

MYTHS about longitudinal research

Rogosa, D. R.

(1988). Myths about longitudinal research. In *Methodological issues in aging research*, K. W. Schaie, R. T. Campbell, W. M. Meredith, and S. C. Rawlings, Eds. New York, Springer Publishing Company, 171-209.

Rogosa, D. R. (1995). Myths and methods: "Myths about longitudinal research," plus supplemental questions. In *The analysis of change*, J. M. Gottman, Ed. Hillsdale, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 3-65.

1. Two Observations a longitudinal study make.
2. The difference score is intrinsically unreliable and unfair
3. You can determine from the correlation matrix for the longitudinal data whether or not you are measuring the same thing over time
4. The correlation between change and initial status is:
(a) *negative*; (b) *zero*; (c) *positive*; (d) *all of the above*.
5. You can't avoid regression toward the mean
6. Residual change cures what ails the difference score
7. Analyses of covariance matrices inform about change
 - 7.1 Path analysis informs about change
 - 7.2 Structural regression models inform about change
 - 7.3 Simplex models describe most longitudinal data
8. Stability coefficients estimate:
(a) *the consistency over time of an individual*;
(b) *the consistency over time of an average individual*;
(c) *the consistency over time of individual differences*;
(d) *none of the above*; (e) *some of the above*.
9. Casual analyses support causal inferences about reciprocal effects

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Conditional versus Unconditional Analyses (Goldstein, Plewis...)

[UK Reading example]