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Special Issue Call For Papers:

Innovative Methods for the Study of Change and Development

Guest Editor: Matthias Reitzle (University of Jena, Germany)

The general aim of this special issue is to disseminate innovative ideas of modelling change and development to a larger audience of developmental researchers. This endeavour may help developmentalists to overcome the boundaries of traditional, but partly inappropriate, methods to analyze intra-individual change and inter-individual differences herein. Particularly, the intra-individual perspective has been neglected over decades by prematurely aggregating data across samples before turning to the analysis of change.

More than a decade ago, Gottman (1995) pointed to the fact that “Many scientists and reviewers just assume that change scores are unreliable, that the analysis of covariance with time-1 scores as the covariate is an appropriate way for studying change, that regression toward the mean is almost a law of nature, and so on (p. 3).”

In this vein, the present special issue is dedicated to offering alternatives to mainstream analyses. Basically, two types of manuscripts potentially serving this purpose are welcome:

1. Methodological papers describing innovative methods of analyzing intraindividual change in a conceptual, not overly mathematical language. Researchers should be easily able to transfer the methodological idea to their own research questions.
2. Substantial papers employing innovative methods of analyzing intraindividual change, be it short-term fluctuations or long-term developmental trajectories, in an exemplary fashion. It should be noted at this point that growth curve models focusing on standard linear, square, cubic etc. growth and variation around these standard components have become part of the mainstream by now.

The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2012

Reference:

Gottman, J. M. (Ed.) (1995). *The analysis of change*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.