

RESEARCH & EVALUATION METHODS (REM)

Spring 2020 Workshop Series

What Would it Take to Change Your Inference? Quantifying the Discourse about Causal Inferences in the Social Sciences



Instructor: Dr. Ken Frank (Michigan State University)

Statistical inferences are often challenged because of uncontrolled bias. There may be bias due to uncontrolled confounding variables or non-random selection into a sample. This workshop will interpret how much bias there must be to invalidate an inference in terms of (a) replacing observed cases with counterfactual cases or cases from an unsampled population, and (b) correlations associated with unobserved variables or in unsampled populations. This leads to statement such as “___% of your estimated effect would have to be due to bias to invalidate your inference,” or “An omitted variable would have to be correlated at ___ with the outcome and with the treatment to invalidate an inference of an effect of the treatment on the outcome.” Calculations will be presented using the app <http://konfound-it.com> with links to STATA and R modules. The workshop will be a mixture of presentation, individual exploration, and group work. Participants should be comfortable with the general linear model (e.g., multiple regression) and statistical inference.



Date/Time: February 20, 2020 (Thursday) / 6:00 – 8:45pm

Venue: UTSA Downtown Campus, Frio St. Building, Room 3.412

RSVP requested – Please email your name, title, and department to guan.saw@utsa.edu



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