

Series Editor's Note

Rex Kline has assembled a fourth edition that retains all the wonderful features of his bestselling earlier editions, *and* he seamlessly integrates recent advances in structural equation modeling (SEM). Rex is a scholar of SEM and has a special gift—of being able to communicate complex statistical concepts in language that all readers can grasp. The accessible style of writing and the many pedagogical features of the book (e.g., chapter-end annotated reading lists, exercises with answers) make it a “must have” for any user of SEM. It is a resource that keeps improving and expanding with each new edition and is the resource I recommend first on this subject—whether the question comes from a beginner or an experienced user.

As a scholar of modern statistical practice and techniques, Rex has studied the developments and advances in the world of SEM generally, and he has covered “hot” topics, such as Pearl’s structural causal modeling. His coverage of Pearl’s graph theory approach to causal reasoning, as many of the reviewers of prepublication drafts of the fourth edition have also noted, is both easy to understand and comprehensive. It’s so good, he ought to get a prize for best in presentation! In this new edition, he takes us through causal mediation analysis, conditional process modeling, and confirmatory factor analysis with categorical indicators. Other additions to this masterpiece of pedagogy include insightful discussions of significance testing, the use of bootstrap estimation, and the principles of measurement theory.

Although Rex suggests in his Introduction that no single book can cover all of SEM, his book is about as thorough as they come. His didactic approach is refreshing and engaging, and the breadth and depth of material covered is simply impressive. As he notes and you will feel, Rex is a researcher talking to you as a fellow researcher, carefully explaining in conceptually driven terms the logic and principles that underlie the world of SEM. The wealth of examples provide entry points for researchers across a

broad array of disciplines. This book will speak to you regardless of your field or specific area of expertise.

As always, the support materials that Rex provides are thorough: he covers now six different SEM software packages (Amos, EQS, lavaan for R, LISREL, Mplus, and Stata)! The Appendix material is a treasure trove of useful building blocks, from the elements of LISREL notation, to practical advice, to didactic presentation of complex ideas and procedures. Rex has assembled real-world examples of troublesome data to demonstrate how to handle the analysis problems that inevitably pop up. These features have always been a mainstay of earlier editions, but they have now been expanded to cover even more topics. Rex bookends all this material with an introductory chapter that truly sets the stage for the journey through the land of SEM and a concluding chapter that covers very practical best-practice advice for every step along the way.

Enjoy Rex Kline's classic for a fourth time!

TODD D. LITTLE
At 28,000 feet
On my way to Wit's End
Lakeside, Montana

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