Bas Senden

* **Procedures for data collection**

My PhD project uses International Large scale assessment (ILSA) data obtained by the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) in Norway in 2019. In addition to mathematics and science assessments, TIMSS administers school, teacher, student and home questionnaires to gathers extensive information about contextual factors that are associated with learning and student achievement.

Internationally agreed-upon procedures were developed to ensure high quality, internationally comparable data. The responsibility to follow these procedures lay with the National Research Coordinator of each participating country – in my case the Norwegian Research Coordinator. The TIMSS & PIRLSS international study center provided the national coordinator with a step-by-step documentation – the *TIMSS 2019 Survey Operations Procedures -* of the procedures. A detailed explanation and elaboration of the data collection procedures of the TIMSS 2019 data is accessible in chapter four to eight in the TIMSS technical report (Martin, von Davier & Mullis, 2020).

For me personally, that meant that I was not responsible for my own data collection. The Norwegian TIMSS 2019 data was accessible through the website of the TIMSS & PIRLSS International Study Center: <https://timss2019.org/international-database/>.

* **Potential ethical dilemmas**

TIMSS uses Hierarchical Identification System Codes to link the data among schools, classes, students and teacher. In this process, an identification number was assigned to each school, class, student, and teacher. It is essential that third parties are unable to find out which identification numbers links to which school, class, student, or teacher.

For my project, the potential ethical dilemmas are more focused around methodologies used to analyze the data and the subsequent conclusions. In other words: “what can I possibly infer with my analysis of cross-sectional data from the TIMSS study?”.

Martin, M. O., von Davier, M., & Mullis, I. V. S. (Eds.). (2020). Methods and Procedures: TIMSS 2019 Technical Report. Retrieved from Boston College, TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center website: <https://timssandpirls.bc.edu/timss2019/methods>