

Conclusions and Future Directions

Return to Workshop Goals

Future Directions

Model for the Workshop

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Workshop Goals

- Understand conceptual motivation for mediating variables.
- Understand the importance of mediation in many research areas.
- Statistical analysis of the single and multiple mediator models.
- General Statistical background for mediation analysis
- Exposure to Models with Moderators and Mediators
- Exposure to Path analysis mediation model
- Exposure to Longitudinal mediation models.
- Exposure to alternative approaches to identifying mediating variables.
- Exposure to Statistical software to conduct mediation analysis.
- Realize mediation is fun.

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Challenge of Mediation Analysis

- Investigation of mediating variables is complex because it involves inference about true underlying causes in a situation where not all variables are randomized. We hope to infer these causes from samples of data.
- There are now a growing set of methods to conduct mediation analyses.
- The promise of mediation analysis is that it can help identify fundamental processes underlying behavior that are relevant across behaviors and contexts. Interventions will also be more efficient and powerful when based on a true underlying process.

Future Directions in Mediation Analysis 1

- Programs of research to solve the limitations of single studies. Must consider other evidence besides mediation analysis including clinical judgment, theory, case studies, and replication and extension studies.
- How to use prior information to improve mediation analysis, e.g., Bayesian methods (Yuan & MacKinnon, 2009)
- Need more clear applications of modern causal inference methods such as the Rubin causal model and Pearl's directed acyclic graphs.
- Best way to test assumptions of mediation analysis such as omitted variables, measurement error, temporal precedence,

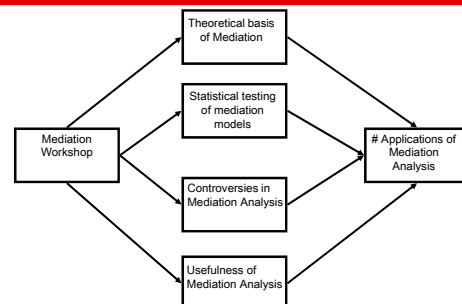
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Future Directions in Mediation Analysis 2

Research on longitudinal mediation models including survival analysis, LCS, LGM, and multilevel models.
Development of more detailed theory for longitudinal relations of how things change over time and how X changes M and M changes Y.
General model that include mediation and moderation effects.
Focus on accurate measurement of mediators.
Best experimental designs to test mediation theory.
Reviews of mediation analysis in substantive research areas to identify consistent mediating variables.
More applications of mediation analysis by you!

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Hypothesized Effects of Mediation Analysis Workshop



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Thank you

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