# Series Editor's Note



Andrew Hayes has really outdone himself. The first edition of *Introduction to Mediation, Moderation, and Conditional Process Analysis* was a classic and his second edition was an excellent improvement, but now, this third edition brings even more to the table, making it well worth updating your research library! Given that your research questions have become more nuanced and that demonstrating simple associations or unqualified multivariate associations won't add new understandings to your literature, conditional processes are the way to go. Today's research questions have moved into the realm of process, mechanism, and the conditional features that impact how a process or mechanism might unfold. As I have said before, "How?," "In what way?," "By which pathway?," and "Under which circumstances?" are now the burning questions that need to be addressed. These kinds of questions require accurate applications of mediation and moderation analysis principles. Andy is the true academic leader in understanding the causal foundations of mediation and moderation and how to effectively apply the statistical tools that will implicate the causal elements of human behavior. The go-to software for testing these kinds of questions is his baby called PROCESS, which is a free, user-friendly tool for SPSS, SAS and now R. PROCESS simplifies the tasks in testing for mediation and moderation.

Andy has added some terrific enhancements to this edition while maintaining all of the great features of the first two editions. Appendix A has been revamped and provides the only detailed user's guide for PROCESS, which includes important syntax structures of the R version of PROCESS in addition to SPSS and SAS, and all the new features of PROCESS that Andy's added since the second edition. Moreover, each example now includes R syntax along with SPSS and SAS syntax, which are cleverly indicated by using different shading for the different software packages. This edition clarifies nicely the influence of scaling and the differences among standardized, partially standardized, and unstandardized coefficients and their interpretation (and he demonstrates how to get standardized

regression coefficients with PROCESS). A new option in PROCESS generates the correlation between the residuals of two or more mediators (when multiple mediators are involved). Andy shows you how to calculate them and brilliantly elucidates their meaning. Another new feature of PROCESS allows you to test interactions between the antecedent *X* variable and the mediator (*M*). This edition also demonstrates a method for comparing the strength of two indirect effects that differ in their sign, and Andy has added a bootstrap-based approach for probing moderated mediation in a conditional process model including R code for visualizing the regions of significance. Along with enhancements throughout the book, some sections, like the one on power and samples, have been expanded and moved to optimize the flow and organization of this edition, and other sections, like Appendix C, have been moved to his invaluable online support page, *www.afhayes.com.* The online support pages offer free downloads of PROCESS and easy access to the datasets used as examples. Two features that I particularly like are (1) his guide to writing and reporting conditional process modeling results and (2) his Appendix B, which outlines the syntax structure for building a conditional process model from scratch.

Andy's treatment of conditional process modeling provides you with a definitive statement of where both theory and practice with these topics have evolved and where we are headed. Andy's presentation of the cutting edge on these topics is easy to follow and grasp. Beginning with a review of ordinary least squares regression, the book covers the estimation and computation of direct and indirect effects in mediation analysis; modern methods of inference about indirect effects; models with multiple mediators; estimating and probing of interactions in moderation analysis; conditional direct and indirect effects; testing moderated mediation; and other topics pertaining to exploring, quantifying, and answering questions about the mechanisms and contingencies of process-related effects. Andy details each step of analysis using engaging real-data examples. Applied researchers will enjoy this work as a go-to resource for how to test and report on their tests of mediation and moderation. Andy gifts us with an easy-to-follow guide to the techniques that allow each of us to navigate the tangled web of today's refined research questions.

Andy is a great communicator. He's taught scores of workshops and short courses on mediation and moderation. The popularity of his workshops is a testament to the well-honed didactic devices that he has perfected and which you will find presented throughout his book. As you will discover, no topic or issue that is essential to accurately applying a mediation or moderation analysis is given slight treatment. Andy presents it all and covers it thoroughly, clearly, and satisfyingly. The dessert to this

intellectual meal comes in the form of the sweet elements Andy provides throughout his book. His wit and wisdom permeate this resource. It's a work that is both essential and easy to enjoy.

As you read and begin to fully appreciate the nuance in using these procedures, you will also list Andrew Hayes as an MVM (most valuable methodologist). As an MVM, Andy has crafted a resource that will be a staple in the personal library of every serious researcher. It will be your personal guide to asking and answering the new wave of complex research questions. With better answers to better questions, we all will be better for it.

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