



Research Methods in Practice: Strategies for Description and Causation

Dahlia K. Remler , Gregg G. Van Ryzin

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The **Second Edition** of **Research Methods in Practice: Strategies for Description and Causation** sets an entirely new standard for presenting and learning research methods. The perspective gained from this text makes it a truly necessary tool for such applied disciplines as public affairs and administration, public policy, psychology, urban affairs, education, sociology, social work, business, public health, political science, economics, communications and criminal justice.

Imbued with a deep commitment to make social and policy research methods accessible and meaningful, the **Second Edition** of **Research Methods in Practice: Strategies for Description and Causation** compels and inspires students to truly grasp the logic--and limits--of the latest research appearing in academic journals, government reports, and the media. Authors Dahlia K. Remler and Gregg G. Van Ryzin cover the most pertinent issues and methods, emphasizing the critical interpretation and practical application of research findings. Both causation and description--and the distinction between them--are emphasized and maintained thematically throughout the text. Concepts are taught through in-depth examples, such as "Fighting Malaria in Kenya," "The U.S. Poverty Measure," "The Fallout from Hurricane Katrina," "Family Dinners and Teenage Substance Abuse," and "The Effect of Poverty on Mental Health." The realistic trade-offs, uncertainties, habits, and excitement of the research experience come through on every page.

"This is the best text available for teaching students the fundamentals of research design and statistics, and for introducing them to the difficulties inherent in evaluation research and causal inference."

--**Dave E. Marcotte**, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

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Marsha says

As text books go, this is remarkably easy to read. I can definitely see elements of Professor Van Ryzin's personality in it.

Kari says

If you want the nitty gritty of research this book is for you. I am reading it for a graduate level course.

Jeff says

Remler's text was not a 'fun' read, but it certainly was an informative one. She and her colleagues did an admirable job of distilling the finer points of quantitative research (generally) and statistics (more specifically) down to a level where they could be understood by the student at the introductory (to research) level. The text includes numerous real world examples, which helped with comprehension. Further, Remler and Van Ryzin were careful to highlight the importance of practical significance throughout. For those that are interested in *both* the scholarship and practice-based ramifications of research, such inclusion was refreshing.

Though Remler was diligent in recognizing the benefits and contributions of qualitative research, the text was a bit light on qualitative measures (to be considered a summary book on *research methods*). Rather, I would rather it be called what it is - an introduction to quantitative research. The text covers numerous quantitative methods, types of studies, etc. and includes basic introductory language on certain statistical calculations.

Benjamin says

Prof. Remler was my research methods instructor in grad school. I haven't read the book yet, but if the class was any indication it should be good.
