ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW SECTION OF PSYCHOMETRIKA

Psychometrika is now accepting submissions for a new section called *Application Reviews and Case Studies*, which will begin appearing in late 2003 or early 2004. The aim of the new section is to highlight the essential connection between psychometric methodology and its application to behavioral data analysis in psychology, educational sciences, and related areas in the social sciences and marketing. Traditional *Psychometrika* articles, including original research in quantitative methodology as well as insightful methodological reviews, will continue to appear in the main section of the journal, now called *Theory and Methods*.

Application Reviews and Case Studies is intended to be an intellectual crossroads: The history of psychometrics is rich with examples in which psychometric methodology has inspired substantive theory and research protocols, substantive research has inspired new psychometric theory and methodology, or psychometrics and substantive work have evolved together. In *Application Reviews and Case Studies* we hope to provide fertile ground for this synergy between psychometrics and its applications in psychology, educational sciences, and related fields.

CONTENT

Application Reviews and Case Studies welcomes manuscripts of two kinds: application reviews, and case studies. Both kinds of manuscript must meet the high standards of technical quality that *Psychometrika* continues to uphold. At the same time, they must be accessible to the rather diverse audience of researchers and educators who are interested in quantitative methods for behavioral data analysis.

- *Application Reviews* address broad modeling and data analysis approaches that are applicable in one or more domains in psychology, educational sciences, and related fields, and may be of either of two types: Integrative reviews draw together disparate methodologies that are useful in a particular domain or domains, or they identify modeling and analysis challenges common to several domains and show that a single family of methodologies addresses these challenges across all of these domains. By both identifying and unifying key contributions, these reviews define a platform for future research directions. Comparative or evaluative reviews discuss methodology as it is applied in specific domains, identifying advantages and disadvantages of the methodology for description and inference focusing on important substantive questions within those domains. Aside from providing a synthesis that highlights the strength and limitations of different techniques, these reviews should define benchmarks for future application papers.
- *Case Studies* address applications of quantitative modeling or data analysis to empirical studies in psychology, educational sciences, and related fields. Data analysis problems of all sizes will be considered, from large or highly multidimensional data sets that challenge traditional statistical methods within psychometrics, to small data sets that challenge excessive reliance on psychometric modeling assumptions. A central criterion for publication is that the methodology deepens understanding of the substantive phenomenon through more informative analysis, and/or more elegant description, of the data in question, possibly through a combination of analysis methods. The case studies should be illustrative of an approach that goes beyond evident applications of well-known methods, and ideally, the approach should be placed in the context of a broader range of application than the case study at hand.

Occasionally, the editors may also publish articles from domains outside of psychology, educational sciences, and related social science fields, if they are clearly related to, or are clearly inspiring for, research within these fields.

SUBMISSION AND EDITORIAL REVIEW

Authors may request, in a cover letter, that their manuscript be considered for *Theory and Methods* or *Application Reviews and Case Studies*. The editors may recommend a different section, after considering the manuscript. The remainder of the review process for the two sections is the same as for traditional *Psychometrika* manuscripts.

Paul De Boeck, *Section Editor, Application Reviews and Case Studies*
Brian W. Junker, *Executive Editor & Section Editor, Theory and Methods*

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