

Abstract

Conditional processes mediation and moderation represent topics of central interest in contemporary psychological research. Their use is central but not restricted, for example, in research designs designed to study processes that link personal or environmental characteristics to behavior. In general terms, a conditional process occurs whenever an intervening variable changes the relationship between two variables, so it is important to distinguish these into different classes, including those of disturbance, mediating and moderating variables. The course starts with a survey of the foundational elements of the general linear model usually used for estimating conditional processes, and then quickly moves to the central aspects of conditional processes focusing on linear mediation and moderation. The teaching approach is hand-on and centered on process implementation and estimation. Participants should therefore have with them their personal laptop with installed a statistical program for linear model analysis (preferably Spss at least 20) and one for structural equation models (preferably Mplus, at least 7.30). Students will be provided with datasets for the different exercises. The use of one's own data is encouraged, and appropriate spaces are provided for the possible implementation of conditional designs that one is working on independently.

Reference bibliography

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- Rucker, D. D., Preacher, K. J., Tormala, Z. L., & Petty, R. E. (2011). Mediation analysis in social psychology: Current practices and new recommendations. *Social & Personality Psychology Compass*, 5/6, 359-371.
- Preacher, K. J., Rucker, D. D., & Hayes, A. F. (2007). Addressing moderated mediation hypotheses: Theory, methods, and prescriptions. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 42, 185-227