*If you are coming from outside CAPS, please make sure you read the information at the end of this message. Please make sure you RSVP to Estie Hudes ahead of time.*

Dear Methods Core seminar participants,

Our February seminar will take place in less than two weeks.

Topic:                **Mediation for the 21st Century**

Presenter:        Ross Boylan PhD

                    Senior Statistician & Programmer / Analyst

                    **UCSF CAPS & Dept. of Epidemiology and Biostatistics**

Time & Place:        Friday, February 24, 10-11:30

                    McKusick Conference room

                    50 Beale Street, 13th floor

                    San Francisco, CA 94105

Abstract:        When the effect of one variable on another is partly transmitted through a third, it is natural to inquire how important the third, or mediating, variable is. This, and the related concept of moderation, in which the moderator affects the relation between two other variables without necessarily transmitting an effect between them, developed in the context of linear models for continuous variables.  Recent work in causal analysis has generalized our understanding to contexts which are non-linear, involve binary or categorical variables, or lack any parametric relations.  This talk will review the generalization of mediation and moderation proposed by Pearl and others, after discussing some limitations of current practice.  It will end with some extensions to questions involving multi-category variables.

Short bio:        Ross Boylan is a mathematical modeler, who at various times has played a sociologist, financial engineer, programmer and statistician. He is currently working on understanding social and psychological determinants of HIV status and risk behavior with Kyung-Hee Choi at CAPS.  That study gave rise to the need for generalized mediation analysis and will be used as an example for the talk.  Other recent substantive work concerns Hepatitis C and the inaccuracy of liver biopsy (with Peter Bacchetti). Recent methodological work explores the effects of misspecification in generalized mixed models (with John Neuhaus and Chuck McCulloch).  Ross has a Ph.D. in Sociology from Stanford University.

Hope to see many of you at this presentation,

--Estie


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CAPS address is 50 Beale Street, Suite 1300. The building is between Market and Mission.

Directions to 50 Beale Street can be found at

http://caps.ucsf.edu/about/directions-parking/


Please also note that our building has very tight security; in order to be provided with visitor passes, you will need to RSVP to me, preferably at least 2 days before the seminar. If you are even considering attending the seminar, please do RSVP, so your name will be left with the security stuff at the main building entrance.

**RSVP to** Dr. Estie Hudes


The CAPS Methods Core activity can now be checked directly on the website:

http://caps.ucsf.edu/about/structure-cores/methods-core/


Materials from recent seminars are put on the website. You can go directly to

http://caps.ucsf.edu/about/structure-cores/methods-core/methods-core-seminars/

for seminar announcements and past seminars materials. The information is being updated regularly.

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