Searching prior information to solve small sample size issues in SEM

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Suggested talk duration (15-60 minutes)

20 minutes, including 5-minute discussion

Summary (max. 500 words)

In this presentation, we will demonstrate guidelines on how to search and specify prior information for parameters in a structural equation model. We will demonstrate the guidelines by means of an empirical application about development of working memory in young heavy cannabis users (*n* = 16) and non-using peers (*n* = 252). To obtain prior information for the latent growth curve model of interest, meta-analyses, reviews, empirical papers and experts were involved. We will explain our systematic approach, comment on our experiences, and provide general recommendations to assist researchers that want to incorporate prior knowledge in a structural equation model.

Reference

Zondervan-Zwijnenburg, M. A. J., Peeters, M., Depaoli, S., & Van de Schoot, R. (in press). Where do priors come from? Applying guidelines to construct informative priors in small sample research. *Research in Human Development*. doi: 10.1080/15427609.2017.1370966

Relevance to conference theme

This methodological presentation clarifies how researchers can go about searching prior information to solve small sample size issues.

Keywords (max. 3)

Prior information; structural equation modeling