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Metric equivalence in international surveys: cultural edges.

Nicol, Cynthia (ed.) et al., Proceedings of the 38th conference of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education “Mathematics education at the edge”, PME 38 held jointly with the 36th conference of PME-NA, Vancouver, Canada, July 15–20, 2014, Vol. 2. [s. 1.]: International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (ISBN 978-0-86491-360-9/set; 978-0-86491-362-3/v.2). 41-48 (2014).

Summary: This is a critical methodological paper concerning the translation and cultural adaptation processes of an international mathematics education survey questionnaire. Metric equivalence concerns not only language, but also content and activities chosen as indicators in the survey. We here focus the challenges when making cultural, historical and societal considerations when adapting a survey to a new language and cultural context. We conclude that the recommended back translation is not enough to ensure metric equivalence when adapting surveys to a new country. Therefore, we suggest an elaborated method for cultural adaptation. Regarding our survey, this resulted in a survey translation that is better culturally adapted for respondents.

Classification: D20 C60

Keywords: international surveys; cultural adaptation; survey translation