Series Editor's Note

Why do so many false dichotomies exist, I wonder? Frequentist versus Bayesian seems to be one. Granted, the two camps have very different historical roots and some purveyors of either camp have strong agendas. David L. Weakliem provides us with an amazing interplay of depth and balanced comparison between these two major traditions. His vast experience is clearly evident as he walks us through meaningful examples without creating a sense of right versus wrong; rather he instills the simple yet important value that the approach to be used is that which serves the analytical goals at hand. By grounding the statistical theory in its philosophical origins, Weakliem teaches us one of the most important things we all should learn about statistics: *how* to think, instead of *what* to think. Weakliem carefully provides arguments that highlight the utility of both frequentist traditions and Bayesian practices, and without advocating for either the status quo or radical revolution, crafts a guide to how traditional practices can be wedded to Bayesian ideas to improve scientific discovery.

Weakliem also underscores another important feature of being a thoughtful researcher, namely, model selection. In the world of confirmatory modeling, there appears to be a lack of appreciation for the importance of testing competing models and determining which to select from a set of possible models. Selecting the appropriate model is a critical issue of social justice, since the model selected is the one that will inform both policy and

practice. Weakliem is a strong advocate of principled and thoughtful application of all our modeling techniques.

Wealkiem is like a master chef who explains the relations among all the elements of cooking without providing you with a single recipe. You are given all the ingredients and the principles of combination that allow you to create your own recipe—one that is the perfect combination for the research meal you desire to create. He shows us how to create such masterful works by walking us through real research questions with real data.

One final feature of this book that I love is the wonderful set of bibliographies that Weakliem has assembled at the end of each chapter. This book is bound to be a mainstay reference guide to model selection, specification, estimation, and evaluation, and the bibliographies are rich fodder to feed the intellectual hunger that he elicits in each chapter. They are a qualifying-exam's worth of influential readings that graduate students should take full advantage of. And, of course, put Weakliem's book on your exam's reading list, because it really will be your roadmap going forward.

As always, "enjoy!" Oh, and "make good choices."

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