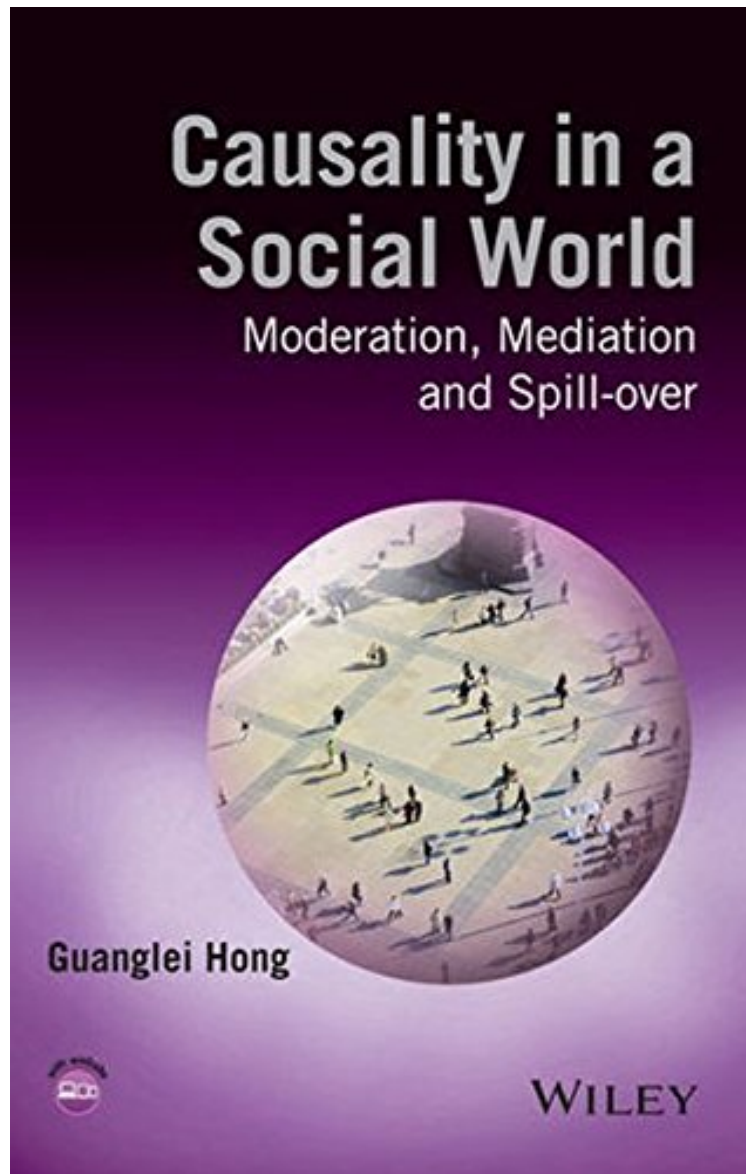


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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A clear introduction to challenging causal inference problemsBy

userHong is both a social scientist and a statistician, and this book is a very readable introduction to some more challenging problems in causal inference than just "what's the average treatment effect in this experiment?" In addition, it presents a number of novel methods developed by the author. Most of Hong's work uses different forms of weighting, so her estimators are more intuitive than many other approaches.

Causality in a Social World introduces innovative new statistical research and strategies for investigating moderated intervention effects, mediated intervention effects, and spill-over effects using experimental or quasi-experimental data. The book uses potential outcomes to define causal effects, explains and evaluates identification assumptions using application examples, and compares innovative statistical strategies with conventional analysis methods. Whilst highlighting the crucial role of good research design and the evaluation of assumptions required for identifying causal effects in the context of each application, the author demonstrates that improved statistical procedures will greatly enhance the empirical study of causal relationship theory. Applications focus on interventions designed to improve outcomes for participants who are embedded in social settings, including families, classrooms, schools, neighbourhoods, and workplaces.

From the Back CoverInnovative strategies for the empirical study of causal effects for social scientistsCausality in a Social World introduces a series of weighting methods, often nonparametric in nature, for addressing a wide range of causal questions while minimizing the reliance on model-based assumptions. Rather than fitting research questions to existing statistical tools regardless of their constraining assumptions, this book offers numerous application examples in which causal inquiry is driven by scientific and practical interests. Key features: Demonstrates how each causal relationship can be defined in terms of potential outcomes and identified using optimal experimental designs. Compares the identification assumptions invoked by various statistical techniques for analyses of non-experimental data. Surveys existing approaches along with presenting innovative new methodologies for causal analysis of moderation, mediation, and spill-over effects with examples from social scientific research. Provides detailed descriptions of the weighting procedures. Offers user-friendly software packages as well as syntax for the commonly used statistical programs SPSS, SAS, Stata and R. Causality in a Social World provides guidance to social scientists, graduate and post-graduate students in their empirical investigations of causality. Researchers conducting policy analysis and program evaluation in research companies or in research offices at different levels of the government will also benefit from this book.About the AuthorGuanglei Hong, University of Chicago, Department of Comparative Human Development, USA.