

**Society for Prevention Research
24th Annual Meeting
San Francisco, CA**

Pre-Conference Workshop II

Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Time: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Better Quasi-Experimental Design and Analysis

Organizer and Presenter:

Thomas D. Cook, PhD, Northwestern University and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc

Description:

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce attendees to those quasi-experimental practices that “very often” produce results that are “close” to those from randomized clinical trials with the same content and population as the quasi-experiments. By close we understand within at least .10 standard deviations of the RCT result that serves as the most valid estimate of the true causal relationship. The specific quasi-experimental designs considered are basic regression-discontinuity, comparative regression-discontinuity, interrupted time-series (including single case designs), comparative interrupted time-series, and various combinations of quasi-experimental design features that include “local” non-equivalent comparison groups, use of a single pretest measure of the study outcome, use of a “rich” set of other covariates, and explications of the selection process that is then used to guide the choice of covariates. The differences due to the use of different data analysis procedures will also be addressed, including ordinary least squares and propensity scores. Surprisingly for some, analytic differences play a much smaller role than design differences.

Target Audience: The target workshop audience should have a Ph.D. or advanced graduate student with quantitative interests.

Materials: Presentation slide handouts

Approach: No hands on, but the material is very practical and embedded in multiple examples to make it concrete.

Presenter:

Dr. Thomas D. Cook is the Joan and Sarepta Harrison Chair of Ethics and Justice, Professor of Sociology, Psychology, and Education and Social Policy at the Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University. Thomas Cook is interested in social science research methodology, program evaluation, school reform, and contextual factors that influence adolescent development, particularly for urban minorities.

Cook has written or edited 10 books and published numerous articles and book chapters. He received the Myrdal Prize for Science from the Evaluation Research Society in 1982, the Donald Campbell Prize for Innovative Methodology from the Policy Sciences Organization in 1988, the Distinguished Scientist Award of Division 5 of the American Psychological Association in 1997, and the Sells Award for Lifetime Achievement, Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology in 2008, and the Rossi Award from the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management in 2012. Cook was chair of the board of the Russell Sage Foundation from 2006 to 2008. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2000 and was inducted as the Margaret Mead Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science in 2003. He was part of the congressionally appointed committee evaluating Title I (No Child Left Behind) from 2006 to 2008.