Book review: Kenny, D. A., Kashy, D.A., & Cook, W. L. (2006). Dyadic data analysis. New York: Cambridge University Press. 443 pages. ISBN 10: 1572309865 (hardback), $52.00

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Though the dyad is widely regarded as the fundamental unit of close relationships, historically, research on close relationships has focused on a single partner rather than modeling the interdependence of how each partners' attitudes and behaviors affect the others'. Sophisticated close relationships researchers now understand the need to estimate interdependence between partners. In close relationships, both partners' true scores on relevant constructs can influence scores of the other partner. New statistical techniques, like social relations analysis or the actor–partner interdependence model, allow relationship researchers the ability to ask a new set of questions beyond comparing mean differences of treatment and control conditions. For example, scholars can now evaluate questions such as how does one partner's likeability affect the other partner's happiness in a relationship? Are differences in family closeness scores a function of mother, father, son, or daughter personality traits, or is it attributable to differences in the dyadic relationships between those members? Many different statistical techniques have recently emerged that provide close relationships researchers with the tools they need to answer these important questions. *Dyadic Data Analysis* provides an introduction to many of these techniques.

This engaging book provides a simplified, straightforward introduction to dyadic modeling techniques that have become increasingly popular across many disciplines in recent years. The book opens with a basic overview of non-independence and its importance in researching social relationships, and then proceeds to explain the study of dyads in multi-level modeling and structural equation modeling. The middle chapters provide overviews of the actor–partner interdependence model, social relations designs with distinguishable and indistinguishable members, one-with-many designs, and social network analysis. The authors conclude the book with cross-sectional analysis for interval and dichotomous outcomes.

Perhaps the greatest asset of *Dyadic Data Analysis* is that the majority of the writing is readily understood by readers with a foundational knowledge of regression. The clear language, along with vivid and plentiful examples, allows readers without prior training in these techniques to follow along with relative ease. Not only do Kenny, Kashy, and Cook provide conceptual and mathematical definitions of key terms, they often provide the syntax or instruction needed to execute the analysis in popular software programs including SPSS, SAS, HLM, and SEM. This approach situates the book nicely for advanced graduate level coursework or to be used as a tool for data analysis projects. However, the authors refer to these techniques as very complex and researchers who lack well developed understanding of ANOVA and regression will likely find the writing complex and hard to interpret.

Another advantage of the book for readers is a website hosted by David Kenny that parallels the book and provides corrections, clarifications, and some elaborations for the chapters. Readers can also access the site to retrieve some data used in the book so they can practice the techniques before modeling their own data.

In the last chapter, the authors offer concluding remarks about non-independence and the function they hope the book will serve. Perhaps a limitation of the book is that more detail could have been provided for these helpful comments. For example, the authors state that the analyses detailed in the book are very complex and errors in analysis can occur for several reasons. For an introductory text, it would be useful to know any tips that exist to check for and minimize errors due to researcher mistakes.

In summary, given the in-depth treatment of issues related to non-independence, the basic and direct writing style, and practical approach to practicing analyses and techniques, graduate students, researchers new to issues of interdependence, and those seeking to familiarize themselves with new and increasingly popular interdependence modeling techniques will find this book especially useful. Anyone researching, reading, and publishing in the area of close relationships will find this book valuable and insightful.