

varies so much within the social sciences that even someone as knowledgeable as Clogg only feels comfortable discussing sociological methodology?

I understand Clogg's demurrals fully. I would find it as difficult to write on the statistical contributions of psychometrics and sociological methodology. Clogg's article helped me understand not only the relationship between sociological methodology and statistics but also the relationship between sociological methodology and econometrics.

Econometricians and sociological methodologists have worked closely in some areas. In the early 1970s, they collaborated in the development of the latent variable models discussed by Clogg. See Goldberger and Duncan (1973). During the 1980s, both groups contributed to the development of rich models for the description of event-history data. Lancaster (1990) is a comprehensive and readable econometric treatment of the subject.

In other respects, econometricians and sociological methodologists have gone their separate ways. I was struck by Clogg's close association of categorical data analysis with the log-linear model, because the approach to discrete response analysis that took hold in econometrics during the 1970s was at most marginally influenced by the contemporaneous work on log-linear models. See the discussion in Manski and McFadden (1981).

I was also struck by Clogg's discussion of the

survey-sampling literature on complex sampling, because this work has had essentially no impact on econometrics. Instead, we have developed the literature on estimation under "choice-based" sampling. The article by Hsieh, Manski and McFadden (1985), a survey written explicitly for a statistical audience, synthesizes this work and explains its relation to the biometric literature on "case-control" sampling. It is gratifying to be able to report that this effort at communication across disciplines has had some success. See, for example, Breslow and Cain (1988), who summarize and extend aspects of the econometric literature.

The point is that the various methodological disciplines form a complex social network, with strong relationships in some dimensions and weak ones in others. I find that econometricians and sociological methodologists speak much the same language on some subjects but can barely converse on others. I observe different mixes of the familiar and the strange when I read journals in psychometrics, biometrics and statistics. The various methodological disciplines have important shared foundations and objectives. But each one also has distinctive concerns which will, I suspect, keep them from coalescing any time soon.

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Comment: The Fence Between Statistics and Social Research

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CLOGG IS RIGHT

Clogg (1992) defends the thesis that developments in sociological methodology and in quantitative sociology have always been closely related to development in statistical theory, methodology and computation. His impressive list of examples, from Quetelet's "average man" to event history analysis and finite mixtures, shows that he is right. It also shows that there was

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not just a relation between sociology and statistics: influences from quantitative researchers in psychology, education, economics, biology, demography, political science and management science can be found in many of Clogg's examples, and are indeed recognized by him. The development of covariance structure models, listed in his section "Models for Continuous Latent Variables," is an excellent example of how the concepts and skills of psychometricians, sociometricians, econometricians, statisticians and computer scientists were successfully brought together.

To the many examples cited by Clogg, I should like to add two: the adequate handling of missing observations, and the development of statistical computer packages.