Book Review
ADVANCED METHODS IN THE SOCIAL RESEARCH, THE INTERDEPENDENCY MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS
"Metode avansate în cercetarea socială, analiza multivariată de interdependență"
Irina Culic, Ed. Polirom, 2004

The book "Advanced methods in the social research. The interdependency multivariate analysis" written by Irina Culic and published by Polirom, Iasi, 2004, put in a close relationship the advanced statistic methodology and the theoretical and conceptual background of the data in the social investigation. The book is complementary to the book "Statistical methods in social sciences" (Rotariu, Bădescu, Culic, Mezei, Mureşan), Ed. Polirom, Iaşi, 1999 where notions as variables, distribution of the data, variance or covariance are defined.

Complementary, the presented book focuses on the multivariate analysis of the interdependency on the definition of notions like distance, similarity, proximity, measurement, validity, repeatability, dimension of the data.

The first three chapters of the book refer to the main notions and methodology in order to background any research in social field. The first chapter distinguishes the social approach opposite to the biological investigation.

The second chapter focuses on the data management in the empiric investigation and it is mainly a background of the multivariate analysis defined as technical statistic of the simultaneous analyses of the variables for each case or objects in the randomized sample, which are very detailed presented in the third chapter.

The multivariate analyses offer the opportunity to put in evidence the specific modality in which a set of variables influences the variability of other variables in the social field.

The author classifies the multivariate analysis techniques in next section of the book in two big categories: the techniques of the dependency and the techniques of the independency. The techniques of the dependency are background on the causal theory and suppose a set of predictors for a set of dependent variables in order to explain them.

The interdependence techniques suppose that all variables have the same ontological status. Very useful, each chapter contains a section in which there is explained the way to use the program SPSS

(Statistical Package for Social Science), 10.1 version in order to obtain an analyses in the specific mentioned technique such as factorial analysis, in cluster analysis, multidimensional scales, analysis of correspondence and analysis of the homogeneity.

The mathematical language is replaced by the usual language when is possible and necessary to facilitate the logic of the statistical approach.

The understanding of the problems in the book is facilitating, too, in the last chapter that presents a practical example of using multivariate analysis in an empiric research.

The information in the book is accessible for a large category of investigators including the students because of the statistical reasoning process that follows every general steps in multivariate analysis of interdependence methods.

The methods and statistics presented in the book are frequently used by the researchers not only in the social field that makes this book useful to large categories of investigators in different areas. The book includes a glossary of the main statistic concepts in the multivariate analyses of the interdependence area, too.

In order to ensure a good understanding of every stage that is decisive for the accuracy of the experimental researches, the book offers many examples and exercises.

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