“Concepts, Measures, and Measuring Well”

This master class will explore the role of measurement in research. It will present the prevailing guidance given to researchers on measurement validation and offer a critique of it. In brief, Professor Saylor will stress that the conventional wisdom on measurement undervalues the importance of conceptual meaning in the measurement process. Alternatively, he will emphasize that it is crucial to measure multifaceted concepts with a variety of indicators and to ensure that the data gleaned from those indicators are properly contextualized. Above all, Professor Saylor will encourage participants to regard goodness in measurement as something conferred through dialogue among subject matter experts, rather than by Archimedean standards. This master class will provide participants the opportunity to grapple with issues of measurement that they are encountering in their own research projects.