



spsTREND 2026 SURVEY SCHOOL · 1st EDITION

Multilevel Models for Comparative Survey Data

Department of Social and Political Sciences · University of Milan

24-26
NOV
2026



INSTRUCTOR

Malcolm Fairbrother

Uppsala University & Institute for Futures Studies

TARGET

PhD and Master Students,
Post-Docs and Early Career
Researchers

Employing (or planning to
employ) multilevel models

FORMAT

3-day intensive

Lectures, R labs and paper
presentations with in-depth
feedback from discussants

DEADLINE & FEE

Apply by 30-06-2026

Deadline to submit full paper:
10/11/2026

FREE OF CHARGE

ABOUT spsTREND

spsTREND is a research lab at the University of Milan dedicated to the study of social and political change. It brings together expertise in survey methodology and public opinion research, contributing to major international surveys and exploring values, inequalities, and political behaviour in contemporary societies.

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [THIS LINK](#)

WEB

www.spstrend.it

EMAIL

spstrend@unimi.it

[APPLY HERE](#)



ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The spsTREND Survey School is an annual intensive training in quantitative social research, focused on survey data and the comparative study of attitudes and values. It connects analytical methods with research practice and builds a community of early-career scholars.

2026 COURSE OVERVIEW

International surveys are a valuable resource for social scientists. This course trains students to use multilevel models to analyse variation across countries, over time, and between individuals, especially in relation to social and political attitudes and behaviours.

The course examines the structure of international survey data and how fixed- and random-effects models can be used to explain variation within and between clustered groups. It then focuses on longitudinal data, using models that separate within- and between-group effects and exploit the capabilities of societal growth curves. Lab sessions use R to replicate a published study based on Eurobarometer data.

Participants will have the opportunity to present their work and get in-depth feedback from discussants selected within the spsTREND Lab.

KEYNOTE INSTRUCTOR

Malcolm Fairbrother is a professor of sociology at Uppsala University and the Institute for Futures Studies, Sweden. His research focuses on climate and environmental policy and politics, social and political trust, globalisation, and social science research methods. His work has appeared in journals such as the European Sociological Review, Journal of Public Policy, and Political Science Research and Methods.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

- DAY 1 PM** Intro to spsTREND survey resources. Keynote lecture with R lab activities.
- DAY 2 AM** Participants' paper presentations and structured discussion.
- DAY 2 PM** Keynote lecture and R laboratory session.
- DAY 3 AM** Paper presentations with in-depth feedback from discussants.

HOW TO APPLY

- **Submit a short summary of a research project** using, or planning to use, multilevel models, with a clear theoretical framework, methodology, and main objective.
- **Selection criteria:** (1) Methodological background; (2) Quality and feasibility of the project; (3) Thematic fit with the survey school
- **Available places:** min 8, max 15.

[APPLY HERE](#)

APPLICATION TIMELINE

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 30/06/2026

- **Notification of acceptance:** by the end of July 2026
- **Deadline to submit full paper:** 10/11/2026

PARTICIPATION IS FREE OF CHARGE

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Giulia Dotti Sani · Simona Guglielmi · Francesco Molteni · Andrea Pedrazzani · Simone Sarti
Zeynep Montesoglu · Marta Moroni · Chiara Moruzzi · Alice Sanarico

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LOCATION

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