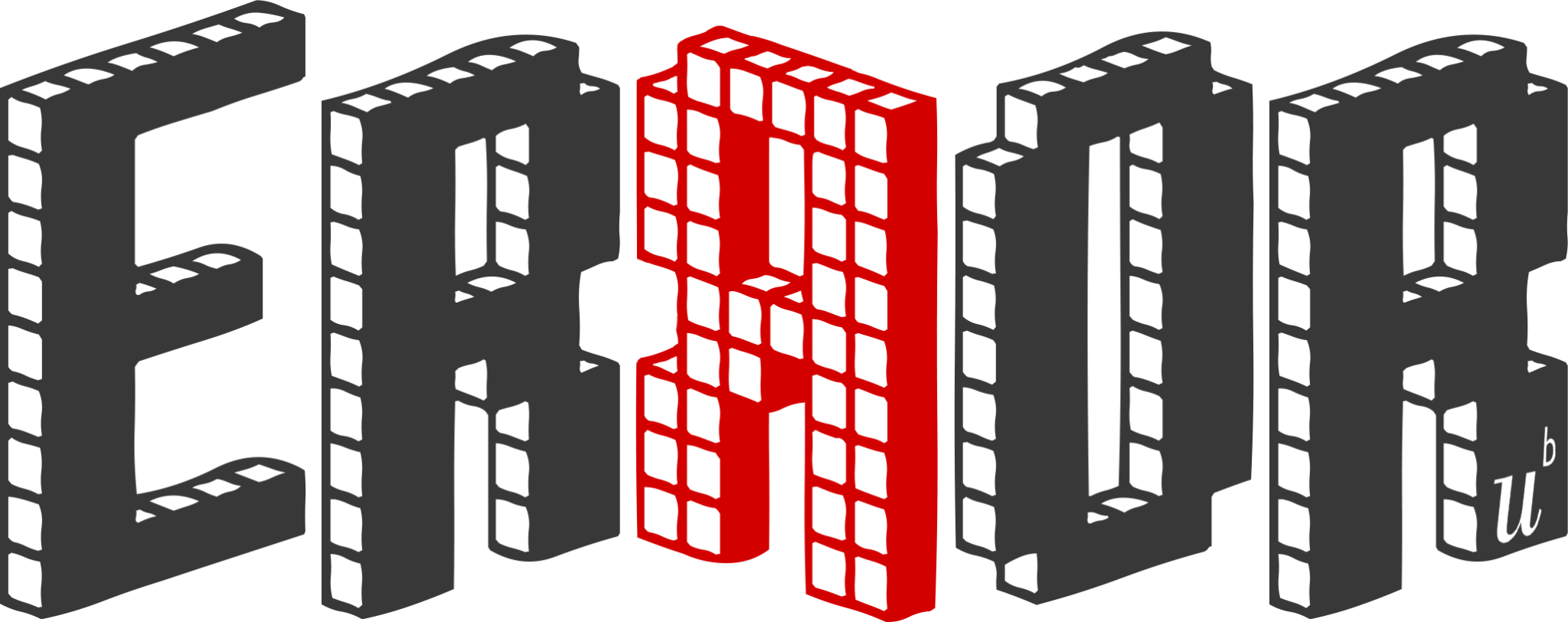
ESTIMATING THE RELIABILITY & ROBUSTNESS OF RESEARCH

ERROR RECOMMENDER REPORT

Lades, L. K., Laffan, K., Daly, M., & Delaney, L. (2020). Daily emotional well‐being during the COVID‐19 pandemic. British Journal of Health Psychology, 25(4), 902-911. https://doi.org/10.1111/bjhp.12450

DECISION: Minor errors

*Recommendation by*

**Ian Hussey**, University of Bern

18 June 2024

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**Decision & recommendations**

**Modelling choices**

The reviewer raises some questions around modelling choices, for examle how the dependencies among the data are handled and whether the total activities per day should have been controlled for. On the one hand, the issues he has raised make sense to me and they change the results of at least one activity from signfiicant to non-significiant, therefore somewhat influencing the conclusions. On the other hand, the magnitude of the impact of changes to the analytic strategy is minor. A priori, we want error reviews to be willing to consider the potential for errors among modelling choices, but at the same time we don’t want to mislabel all differences in choices, opinions or strategies for modelling as errors, even when they may highlight the relative robustness of a result or its reliance on specific assumptions. As such, I am not inclined to label this as an error. I would nonetheless be interested to hear your opinion on the things he has raised here.

**Error control**

Separately, the reviewer points out that the error control method that the article states was used (i.e., “To manage the risk of finding false associations in our multiple testing approach, we used the BenjaminiHochberg method, identifying significant associations at a false discovery rate of 0.05”) is not implemented in the code, and the reported results suggest that it was not applied manually. This does seem to erroneous to me: error control methods help the reader understand the long run error rate and therefore the severity of the test. A misalignment between the article text and the analyses implemented would distort this. The degree to which this correction would change the results is less important here than the misalignment between the article and the actual analyses. I’d be interested to hear your thoughts on whether anything has been missed here – ie whether this error is indeed present (rather than the substantive impact on the results, which I feel are already understood). Of course, such an error would not be severe or fatal to the paper, but would be the sort of thing this review is trying to detect.

**Sample size and attrition**

The reviewer points out that the total number of participants (1100) is not reported in the article, only the analytic sample size (600). This does not rise to the level of an error, but nonetheless this omission does means that the reader may be less equipped to understand the results in context. High attrition rates and missingness can represent selection effects that can have an important bearing on the results. Making the reader aware of attrition rates can at least highlight the potential need to consider this in future work. If nothing else, it can highlight the difficulty of conducting this type of work, especially in the exceptional context in which it occurred. I recommend that the authors highlight this in their future discussions of this work.

**Causality**

The reviewer made some some minor comments about causality and causal language that I think are useful for readers to consider. The reviewer is clear that, especially in the context of a piece of work that was produced under time pressure during the COVID-19 pandemic, he finds no error in the article’s approach to causality. Similar to modelling choices, error reviews are not looking to become embroiled in the ….. [causality isn’t a dirty word etc, more useful to explicate causal assumptions than to pretend one has no beliefs about what way it is useful to conceptualise these things, espeically given that our language often subtly conveys our beliefs either way].

**Summary of errors detected & how they could be prevented in future**

[text]

**Discussion of individual issues raised**

[text]

**Unresolved issues**

[text]