

## Series Editor's Note

I am particularly proud and happy to introduce you to Noel Card and his wonderful resource *Applied Meta-Analysis for Social Science Research*. The reason that I am so enthusiastic is that I have a close professional and personal relationship with Noel spanning some 10-plus years now. Noel overlapped with me for a number of years at the University of Kansas before he moved to his current position at the University of Arizona. During this time, I have seen Noel develop into one of the very finest pedagogically gifted quantitative scholars of our day. His honors include an early career award from the Society for Research in Child Development. He is also a member of the Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology (SMEP), a limited-membership society devoted to the advancement of multivariate methods as applied in the social and behavioral sciences. Noel's election to SMEP at such a young age speaks volumes about his ability and accomplishments.

When I became the Series Editor of the Methodology in the Social Sciences series, one of the first books I sought was a comprehensive book on meta-analysis written in the accessible style of this series. I approached Noel about writing this book knowing that he was the absolute best person to write it. To begin, Noel has had a long-standing passion for meta-analysis, and he has honed his pedagogy for quantitative synthesis techniques by regularly teaching the University of Kansas Summer Institutes in Statistics ("Stats Camps"; [www.Quant.ku.edu](http://www.Quant.ku.edu)) course on meta-analysis. Couple his dogged determination to understand all that is meta-analysis with his gifted ability to communicate quantitative methods to a diverse audience and you have a recipe for a perfect book: a desk reference for those who are familiar with meta-analysis and an all-in-one learning tool to use in classes at both

the undergraduate or graduate level. Noel's coverage is both broad and deep and not tainted by preferences or restricted by a particular software focus. As a resource work, Noel's book covers many topics that others avoid, but Noel integrates these topics so seamlessly that you'll wonder which topics are lacking in the other books (e.g., calculating appropriate and unique effect sizes, thoroughly handling artifact corrections, evaluating publication bias with bias alternative analytic representations, evaluating advanced statistical models of the assembled data, and so on). In each chapter, Noel provides thoughtful and helpful advice on the key issues as well as offers alternative tactics. He carefully presents the pros and cons of each alternative and issue. As you read, you will immediately hear him reaching out to you and guiding your understanding of the material. His "voice" as he writes is assuring and clear, light-hearted yet authoritative. He deftly introduces a topic or idea at the ground level and moves you step by step up the rungs of understanding to the very top of where the field currently resides.

Throughout Noel's book you will find a number of appealing pedagogical features. For those who are not comfortable with equations, for example, Noel is very careful to explain the concepts in clear, simple language and in equation form. He also annotates the equations so that beginners can learn how to "read" a statistical equation. Equations are useful only when you the reader can follow them. Noel makes sure you can follow them—primarily as a supplement to the accompanying narrative. To illustrate all of the key points throughout the book, Noel uses ample real data examples that he's discovered in his own meta-analytic work. Noel also has very thoughtfully selected and annotated some recommended readings that you will find at the end of each chapter.

You can see from the table of contents that the coverage is complete. You will discover when you read each topic that Noel does not assume that you have prior knowledge nor does he offend the seasoned expert. His motivation is genuine: He provides a comprehensive yet accessible work that will advance scientific practice of quantitative synthesis in the social, behavioral, and educational sciences. His many examples provide solid grounding for and concrete clarifications of the concepts. Noel's book is about as close to a "page turner" as you can get.

TODD D. LITTLE  
*At 30,000 feet between  
Houston and Kansas City;  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas*