

Does Education Affect Cognitive Reserve - A Combined Bayesian Analysis of Five International Aging Studies

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Abstract

Research synthesis has become extremely important in many fields of science. This is partially due to the fact that it may be difficult to replicate a single well-designed study whose findings are accepted as conclusive, and because many different studies which address the same research question use different analytical approaches. In our study, we use research synthesis to reinvestigate the relationship between the effect of education on the rate of cognitive change through combining several different international longitudinal studies. Here, we chose MMSE as an approximation to cognitive function because it was considered as a screening measure of general cognitive status. A combined Bayesian model is introduced, which allows use to analyze data from the multiple longitudinal and international studies in a unified manner.