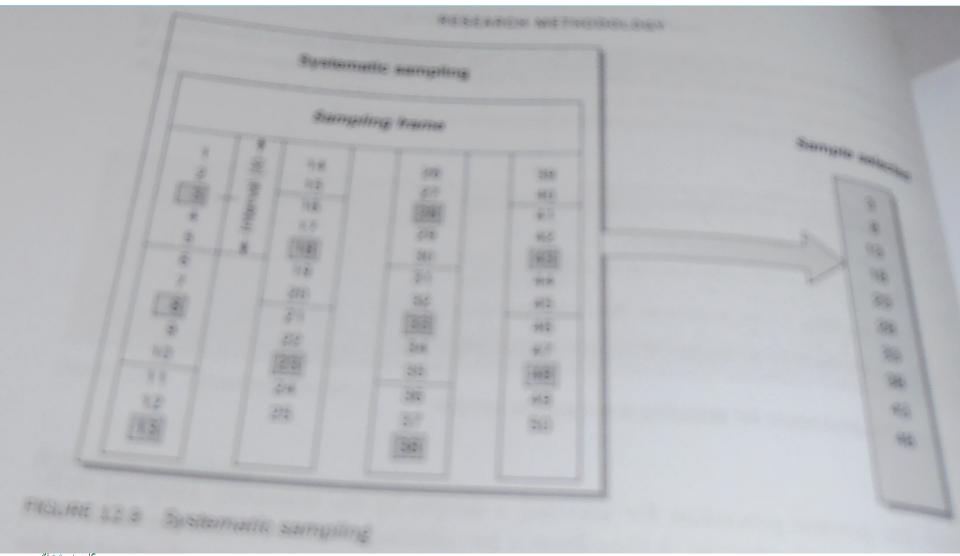
- Simple random sampling
 - Lottery system
 - fishbowl, random number table (Kumar p. 201!), random number generator (computer program)
- Systematic sampling
 - Every k-th number from a list or map (Kumar calls this: mixed design – p. 208-9!)
 - Examples:
 - · From a list of the Chamber of Commerce, from a telephone guide
 - From a grid of squares



Random sampling designs (2)

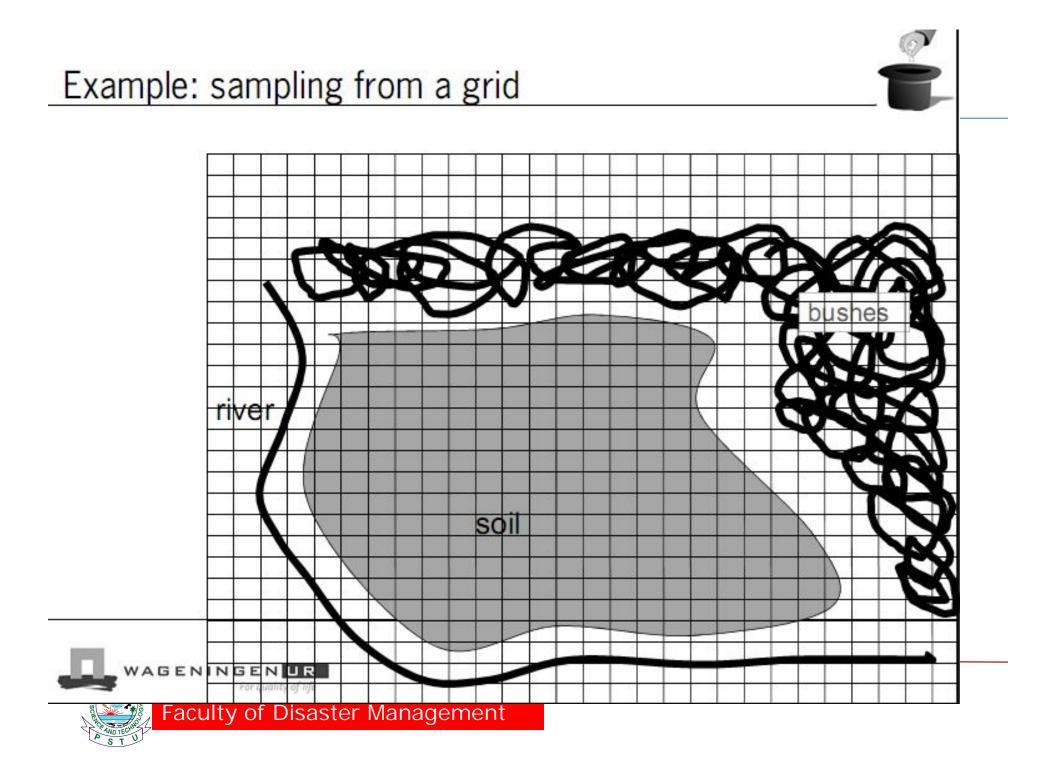
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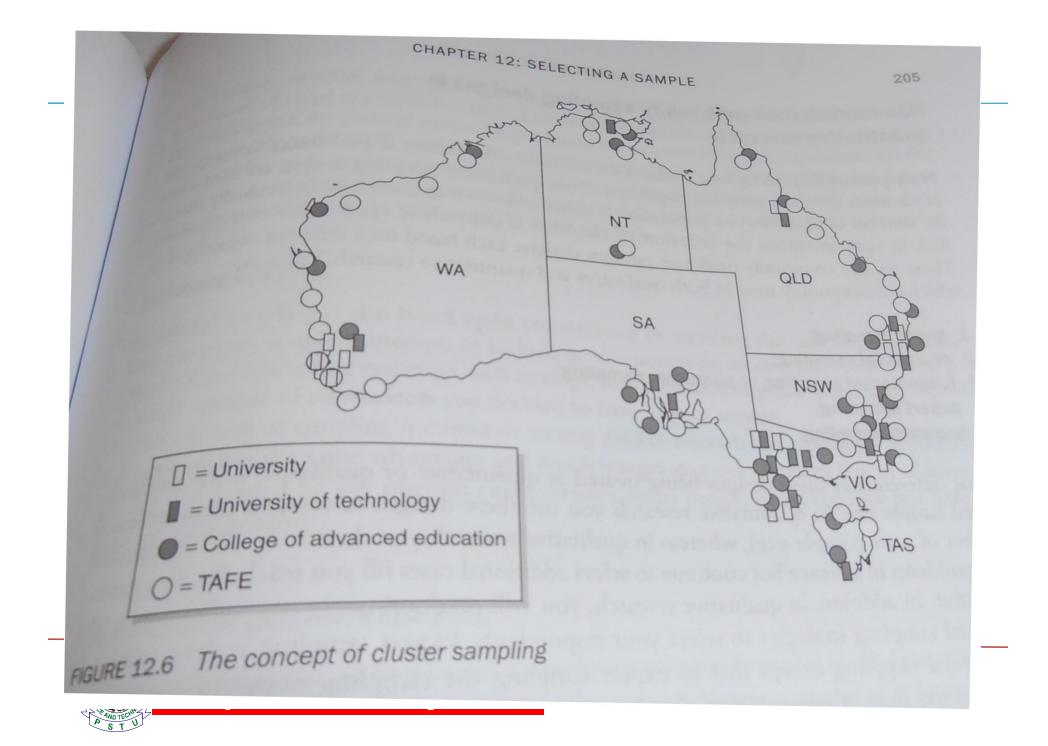


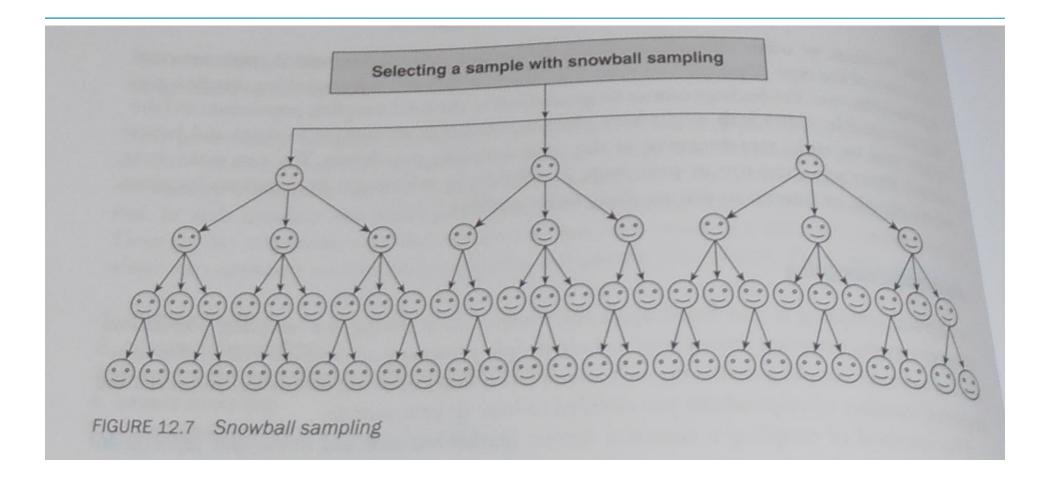
Random sampling designs (2)



- Stratified random sampling
 - Study population is grouped in strata on the basis of key variables (e.g., gender × age × rural/urban)
 - Random sample of research units taken from <u>each</u> group, either proportionally or disproportionally
- Cluster sampling (one stage)
 - Study population is grouped in natural clusters (e.g., pupils in schools, trees in forests, fish in ponds)
 - Selection of clusters (non-random or random)
 - Selection of research units (non-random, random or census)









Example (correlational cross sectional study)

Bees in areas under power lines



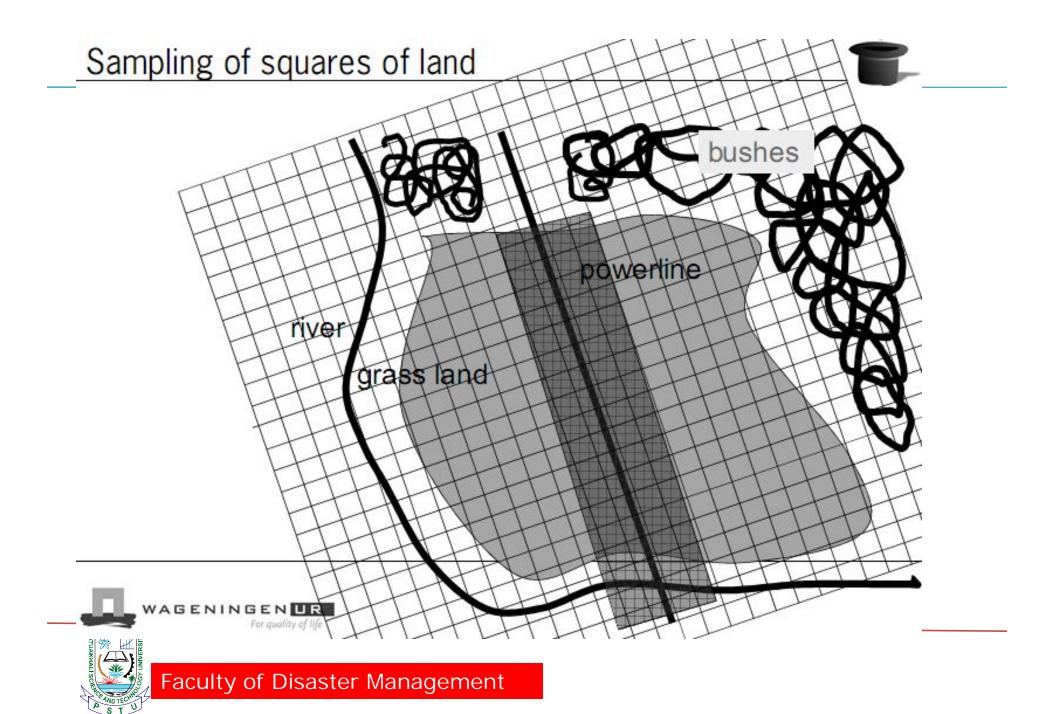


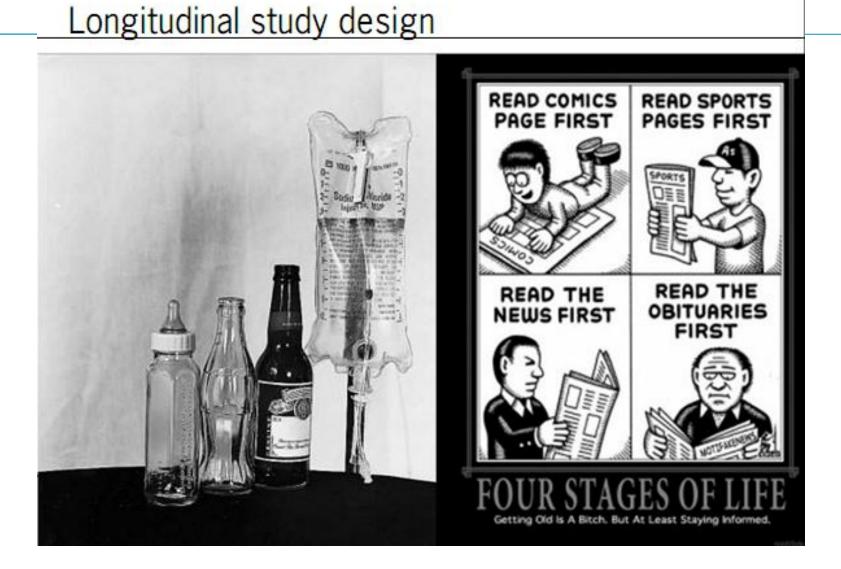
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Example of stratified random sampling of areas

- 1. Two types of areas distinguished
 - Scrub areas = area under power line
 - Mowed areas = grassland in the vicinity of power line
- 2. Both areas divided in units of land (e.g., 2 m²) by means of a grid
 - Area under power line: 18 units in grid
 - Area in grassland: about 2500 units in grid
- 3. Random sample of research units from each stratum
 - 10 units from each type of area











Three basic types

- Trend study
- Panel study
- Cohort study



Longitudinal research (trend)



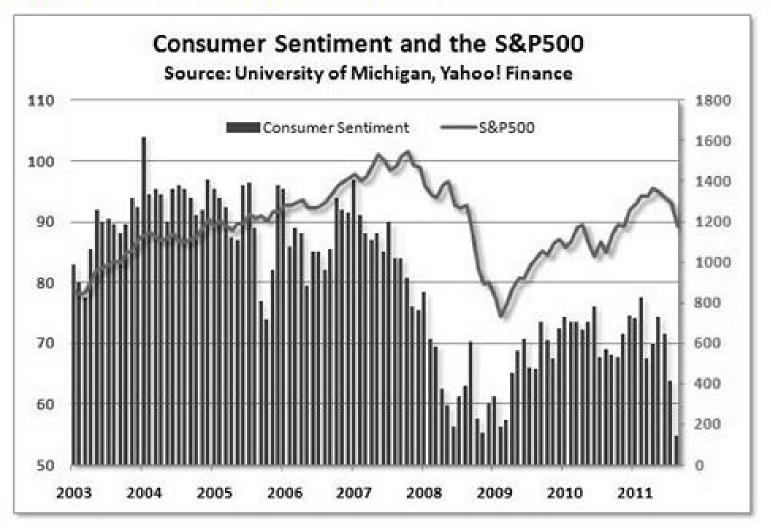
Trend study

- Different samples are drawn from the same population at two or more points in time: repeated cross sectional design
- Appropriate if you want to map changes at the level of a population over a period, and/or forecast trends
- Ideally, the same measurement instrument is used. In practice, in long trend studies (e.g., CPI, GDP) often alterations are made



Longitudinal research (trend)







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Problem in trend studies:

- You can find the trend, but not individual developments
- All of the limitations of the cross sectional design still apply (e.g., regarding spurious relationships and establishing time order)





Panel study

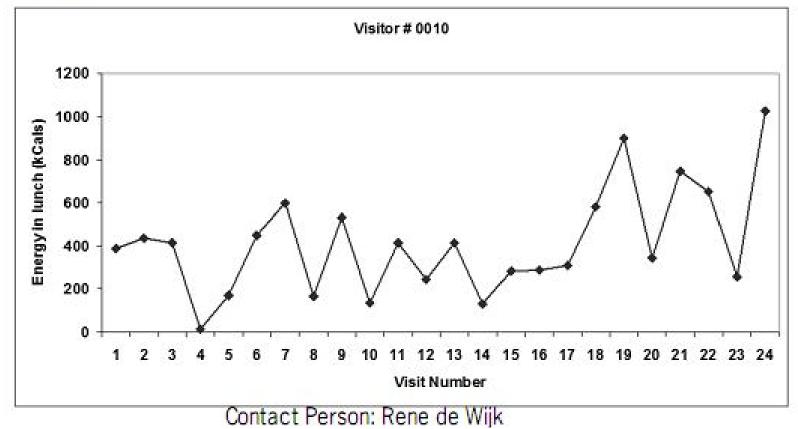
- One sample from the population is measured repeatedly over time (ideally)
- In practice, because of drop-out of research units, the remainder of the initial sample is replenished by new research units (so-called refreshment samples)



Longitudinal research (panel)



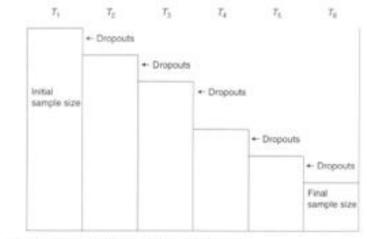
Example of variation in lunch energy over repeated visits to the Restaurant of the Future





Longitudinal research (panel)

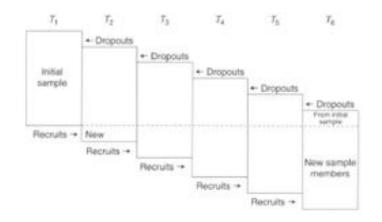




Major problem in panels:

 Selective drop-out (attrition, mortality)







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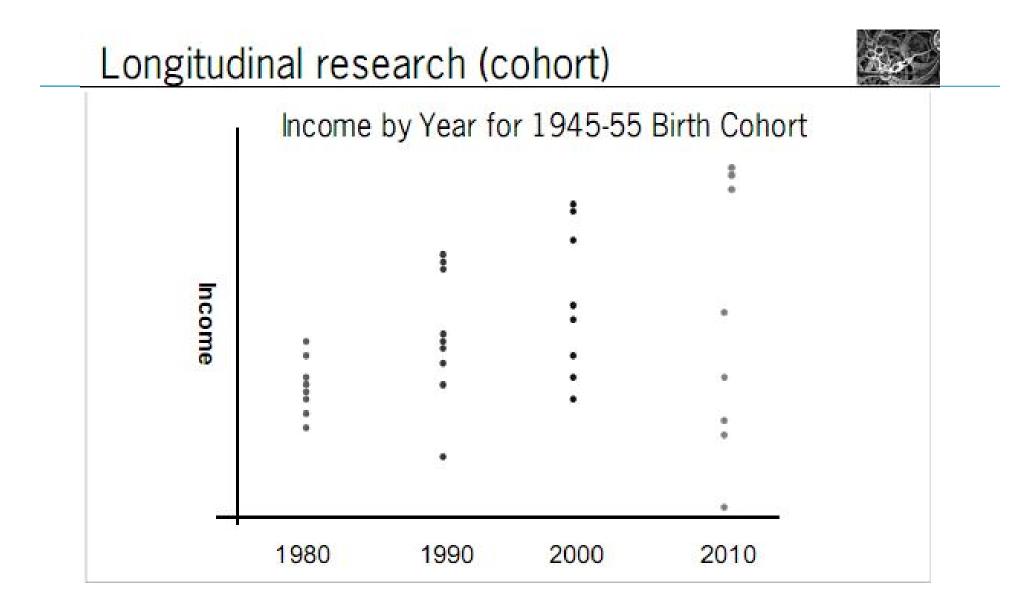


Income by Year for 1955 Birth Cohort

Cohort study

- A trend or panel study of a population that shares a characteristic occurring in a particular time period (e.g., people born during a single year, small businesses formed during the economic crisis of 2009-10, class of 2010 BSc students in Environmental Sciences, zebras born in European zoos in the 1980s, etc.)
- Either the same or a different sample from this specific population is measured at intervals







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Thank YOU





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Questions??