

OBSERVATION EXERCISE GUIDELINES

PSC 41

- I. Reasoner Hypothesis: A woman crosses her legs within 30 seconds of sitting down.
Harry Reasoner was a well-known media commentator.
- II. Need a PROCEDURE for answering the question
 - A. Hypothesis implies that men are less likely to cross their legs, so want to look at men as well as women.
 - B. Other factors besides gender (such as clothing type) might affect whether or not persons cross their legs.
 - C. Use the variables (VAR) and levels listed below.
Need to operationally define each (e.g., short vs. long skirt)

Predictor Variables (VARs)

GENDER (2 levels)
female
male

CLOTHING TYPE (3 levels)
Long pants/slacks
Shorts
Skirt/dress

Outcome (dependent) VARs

TIME to cross (seconds)
See E below.

TYPE of cross
knee to knee (kk)
ankle to knee (ak)
ankle to ankle (aa)
cross-legged (cl)
other (o)
not crossed (no)

- D. Keep it simple. Unless it sounds worthwhile, limit data collection to above variables.; (e.g., don't need ethnicity, age, campus location, etc.) These are complex and you can do follow-up studies if you become interested.
 - E. Key predictor VAR is GENDER, has 2 levels (female & male)
 - F. Other predictor and levels (i.e., clothing type)
 - G. Key outcome VAR is time to leg cross. Measure in seconds, stopping if no cross by 2 minutes. Count as no cross. Tally in seconds (e.g., 1-1/2 min. = 90 seconds).
- III. DATA COLLECTION
 - A. Observe 3 men and 3 women.
 - B. For **time**, measure in seconds, stop at 2 minutes. At 2 minutes, count as *no cross*