

One-day SPSS Workshop Led By Andy Field: The Beast of Bias and How to Tame It

Contributed by ASSESS
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ASSESS is an independent user group for SPSS, a computer package for analysing and presenting data. It is run by users, for users and is completely independent of manufacturers of the software.

Since 1996 ASSESS have given a wide series of one and half-day workshops at venues around the country on many areas including SPSS syntax, SPSS macros, Survival analysis in SPSS and Analysis of categorical data in SPSS.

A one day workshop is provisionally planned to be held in the Phoenix Room, Phoenix Building, University Computing Services, University of Cambridge on Wednesday 13th April 2016 led by Andy Field (University of Sussex).

This all-day workshop explores sources of bias in data and how to correct for them. The day will begin by looking at the commonalities between lots of well-known procedures and how by focusing on the underlying similarity between seemingly different tests we can think about bias in a consistent way. We will then move on to look at different sources of bias included well-known assumptions such as homogeneity of variance/homoscedasticity and normality and outliers. In the final part, we will look at four remedies for bias (trimming, winsorizing, the bootstrap, and transforming data) and compare their pros and cons. Throughout the day, (fairly basic) interactive SPSS tasks will be used to explore the points being made.

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Professor Andy Field of the University of Sussex has published extensively on emotional development in children but in the unlikely event that youâ€™ve ever heard of him itâ€™ll be as the â€˜Stats book guyâ€™. Thatâ€™s because he wrote the b textbook â€˜Discovering Statistics using IBM SPSS Statistics: and sex and drugs and rock nâ€™ rollâ€™, which won the British Psychological Society book award in 2007. Heâ€™s also written a version of that book for R and SAS. His unorthodox teaching of statistics has gained him University of Sussex (2001) and British Psychological Society (2006) teaching awards and a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship (2010). In his spare time he plays the drums very noisily in a heavy metal band, which he finds therapeutic.

The day will run from approximately 9-45am to 4-45pm. The booking fee includes mid-morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea but not overnight accommodation.