

Richard Morris

Computational Social Scientist | richard.morris@sydney.edu.au | +1 (424) 400-9702
[linkedin.com/in/richard-morris-5906934](https://www.linkedin.com/in/richard-morris-5906934) | github.com/datarichard | Los Angeles, CA

Objective

To work with other experts committed to methodological rigor and real-world impact. I have spent the last five years collaborating with interdisciplinary teams of economists, mathematicians, and doctors solving *wicked problems* in health, the lifecourse, and datascience. My strengths lie in translating complex analyses into actionable insights for diverse stakeholders, bridging communication gaps across multidisciplinary teams.

Profile

Experienced professional for interrogating data and communicating results for informed decision-making around complex, multi-disciplinary problems

- Proven expertise in distilling datasets, breaking down complex statistical analyses, and focusing on wider strategic objectives to produce relevant impact
- Experienced communicator (written, verbal, visual) to executives and decision-makers, senior stakeholders, other experts, scientific and popular media, governments and ministry to influence policy, organizational decisions, and stakeholder objectives
- Proven ability to collaborate with other experts on shared goals to achieve strategic outcomes

Recent Professional Experience (detailed)

Senior Research Fellow, Sydney University – Australia

Aug 2017 – *current*

- Led research using large **repeated cross-sectional Facebook data** and representative **longitudinal surveys** to uncover mental health trends during COVID-19, featured in national and international media.
- Applied **causal inference methods** to estimate the impact of major life events on population prevalence of mental illness, and helped design a Bayesian network analysis to identify psychosocial causes of childhood obesity.
- Evaluated **psychometric** models of measurement error for item-reduction and scale validation using Bayesian generative models vs classical test theory (IRT and factor analysis)
- Supervised interdisciplinary teams and mentored collaborators in statistics, reproducible research, and computational modeling.
- Authored publications in top tier journals (*PNAS*, *Nature Communications*)
- Presented at international scientific conferences and government policy workshops

Quantitative Research Consultant, Sydney University – Australia

Aug 2017 – *current*

- Delivered real-world evidence for the Australian Government's Early Psychosis Youth Services (EPYS) program, translating abstract policy questions into actionable research and key metrics, and influencing \$200M in federal funding.
- Led data analysis for a NSW Ministry of Health's SPEED-EXTRACT study, predicting myocardial infarction from EHR data.
- Consulted for non-profits and government agencies using **survey data** and health and economic administrative data to model workplace health and aging workforce trends.
- Collaborated with other **qualitative** research experts to meet complex project aims and multiple stakeholder objectives

Professional experience (full)

Senior Research Fellow, Sydney University, Australia (0.4 FTE)	Aug 2017 - current	3.3 years (8.2 x 0.4)
Quantitative Research Consultant, Sydney Uni., Aus. (0.4 FTE)	Aug 2017 - current	3.3 years (8.2 x 0.4)
Senior Research Fellow, Brain & Mind Research Centre (0.5 FTE)	Aug 2011 - Jul 2017	3.0 years (6.1 x 0.5)
Clinical Trial Lead, NeuRA Pty Ltd, Sydney, Australia	Jan 2009 - July 2011	2.6 years
Behavioral Research Scientist, Roche Ltd, Palo Alto, CA	Feb 2006 - Oct 2007	1.7 years
		13.9 years total

FTE: Full Time Equivalent

I currently hold two 0.4 FTE positions (0.8 FTE total), where the consultant position is not an academic research role. I held a part-time position (0.5 FTE) between 2011 and 2017 due to parental responsibilities.

Skills

Quantitative Methods: Causal inference, regression modelling (linear, logistic, probit), trend analysis including longitudinal and repeated cross-sectional, survey design, bias correction including multilevel regression post-stratification, psychometrics (SEM, IRT, factor analysis)

Programming: R (mgcv, brms, lme4, BiDAG), SQL, Python (pandas, polars)

Survey Expertise: Questionnaire design, metric development, panel data analysis, experience with online panel vendors (YouGov, Ipsos)

Communication: Scientific writing, white paper report writing, stakeholder reporting, media engagement

Tools: SQLite, DuckDB, Github, R Shiny, ggplot2, d3

Education

PhD (Experimental Psychology), University of New South Wales	2005
MSc (Quantitative Research), University of Sydney	2001
BA (Philosophy) /BSc Hon. (Psychology), University of New South Wales	2000

Selected Publications

Morris, R.W., Kim, L.E., Milton, A., Glozier, N. (2025). The growing effect of job demands on teacher mental health: Results from a longitudinal household panel survey. *BMC Public Health*, 25, 1810. [10.1186/s12889-025-22372-5](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-22372-5)

Zhu, W., Marchant, R., **Morris, R.W.**, Baur, L.A., Simpson, S.J., Cripps, S. (2023). Bayesian network modelling to identify on-ramps to childhood obesity. *BMC Medicine*, 21, 105. [10.1186/s12916-023-02789-8](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-023-02789-8)

Botha, F., **Morris, R.W.**, Butterworth, P., & Glozier, N. (2023). Generational differences in mental health trends in the twenty-first century. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(49), [10.1073/pnas.2303781120](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2303781120)

Botha, F., **Morris, R.W.**, Butterworth, P., & Glozier, N. (2022). Trajectories of psychological distress over multiple COVID-19 lockdowns in Australia. *Social Science & Medicine - Population Health*, 21, 101315. [10.1016/j.ssmph.2022.101315](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2022.101315)

Kettlewell, N., **Morris, R.W.**, Ho, N., Cobb-Clark, D.A., Cripps, S., & Glozier, N. (2022). The differential impact of major life events on cognitive and affective wellbeing. *Social Science & Medicine - Population Health*, 10, 100533. [10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100533](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100533)

- [See Google scholar for complete list](#), including PNAS, Nature Communications and Molecular Psychiatry

References available on request