

Subject: Re: saw this

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 4:45:32 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Sam Harper

To: Jay Kaufman, Dr.

Hey man, so good to hear from you! Sorry about your laptop, but hope that all is settled now.

Okay, thanks very much for the background on the talk. Your advice about the high-level, historical overview sounds close to what I was considering, so we are on the same page. It is too bad that we don't have Ana there, since I definitely won't be giving much emphasis to 'glory and triumph' of MLM for fulfilling its promises, but I'll do my best to try and provide a balanced, sober view of things over the recent past.

Yes, I'd be very happy to talk about MrP as well, perhaps as a 'road not taken' for social epid...I may try and work up a bit of an outline to share and get some feedback, if I can ever find any time before the meeting.

Cheers,
Sam

From: Jay Kaufman, Dr. <jay.kaufman@mcgill.ca>

Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 at 8:47 AM

To: Sam Harper <sam.harper@mcgill.ca>

Subject: RE: saw this

Thanks. Sorry for the slow reply. My laptop was stolen a week ago so I have been scrambling somewhat to get back on line.

What a pain in the ass, since I need to get a new machine from McGill. Anyway, not your problem.

About SER, they have replaced Ana's name with yours in several locations, but not in one place, so I did highlight that and ask them to update, so I hope they will do that.

Now about the talk itself. You can see from the abstract that the purpose here to review the whole phenomenon of multilevel social epid which blasted off with much enthusiasm and very big promises almost exactly 25 years ago. Ana was there at the beginning of this history, publishing some of the very first epid studies with random effects and she was big in those early years for defining the landscape and pumping up the promises, so I was hoping that she might assess what we accomplished with all that, where we might have gone wrong, why it kind of fizzled out, and to what extent these innovations (methodological, conceptual and substantive) might have had a lasting impact. Ana has a big ego stake in the whole enterprise, so I expected her take to be all glory and triumph. If I had gotten Oakes to do the overview, it would be tale of pure folly and disappointment. I expect that your take will be somewhat more in the middle between those extremes. But this is entirely up to you. Note that the talks after you will go into fixed vs random effects, Hausman tests, hybrid models, and then DiD and its modern incarnations, and finally MAIHDA. You can certainly contact the other presenters if you want to stake out some material that you don't want to overlap on, but I suspect that your brief talk (~15 min) will be more history and big picture questions and discussion of where we go from here. I don't think that anyone else is taking a big picture approach. One suggestion I

have for you (but this is your talk, and your choice, so do what you want) is to contrast the social epid vision with the Gelman vision. What I mean is that social epid published a gazillion multilevel model papers, and they were all focused on analysis of variance (how much variance within verses between) and testing compositional versus contextual effects with proper accounting for clustering. Gelman is a huge fan of MLM, but not for this purpose. His entire interest is in Mr. P (i.e. multilevel regression with post-stratification) for better SURVEILLANCE. That is something that social epid basically IGNORED, as far as I can tell. I think that this was a monumental lost opportunity, but maybe that's just me. Anyway, let me know what you think, because if you don't want to talk much about Mr P, I might bring it into my discussion of fixed effects.

Thanks for taking this on, and let me know what you think. - JK

From: Sam Harper <sam.harper@mcgill.ca>
Sent: lundi 27 février 2023 11:28
To: Jay Kaufman, Dr. <jay.kaufman@mcgill.ca>
Subject: saw this

Hey Jay-

Saw this on the SER Conference site...maybe we could find a time to chat soon about what each of us may want to cover (assuming that I am covering for Ana)?

Ana Diez Roux A quarter century of multilevel social epidemiology

Jay S Kaufman The Rise and Fall of Fixed Effects

Sam