MATSUEDA APPEARS IN MOST RECENT JASA

Submitted by Michael Goldblatt on March 22, 2013 - 4:04pm

Lead author Donatelo Telesca, Ross and colleagues, including former UW graduate student Derek Kreager (Penn State University) and CSSS colleague Elena Erosheva, appear in the December 2012 edition (Vol 107, Issue 500). The published abstract is below or see http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01621459.2012.716328

ABSTRACT

A major aim of longitudinal analyses of life-course data is to describe the within- and between-individual variability in a behavioral outcome, such as crime. Statistical analyses of such data typically draw on mixture and mixed-effects growth models. In this work, we present a functional analytic point of view and develop an alternative method that models individual crime trajectories as departures from a population age–crime curve. Drawing on empirical and theoretical claims in criminology, we assume a unimodal population age–crime curve and allow individual expected crime trajectories to differ by their levels of offending and patterns of temporal misalignment. We extend Bayesian hierarchical curve registration methods to accommodate count data and to incorporate influence of baseline covariates on individual behavioral trajectories. Analyzing self-reported counts of yearly marijuana use from the Denver Youth Survey, we examine the influence of race and gender categories on differences in levels and timing of marijuana smoking. We find that our approach offers a flexible model for longitudinal crime trajectories and allows for a rich array of inferences of interest to criminologists and drug abuse researchers. This article has supplementary materials online.

People Involved:  Ross L. Matsueda
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