

## **The Cambridge Handbook of Research Methods and Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences**

### Volume 1

The first of three volumes, this book, covers a variety of issues important in developing, designing, and analyzing data to produce high-quality research efforts and cultivate a productive research career. First, leading scholars from around the world provide a step-by-step guide to doing research in the social and behavioral sciences. After discussing some of the basics, the various authors next focus on the important building blocks of any study. In Part III, various types of quantitative and qualitative research designs are discussed, and advice is provided regarding best practices of each. The volume then provides an introduction to a variety of important and cutting-edge statistical analyses. In the last part of the volume, nine chapters provide information related to what it takes to have a long and successful research career. Throughout the book, examples and real-world research efforts from dozens of different disciplines are discussed.

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# The Cambridge Handbook of Research Methods and Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences

Volume 1: Building a Program of Research

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Most importantly, I dedicate this book to my wife, family, and friends who put up with me reading and editing chapters at some very weird times and days. I would also like to thank the numerous coffee shops, mostly in Vienna and Orlando, for providing the energy and focus to edit the many wonderful chapters contained in this book.

*Austin Lee Nichols*

I dedicate this book to my awesome wife and children. Without you, all that I have and do would not be possible. You three are my everything.

*John E. Edlund*



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## Preface

The *Cambridge Handbook of Research Methods and Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences* is meant to be the most comprehensive and contemporary collection of topics related to research methods and statistics spanning these related yet extremely diverse fields of research. This first volume, *Building a Program of Research*, provides researchers at all levels a starting point along with the tools to build a successful research career in one of these fields. Although each chapter provides a substantial contribution to this end, together the individual chapters combine to provide the knowledge needed to be a successful researcher in the social and behavioral sciences.

Throughout these chapters, the leading researchers in a variety of disciplines seek to share their knowledge and experience in a way that is both accessible and useful. They do so by writing in a way that is understandable to novice researchers and also deeply discusses the challenges related to each topic and provides new information to highly experienced scientists. This volume begins with issues related to building theory and generating promising ideas, includes detailed topics related to each of the steps involved in the research process, and provides ethical considerations that should be at the forefront of any research project.

Volume 1 next focuses on detailed building blocks of any research endeavor, including issues related to recruitment of participants, providing informed consent, awareness of and amelioration of experimenter effects, and how best to debrief and probe participants at the conclusion of the study. The chapters that follow get into the nitty gritty of data collection by focusing on, giving examples of, and providing advice for a variety of study designs and methodological approaches. Subsequently, the experts address several considerations for analyzing a variety of quantitative and qualitative data, ranging from cleaning the data to running descriptive statistics to introducing higher-level modeling techniques.

The volume finishes by providing real-world advice, from extremely successful researchers, that will help even the most experienced scientists to further their career. Topics include designing a line of research, publishing and presenting one's research, successfully collaborating, handling and reviewing your own and others' research submissions, grant writing, teaching methods and statistics, and even options and applications for researchers outside of a traditional academic context. In all, the authors in this volume span over a dozen disciplines, many more countries, and have amassed successful research careers leading to numerous publications and acknowledgments. It is for this reason that we are confident in their ability to teach you and to help you progress in your career as a scientist.

