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A Pragmatic Perspective of Measurement

- Provides an original treatment of the fields of pragmatic philosophy, psychometrics, and elements of cognitive psychology and their application to psychological assessments
- Lays out a constructive response to current challenges to the understanding of measurement in the social sciences, providing a theoretical rationale for engaging in assessment practices
- Acts as an valuable resource material for post graduate seminars, and can also be used at the undergraduate level as a reference resource in methodology or history of psychology courses

This book aims to address the challenges of defining measurement in social sciences, presenting a conceptualization of the practice of measurement from the perspective of the pragmatic tradition in philosophy. The book reviews key questions regarding the scope and limits of measurement, emphasizing that if the trust that the public places on measures in the social sciences relies on their connection to the notion of measurement in the physical sciences, then the clarification of the similarities and differences between measurement in the physical and the social realms is of central importance to adequately contextualize their relative advantages and limitations. It goes on to present some of the most influential theories of measurement such as the "classical view" of measurement, operationalism, and the representational theory of measurement, as well as more methodological perspectives arising from the practice of researchers in the social sciences, such as the latent variable perspective, and from the physical sciences and engineering, represented by metrology. This overview illustrates that the concept of measurement, and that of quantitative methods, is currently being used across the board in ways that do not necessarily conform to traditional, classical definitions of measurement, pushing the boundaries of what constitutes our technical understanding of it. Moreover, what constitutes a technical understanding of measurement, and the theoretical commitments that it entails, must vary in different areas.

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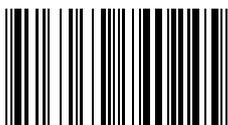
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