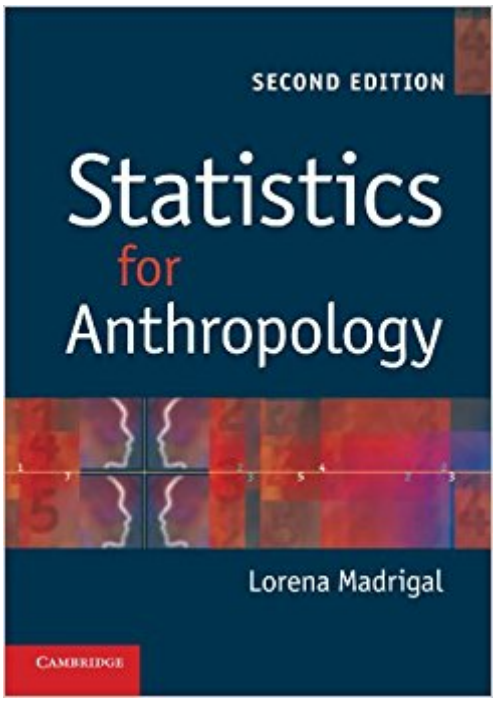
Statistics For Anthropology



Synopsis

Anthropology as a discipline is rapidly becoming more quantitative, and anthropology students are now required to develop sophisticated statistical skills. This book provides students of anthropology with a clear, step-by-step guide to univariate statistical methods, demystifying the aspects that are often seen as difficult or impenetrable. Explaining the central role of statistical methods in anthropology and using only anthropological examples, the book provides a solid footing in statistical techniques. Beginning with basic descriptive statistics, this new edition also covers more advanced methods such as analyses of frequencies and variance, simple and multiple regression analysis with dummy and continuous variables. It addresses commonly encountered problems such as small samples and non-normality. Each statistical technique is accompanied by clearly worked examples and the chapters end with practice problem sets. Many of the datasets are available for download at www.cambridge.org/9780521147088.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Providing a solid footing in basic statistical techniques, this is a clear, step-by-step guide to statistical methods for students of anthropology. It demystifies the aspects that are often seen as difficult or impenetrable, with clearly worked examples and end-of-chapter practice problems.

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populations residing on the Atlantic coast of Costa Rica. She is currently President of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

This is not a good stats book for many reasons. 1. Many errors in text, including problems without data; 2. Poorly edited; 3. Archaic manner in handling gender issues that is sexist; 4. Makes up new terminology that does not agree with standard stats (such as nominal data renamed). We are using this text to support a graduate anthropology stats course. The instructor recommends doing the problems, but they are poorly edited with errors. I would recommend finding a good education or sociology stats book and simply using anthropology examples for in-class problems. Fortunate for me, this is not a first course in stats; unfortunate for me, I still have to endure the poor quality of this book.

If you are attempting to truly learn how to apply statistics to your data, please do not waste your time with this book. Pay the money for an actual statistics book written by a statistician and save yourself time, frustration and the money you would spend buying another stats book anyway after you became too frustrated with this book. It is poorly written, difficult to follow and riddled with mathematical errors. Additionally, she provides long descriptions of how to execute sample questions with MSTAT, but no explanation of how to complete a sample problem by hand, and little detail on the explanation of your output in the software means. Example problems do not have to be anthropological to understand how they apply to our field, they just have to be well written. Just save your money, and buy something else.

One of the worst statistics books ever written. I appreciate the anthropology examples for anthropology students,. However, if you feel the need to use this as a reference in any way you will be up s***e creek. I guess I should expect this from anthropologists. They can’t be straightfoward about ANYTHING even when that is exactly what is required.

I have no idea what on earth possessed my instructor to use this as a textbook. It’s horrible. No explanations at all. Constantly glosses over giving any actual definitions or explanations for terms, then gives a formula that has no contextual value to the reader, followed by "examples" that still MEAN NOTHING because there’s no attempt at instilling actual comprehension or statistical literacy.It’s like some wacky paint by number scenario where you have no concept at all about what the bigger picture is supposed to look like. Input numbers into this formula, and that’s called x. Don’t

worry about what x is actually representative of, or how it’s derived, or what it means for your data.Since the second edition doesn’t even have the appendices that the old edition had, you need another reference to access probability tables anyway - so why not just find a book that actually bothers to teach statistics?Also, there are some awful errors, as another reviewer pointed out. Typos all over the place and math errors, too.I agree with one of the positive reviews that we are not statisticians. We could very easily work with an actual statistician for help managing our own data and testing our own hypotheses in statistically sound fashion. We do, however, need to develop a kind of statistics literacy to be able to critically analyze the work of others in our field, and this book does an extremely poor job in that department.There has to be something in between BEING statisticians and this mess. And if there isn’t, there desperately needs to be.

This is the absolute worst statistics text book I have ever had the misfortune to use. The idea behind it is fantastic: statistics explained with examples specifically with anthropology students in mind.Unfortunately, the book is riddled with errors. (I am not quite sure how it made it past the editors/publishers!) Errors include mathematical errors, spelling errors, citation errors, and errors of omission. Tables in the appendix are not clearly labeled.Her examples switch between by-hand calculations and computer-printouts, which is no help when you are trying to do either.There is an "answers to select exercises" section in the back, which also contains errors and places computer-printout answers for questions where the only formulas/examples were by-hand calculations.Furthermore, she frequently goes off on tangents that seem to have nothing to do with the problem at hand -- I still haven’t figured those out.I am fortunate to have a bio-medical statistician sitting in on my class; he points out which sections to skip, where to expect errors, and where she uses formulas or explanations that no other statisticians would agree with.I can’t think of a worse text to use.

I agree with the previous reviewer: this book is horrible. In addition to the comments already listed, I would just add that the overall tone of the book seems to indicate an indifference to the reader as to whether or not they understand these concepts. The author seems to think that the reader should be able to glean understanding from a mere explanation of the formulas and the output tables rather than be bothered to provide an depth explanation of these processes. This book continually let me down as a reference for how to write about my results, which left me frustrated and angry. Week in and week out I felt like my results were behind glass. Stats is easy, writing about stats is hard, and this book was no help. I hated it. The light bulb finally went off when I began scouring the web for

supplemental material mid way through the semester.I do appreciate the attempt by the author to write a statistics book for applied anthropologists. I think this book, re-imagined as a workbook for anthropology students, would be a great pedagogical aide; but there are better resources out there for a primary text book.

Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics (Salkind, Statistics for People Who(Think They Hate Statistics(Without CD)) The Anthropology of Protestantism: Faith and Crisis among Scottish Fishermen (Contemporary Anthropology of Religion) The Anthropology of Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology How Anthropology Informs the Orthodontic Diagnosis of Malocclusion's Causes (Mellen Studies in Anthropology) Biological Anthropology: Concepts and Connections (B&B Anthropology) Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology (Primers in Anthropology) Culture Sketches: Case Studies in Anthropology (B&B Anthropology) Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (B&b Anthropology) Small Places, Large Issues: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology, Third Edition (Anthropology, Culture and Society) Statistics for Anthropology Statistics and Data Analysis for Financial Engineering: with R examples (Springer Texts in Statistics) Basic Statistics for Business and Economics (Irwin Statistics) Business Statistics: Communicating with Numbers (Irwin Statistics) Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics, 4th Edition Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics Statistics and Finance: An Introduction (Springer Texts in Statistics) Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics, 4th Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics: Using Microsoft Excel 2016 Matrix Algebra Useful for Statistics (Wiley Series in Probability and Statistics) Matrix Algebra: Theory, Computations, and Applications in Statistics (Springer Texts in Statistics)