

Data Management for Social Scientists

The “data revolution” offers many new opportunities for research in the social sciences. Increasingly, traces of social and political interactions can be recorded digitally, leading to vast amounts of new data that become available for research. This poses new challenges for the way we organize and process research data. This book covers the entire range of data management techniques, from flat files to database management systems. It demonstrates how established techniques and technologies from computer science can be applied in social science projects, drawing on a wide range of different applied examples. The book covers simple tools such as spreadsheets as well as file-based data storage and processing, and then moves on to more powerful data management software such as relational databases. In the final part of the book, it deals with advanced topics such as spatial data, text as data, and network data.

Nils B. Weidmann is Professor of Political Science at the University of Konstanz. Trained both as a computer scientist and a political scientist, he completed his PhD at ETH Zurich in 2009. His work has been recognized with several awards, including the 2020 Karl Deutsch Award of the International Studies Association.



Methodological Tools in the Social Sciences

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The Methodological Tools in the Social Sciences series is comprised of accessible, stand-alone treatments of methodological topics encountered by social science researchers. The focus is on practical instruction for applying methods, for getting the methods right. The authors are leading researchers able to provide extensive examples of applications of the methods covered in each book. The books in the series strike a balance between the theory underlying and the implementation of the methods. They are accessible and discursive, and make technical code and data available to aid in replication and extension of the results, as well as enabling scholars to apply these methods to their own substantive problems. They also provide accessible advice on how to present results obtained from using the relevant methods.

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Data Management for Social Scientists

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