# Week of March 23

- 1. Partial correlations
- 2. Semipartial correlations
- 3. Moderated multiple regression



## **Partial Correlation**

 Definition: The correlation between two variables after all variance associated with a control variable (or set of controls) has been removed from *both* the predictor and the criterion

$$-r_{Y_{1,2}}^{2} = \frac{a}{a+d} = \frac{R_{Y_{1,2}}^{2} - R_{Y_{2,2}}^{2}}{1 - R_{Y_{2,2}}^{2}}$$
$$-F(1, N - k_{12} - 1) = \frac{\left(R_{Y_{1,2}}^{2} - R_{Y_{2,2}}^{2}\right) / (k_{12} - k_{2})}{\left(1 - R_{Y_{1,2}}^{2}\right) / (N - k_{12} - 1)}$$

### **Semipartial Correlation**

 Definition: The correlation between two variables after all variance associated with a control variable (or set of controls) has been removed from *only* the criterion

$$-r_{Y(1,2)}^{2} = \frac{a}{a+b+c+d} = R_{Y,12}^{2} - R_{Y,2}^{2}$$
$$-F(1, N-k_{12}-1) = \frac{\left(R_{Y,12}^{2} - R_{Y,2}^{2}\right)/(k_{12}-k_{2})}{\left(1-R_{Y,12}^{2}\right)/(N-k_{12}-1)}$$

1

### Partial and Semipartial Correlations: Using SPSS

- For partial correlations, use Correlations → Partial
- For semipartial correlations, use Regression → Linear to conduct a hierarchical regression analysis
  - 1. Define the criterion as the Dependent
  - 2. In a first step, enter the control(s)
  - 3. In a second step, enter the predictor
  - 4. The semipartial correlation is the change in *R*<sup>2</sup> from model 1 to model 2

## Moderation

- Moderation exists if the relationship between a predictor and the criterion depends on the value of another predictor (i.e., there's an interaction between the predictors)
  - Another way to say this is that the slope of the regression line predicting the criterion from the predictor differs across values of the moderator
  - Statistically, it's arbitrary as to which variable is the predictor and which is the moderator

### **Testing for Moderation**

- First, use Transform → Compute to create an interaction term by multiplying the predictor with the suspected moderator
- Second, conduct a hierarchical regression analysis to test for significant moderation
  - 1. Define the criterion as the Dependent
  - 2. In a first step, enter the predictor and the suspected moderator
  - 3. In a second step, enter the interaction term
  - If there is a significant gain in R<sup>2</sup> from model 1 to model 2, then you have good evidence of a moderation effect

#### Moderation: Implications for Prediction

- If there is a significant moderation effect, you should either...
  - Make predictions for different groups from different regression equations, or...
  - Make predictions from a single regression equation that includes the interaction term