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Secondary Data Analysis

Thomas P. Vartanian

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Over the last few decades, social work and other social science research disciplines have become increasingly reliant on large secondary data sets, as such data sets have increased in both number and availability. When starting a new research project, how does one determine whether to use a secondary data set and, if so, which of the thousands of secondary data sets to use? This book provides an in-depth introduction to twenty-nine of the most widely used data sets in social work and the social sciences. Both cross-sectional and longitudinal data sets are examined in the book, as are the years covered by these data sets, the units of analysis, and the sample sizes. The book shows where to find the data, key variables contained in the data, and how to use the data in SAS and Stata. Screen shots are used to illustrate the data sets in a step-by-step process—to show how to download the data, how to merge the data with other data sets, and, in some instances, how to program the data. Each section also profiles studies that have used the respective data sets, providing a feel for the depth and range of questions that a given data source can be used to answer. The book looks at areas of social work and other social science in areas such as child abuse and neglect; children's mental, emotional, and physical health; children's bonds with parents; and children's education and economic well-being. Other research areas covered in this text include public assistance, aging and the elderly, health and mental health, child care, neighborhood perceptions and characteristics, food insecurity, housing, income and poverty, birth weight, sexual activity, sexually transmitted diseases, physical activity, prescription and illegal drug use, dating and domestic violence, home environment, and emotional and general well-being.

What is a Secondary Data Set?

Thomas P. Vartanian

in Secondary Data Analysis

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This chapter explains the differences between primary and secondary data sets. It explains how secondary data sets are typically collected, the ability of large institutions to collect both sizable and representative data sets and their ability to use sophisticated sampling designs in their data collection, how these large data sets can utilize statistical techniques that may not be available to smaller data sets, and differences between cross-sectional and longitudinal data sets.

Methodological Issues

K. Warner Schaie

in Developmental Influences on Adult Intelligence: The Seattle longitudinal study

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This chapter summarizes several methodological issues, including certain research design and analysis paradigms, related to the Seattle Longitudinal Study. The discussion begins with a brief exposition of the relationship between cross-sectional and longitudinal data within the context of the general developmental model, followed by a presentation of the rationale for a variety of simple and sequential schemes for data acquisition and analysis. The problems of internal validity of developmental studies and designs for the measurement and control that plague developmental studies are explored. The chapter ends by exploring the relationship between observed measures and latent (unobserved) variables, and how confirmatory (restricted) factor analysis can be applied to assess construct equivalence across cohorts, age, and time in the study of developmental problems.

Measurement, Data, and Statistical Analysis

Franz Traxler, Sabine Blaschke, and Bernhard Kittel

in National Labour Relations in Internationalized Markets: A Comparative Study of Institutions, Change and Performance

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Item type: chapter

This chapter presents and explains the five basic problems of using a quantitative research design and methodology in studying the development and performance of the twenty countries over thirty decades: the use of a single, interval-scaled variable in measuring institutional concepts; how indicators do not reflect validity; the time series properties of the cross-sectional data used in the study; the use of significance tests in analysing the 'populations' of the countries involved; and the limited number of variables that can be included. The study takes on a theoretical approach to analyse the impact of internationalization of labour relations and the effects of institutional factors. The study's main focus lies on developing new measures for labour relations that fair comparably better while addressing the issues in question.

The Typical Leadership Study

Julian Barling

in The Science of Leadership: Lessons from Research for Organizational Leaders

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Item type: chapter

This chapter examines research in mainstream journals since 2000 to show what and who is most likely to be studied by researchers, and what methods are used in this research. Transformational leadership remains the most extensively researched leadership theory. Most research includes both males and females, targets middlerather than top management, and is conducted within the USA in private sector organizations, with virtually no research in the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). Leadership researchers use a wide range of social science methodologies, most typically surveys and cross-sectional data. Researchers also use field research, laboratory experiments, archival data, qualitative research, and meta-analyses.

The chapter closes with a discussion of measurement issues in studying leadership, and an invitation to the reader to access an online site and complete several leadership questionnaires

On the Persistence of Low Birth Rates in Japan

Reiko Aoki and Yoko Konishi

in *Fertility and Public Policy: How to Reverse the Trend of Declining Birth Rates*

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Item type: chapter

This chapter provides a new theoretical approach to the economics of the family taking into account the correlation between total fertility rate and female labor participation. It demonstrates how wages and quality of consumption affect the number of children born. In effect, an alternative explanation is provided which shows that there is a positive correlation between total fertility rate and female labor-participation rate, using Japanese cross-sectional data between 1970 to 2005. It is shown that low fertility is associated with consumption of higher-quality products, which carries with it two affects, namely—creating an attraction toward child-bearing; but at the same time reducing the birthrate by making working more attractive—resulting in a negative correlation between birthrate and consumption.