

Founding Editor's Note

One of the most exciting developments in social and behavioral methodology is the development of diary methods, or as they have come to be known, “intensive longitudinal methods.” I remember in the late 1980s hearing Harry Reis discuss a whole host of interesting findings using the Rochester Inventory Record, which was an early instrument used in diary studies. As was the case for many methodological advances, substantive researchers like Reis were asking questions from the data for which methodologists had not developed the proper statistical tools—or if there were the proper tools, they were buried in the statistical literature. Additionally, practitioners did not have access to computer software to obtain the proper answer to these questions. After Reis’s talk, Deborah Kashy and I began work on a diary study with the goal that she and I would advance quantitative methods in this area. Very early on we realized that we were in way over our heads in this area, and we sought out someone who could assist us in this project. That person was Niall Bolger.

I first met Niall at a cocktail reception in Buffalo at the meeting of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology. Niall at the time was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan. To steal a line from *Casablanca*, this was “the beginning of a beautiful friendship.” Niall appreciated the importance of diary methods in our field, and he had an understanding of the difficult statistical

and computational issues in this area. After Niall moved to New York City, I even convinced him to visit the village of Storrs to continue our collaboration, and he convinced me to visit Gotham several times.

I have not known Jean-Philippe Laurenceau, or J.-P., for as long or as well, but I do know that he has been integral to the successful development of this book. Like Niall, J.-P. has both the statistical and substantive interests, his area of interest being clinical psychology. Like Niall, J.-P. is a dedicated scholar. I remember a meeting a few years back at a University of Massachusetts conference on dyadic data analysis, and both Niall and J.-P. were up until 3 in the morning making the final changes to their presentation.

The book does an excellent job of explaining the usefulness of intensive longitudinal methods, and provides both an intelligent and intelligible discussion of a topic of compelling interest. It discusses why and when you would want to use these methods; how you would collect such data; the analysis of such data; and the meaning of these analyses. For each, substantive examples and computer setups are given. I feel very privileged to have played a role in bringing this book to fruition. Enjoy.

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