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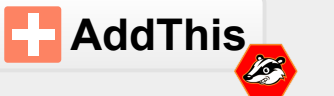
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# Noncomparable Poverty Comparisons

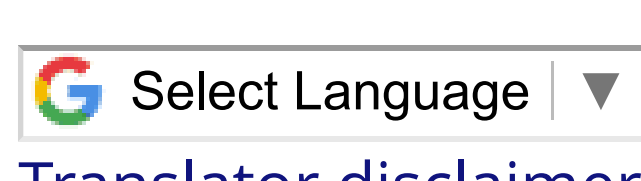
Dean Jolliffe & Umar Serajuddin 

Pages 523-536 | Received 14 Sep 2015, Accepted 07 Dec 2016, Published online: 23 Jan 2017

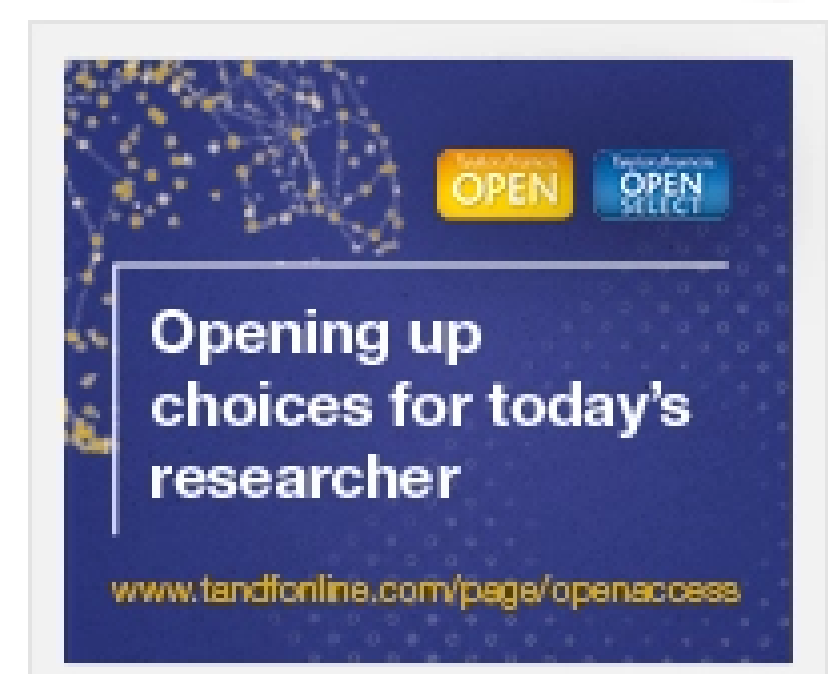
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## Abstract

Poverty estimates based on enumeration from a single point in time form the basis for most country-level analysis of poverty. Cross-country comparisons of poverty, and global counts of the poor, implicitly assume that country-level poverty headcounts are comparable. This paper illustrates that the assumption of comparability is potentially invalid when households are interviewed multiple times throughout the year, as opposed to a single-visit interview. An example from Jordan illustrates how the internationally comparable approach of handling data from repeat visits yields a poverty rate that is 26 per cent greater than the rate that is currently reported as the official estimate.

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