

Workshop on replication research

Second Language Studies
Michigan State University

Thursday, March 22, 2018 from 3-6pm
A222 Wells Hall

Everyone is invited.

If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing twice: Doing replication research



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Abstract

The construction of scientific knowledge is traditionally a slow, piecemeal, collective process as more and more researchers compare their own observations of the natural world with those of others. Progress is then achieved by continually refining one's interpretations and conclusions in the light of others' ideas and observations. Such a recursive approach to experimental research also demands we continually look around and behind us to re-visit previous assumptions and outcomes. Against this background, replicating a study becomes a desirable, as well as routine, process which encourages us to repeat it in such a way that we can be reasonably certain that the results of the two experiments can then be compared. By participating in a group of researchers who are all approaching the same problem from different angles and revisiting each other's work, SLA research then becomes a more piecemeal, but ideally self-correcting and rewarding, enterprise. We are now witnessing a vociferous backlash against the lack of replication in the social sciences, highlighting the potentially harmful consequences for a number of fields, including our own. The need for critical address of previous empirical findings and the theory evolving from them, together with their ensuing application in teaching approaches and materials has now risen to a level of urgency. Replication research in SLA – or talking about it at least – has suddenly become fashionable. Now it's time to do some! This talk and workshop focuses on the importance of replicating research in SLA research and introduces practical suggestions for selecting, executing and publishing a first replication study.

Biography

Graeme Porte, editor of the Cambridge University Press publication *Language Teaching*, is Senior Lecturer in L2 English and applied linguistics research design at the University of Granada. His current interests include replication research in applied linguistics. Graeme Porte created, and manages, the "Journal Editors" forum, which currently includes the participation of editors from more than 20 international applied linguistics journals. He is a member of the Executive Editorial Board of Annual Review of Applied Linguistics (CUP). He is a senior examiner for the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme in English. His combined text and workbook, now in its 2nd Edition, on how to go about critically analyzing applied linguistics research (*Appraising Research in Second Language Learning*) is a set book or recommended reading on over 80 applied linguistics courses worldwide. 2012 saw the publication of his major new book in the Cambridge University Press applied linguistics series. *Replication Research in Applied Linguistics* is a ground-breaking volume and still unique in the field of social sciences. He has recently been commissioned to write a textbook for Taylor & Francis/Routledge for postgraduates on how to set up, manage and publish an applied linguistics replication study.