

Series Editor's Note

Measurement, measurement, measurement: It is such a critical part of quality research, yet it is too often neglected or assumed to be relatively unimportant compared to the design or analysis phases. The phrase “garbage in, garbage out” encapsulates what happens when measurement is neglected. The theory and craft of measurement is, in my view, more important than the analysis phase and perhaps even the design phase. High-quality measurement yields high-quality data, which makes the analysis phase almost pro forma. Creating reliable and valid indicators of constructs is underemphasized in many graduate training programs. The vestiges of neglecting the measurement phase degrade whole programs of research in a compounding manner. Thank goodness we now have Deborah Bandalos's book, *Measurement Theory and Applications for the Social Sciences*.

Bandalos is the quintessential person to author this comprehensive book on measurement theory. She brings a wealth of experience and acumen to the topics covered and she's reached out to a couple of top-notch colleagues (Christine DeMars and Laine Bradshaw) to bring their particular expertise to two chapters (on item response theory and diagnostic classification models, respectively). All chapters emphasize a conceptual understanding from ground-floor principles to the pinnacle of current knowledge and understanding on any given topic. Bandalos also adds extensive exercises at the end of each chapter that, when combined with the articulate and clear presentation of each topic, promote deep learning and critical thinking. Because the book is flexibly organized, instructors can easily assemble a curriculum and syllabus that fit the needs of any course, whether for undergraduates or graduates or at the introductory, intermediate, or advanced level.

Bandalos is a natural communicator. With a balance of humor and lilted exposition, she presents clear explanations accompanied by useful real-world examples from

a variety of social and behavioral science disciplines. She's methodical and thorough in taking us through each topic, decision by decision, and each equation, step by step. This level of clarity and depth yields a comprehensive textbook for students as well as a reference volume for experienced researchers. The breadth of topics spans all the essential topics in the field of measurement, including scale development, item writing and analysis, and reliability and validity. She also covers more advanced topics such as exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, item response theory, diagnostic classification models, standard setting, generalizability theory, and equating, as well as test bias, fairness, and legal issues.

As a fellow disciple of the need for valid and reliable measurement practices, I laud Debbi Bandalos for adding this valuable jewel to the collection of works in my *Methodology in the Social Sciences* series. I see this book as one of her crowning achievements in a remarkable and illustrious career.

With gratitude and, as always, enjoy!

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