Path Analysis and Structural Equation Models: an introduction to the language and key concepts.

Abstract:

Starting with Sewall Wright and the history of path analysis to the current workings of path analysis and structural equation models (SEM). Path diagrams are the most used and popular means of presenting a path analysis or SEM. The details of path diagrams and their use will be discussed. What is a structural equation and how does it differ from, say, a multiple linear regression equation will be discussed. Key terms like: mediator variable, endogenous variable, direct and indirect effects are discussed and defined. An example will be present to facilitate use of the path diagram and terms. Finally, an introduction to the model underlying the path diagram used for SEM.