

Methodology – The First Four Years

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Methodology has just published its fourth volume. It was planned at this point in time to invite two new editors to take over the journal and to make some necessary changes to the editorial board. To ease the transition process, it was decided that one editor, Professor Manuel Ato, would continue for another year (until the end of 2009). To this end, Professor Michael Eid, who has been an editor during the past four years, first at the University of Geneva and then at the Free University of Berlin, has now ended his editorship and we are pleased to announce that his position has been now filled by Professor Joop Hox from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Once his final year is up, Manuel Ato will be replaced by Professor Julio Sánchez, who is also from the University of Murcia in Spain.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Michael Eid, and his collaborators Olivier Renaud and Delphine Gross (from the University of Geneva) and Christian Geiser (from the Free University of Berlin), for their excellent editorial work over the past four years.

Since its inception, *Methodology*, the official organ of the *European Association of Methodology*, has been an online journal with a strong European vocation and dedication “to promote research and the development of empirical research methods in the fields of behavioral, social, educational, health and economic sciences, as well as in the field of evaluation research” (Ato & Eid, 2005). We emphasize our preference towards empirical research methods in the conviction that quantitative orientation embraces all phases of research methodology, including sampling, measurement, design, and data analysis. We also believe that there are strong methodological similarities between the different scientific disciplines using these research methods, in spite of the diversity of the areas of psychology and social sciences to which they can be applied.

As mentioned in the Editorial of Volume 1 (2005), *Methodology* publishes the original contributions of researchers from all over the world in the form of research articles, software information, and instructional papers. In the period 2005–2008, the journal has published 60 research articles and a short note on software information. The authors of these articles come from very diverse origins such as Germany (39), Spain (36), USA (24), the Netherlands (19), Austria (7), Australia (3), Belgium (3), United Kingdom (3), Sweden (2), Chile (1), Portugal (1), and Switzerland (1). Topics covered range from data analysis (Finch & Schneider, 2007; Höfler, 2008; Kelley, 2008; Korendijk, Maas, Moerbeek, &

Van der Heijden, 2008; Maroco, 2007; Palmer, Losilla, Vives, & Jiménez, 2007) to survey and experimental methodology (Overall & Tonidandel, 2007; Stocké, 2007; Vallejo, Fernández, & Livacic-Rojas, 2007), psychometrics (Barrada, Olea, & Ponsoda, 2007; Hofmans, Theuns, & Mairesse, 2007; Lozano, García-Cueto, & Muñiz, 2008; von Davier & von Davier, 2007), and structural equation modeling (Coffman, 2008; Dimitruk, Schermelleh-Engel, Kelava, & Moosbrugger, 2007; Kelava, Moosbrugger, Dimitruk, & Schermelleh-Engel, 2008).

In the last couple of years, we have also introduced special thematic issues edited by prominent researchers in their field. Three special issues that have been published to date include social network analysis (edited by Jeroen K. Vermunt & Marijtje A. J. van Duijn, 2006), mixture structural equation modeling (edited by Jost Reinecke, 2006), and longitudinal approach in psychology and the social sciences: Theoretical and analytical perspectives (edited by Jaume Arnau, 2008).

As an online journal, with four issues per volume, and an annual print compendium, *Methodology* is not only available online via Hogrefe & Huber’s PsyCONTENT platform (www.psycontent.com), but also via the American Psychological Association’s PsycARTICLES fulltext database, which assures us a vast and appropriate audience for the information published and good accessibility for methodologists and applied researchers. Furthermore, we have recently been informed that, due to an agreement with the Hogrefe & Huber group, the archives of *Methodology* will be stored by Portico, a digital preservation service for the scholarly community.

We thank all authors, members of editorial board, reviewers, and Hogrefe staff for their total confidence in the editors over these four years. We also encourage all our readers to continue submitting papers to *Methodology* on topics of interest to the journal on data analysis, research methodology, and psychometrics.

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