

The Sociological Methodologist

Newsletter of the Methodology Section, American Sociological Association
Winter/Spring 2010

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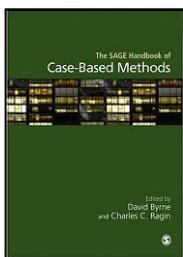
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Publications

Books

The SAGE Handbook of Case-Based Methods,
edited by David Byrne and Charles C. Ragin (Sage
Publications, 2009)



Case-based methods have a long history in the social sciences. They are extensively used and raise many practical and theoretical questions. This book provides a comprehensive, critical examination of case-oriented research. It offers concrete proposals about the best research methods and provides an unparalleled guide to the emergence and complexity of the field.

Seven Rules for Social Research, by Glenn Firebaugh (Princeton University Press, 2008)



Based on three decades of experience as a researcher, as well as his experience as Editor of the *American Sociological Review*, Glenn Firebaugh has written a one-of-a-kind methods book that is being increasingly adopted as a text in undergraduate and graduate methods courses throughout America and Europe. In it, Firebaugh provides a lively and highly readable discussion of practical issues faced by quantitative and qualitative researchers alike – issues that are not discussed in standard methods textbooks. He codifies and summarizes, in a straightforward way, the implicit knowledge that researchers use and hope to communicate to students. It is not a “mere methods text,” but a roadmap to doing better research.

“Anyone who wants to learn how to do social research better read this book. Written for the new student and the seasoned researcher alike (one is never too old, after all), *Seven Rules for Social Research* hits that sweet but till-now-neglected spot between overly simplified methods texts and advanced statistical manuals. Stick with Firebaugh's seven rules and you won't go wrong.”

- Dalton Conley, New York University

“*Seven Rules for Social Research* is an excellent choice as a supplement for an undergraduate methods course as well as a complete text for the basic graduate methods course. Firebaugh's book would also serve as an invaluable supplement for undergraduate senior seminar students and graduate students alike who are looking for a straightforward reference for conducting both course based and independent research projects. This will be a book that students keep on their shelf throughout their academic career. I intend to keep it on mine.”

- Allison L. Vetter, *Teaching Sociology*

“Firebaugh has produced a lively and insightful contribution. He discusses thought-provoking examples and has created some truly excellent and innovative end-of-chapter exercises. Firebaugh maintains a refreshingly reassuring conversational style with the reader and communicates difficult concepts in a straightforward manner. [T]his is a book to be studied, rather than just read.”

- David Shemmings, *Times Higher Education*

“Most graduate programs require second- or third-year students to write some type of research paper. This book is perfect for the task.”

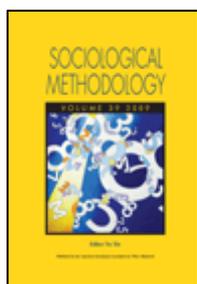
– Christopher Winship, Harvard University

“Simply put, this is an excellent book.... All of our graduate students would benefit from reading it.”

- Robert Andersen, *Canadian Journal of Sociology*

Sociological Methodology, Vol. 39, Issue 1
Yu Xie, Editor (American Sociological Association, 2009)

Contents



DNA COLLECTION IN A RANDOMIZED SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDY OF COLLEGE PEER EFFECTS, by Guang Guo, Jessica Halliday Hardie, Craig Owen, Jonathan K. Daw, Yilan Fu, Hedwig Lee, Amy Lucas, Emily McKendry-Smith,

and Greg Duncan

ESTIMATING NET INTERRACIAL MOBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES: A RESIDUAL METHODS APPROACH, by Anthony Daniel Perez and Charles Hirschman

AN EMPIRICAL TEST OF RESPONDENT-DRIVEN SAMPLING: POINT ESTIMATES, VARIANCE, DEGREE MEASURES, AND OUT-OF-EQUILIBRIUM DATA, by Cyprian Wejnert

PATHS AND SEMIPATHS: RECONCEPTUALIZING STRUCTURAL COHESION IN TERMS OF DIRECTED RELATIONS, by Rick Grannis

EXPLOITING SPATIAL DEPENDENCE TO IMPROVE MEASUREMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL PROCESSES, by Natalya Verbitsky Savitz and Stephen W. Raudenbush

EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE ON PREVALENCE AND CUMULATIVE RELATIVE RISK: DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS IN A RECURSIVE HAZARD MODEL, by Lawrence L. Wu and Steven P. Martin

MULTIVARIATE DECOMPOSITION FOR HAZARD RATE MODELS, by Daniel A. Powers and Myeong-Su Yun

HOW TO IMPUTE INTERACTIONS, SQUARES, AND OTHER TRANSFORMED VARIABLES, by Paul T. von Hippel

VARIANCE FUNCTION REGRESSIONS FOR STUDYING INEQUALITY, by Bruce Western and Deirdre Bloome

USING INSTRUMENTAL VARIABLE TESTS TO EVALUATE MODEL SPECIFICATION IN LATENT VARIABLE STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELS, by James B. Kirby and Kenneth A. Bollen

Articles

Cross, Jennifer Eileen, Ellyn Dickman, Rebecca Newman-Gonchar, and Jesse Michael Fagan. "Using Mixed-Method Design and Network Analysis to Measure Development of Interagency Collaboration." *American Journal of Evaluation* 30: 310-329.

Abstract

In recent years, there has been increasing attention to the importance of interagency collaboration for improving community well-being, environmental and public health, and educational outcomes. This article uses a mixed-methods approach including network analysis to examine the changes in interagency collaboration in one site funded by the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative (SS/HS). Results of the evaluation demonstrated that although intraproject collaboration peaked in the middle of the grant and began to decline during the last year, interagency collaborations continued to grow during the last year of the grant. These results illustrate how network data can easily be collected and used to assess the development of interagency relationships.

Jobs

The National Science Foundation currently has an opening for a director of its sociology program.

Information about this position can be found at <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?OPMControl=1737885&org=NSF>.

Salem State College's sociology department is seeking to fill a full-time tenure track faculty position in the area of research methods and statistics for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Faculty members, as a part of a cooperative and collegial campus community, will advise students, perform college service and pursue research. The successful applicant will also conduct research, advise students and serve on departmental and college-wide committees. This position is advertised subject to available funding.

To see the full list of benefits, review the complete job description and to apply online, please visit <https://jobs.salemstate.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=50944> and attach your CV/résumé and cover letter. Appropriate original transcripts and three letters of reference should be sent to: Human Resources and Equal Opportunity, 352 Lafayette Street, Salem, MA 01970.

Announcements

American Sociological Association
Methodology Section Conference

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
April 2-3, 2010

The ASA's Methodology Section in collaboration with the Department of Sociology of University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; announces its annual winter/spring conference on methodology to be held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign on April 2-3, 2010.

This year's conference is organized by Tim Liao, the University of Illinois. The American Sociological Association section on Methodology aims to encourage the development of methodology and its application in Sociology and the broader social sciences.

See <http://sm.sociology.illinois.edu/conference.htm> for more information.

The Inter-university Consortium for Political and
Social Research (ICPSR)
**2010 Summer Program in Quantitative Methods
of Social Research**

The main component of the ICPSR Summer Program is held on the campus of the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor. Lectures and workshops on a wide variety of topics in research design, quantitative reasoning, statistical methods, and data processing are presented in two four-week sessions. The first session runs from June 21, 2010 until July

16, 2010. The second session runs from July 19, 2010 until August 13, 2010. The contents of the two sessions are largely independent of each other, although some second-session workshops do assume that participants are familiar with material from first-session courses.

The 2010 ICPSR Summer Program will also offer a number of two- to five-day workshops on both statistical and substantive topics throughout the summer. Most of these shorter workshops take place in Ann Arbor, but there are several that will be held in other locations: Amherst, MA; Bloomington, IN; Chapel Hill, NC; and New Haven, CT.

We are currently accepting applications for all of our statistical courses and for several of the substantive workshops. The application form, registration instructions, fee structure, and further information about the ICPSR Summer Program are all available on our web site:

<http://icpsr.umich.edu/sumprog/>

From the Editor

Please send me any and all manner of contributions, including short articles, opinion pieces, book and article announcements, retirements, job changes, and other newsworthy events.

As always, keep those cards and letters coming to jeffrey.timberlake@uc.edu. Thanks much,

- Jeff

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