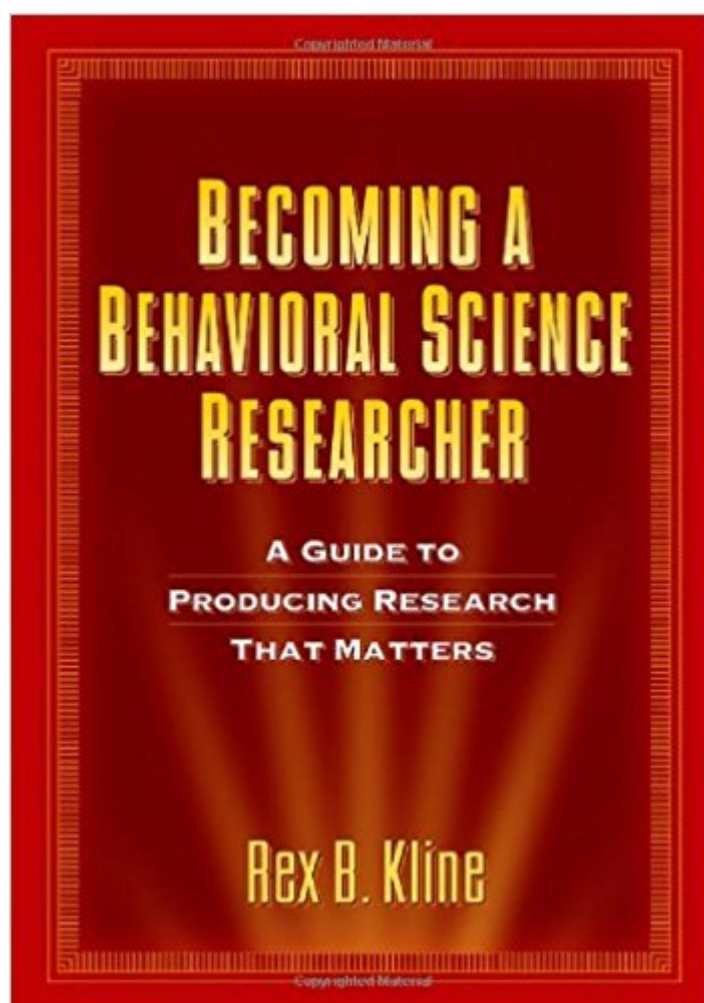


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# Becoming A Behavioral Science Researcher: A Guide To Producing Research That Matters



## Synopsis

Students and beginning researchers often discover that their introductory statistics and methods courses have not fully equipped them to plan and execute their own behavioral research studies. This indispensable book bridges the gap between coursework and conducting independent research. With clarity and wit, the author helps the reader build needed skills to formulate a precise, meaningful research question; understand the pros and cons of widely used research designs and analysis options; correctly interpret the outcomes of statistical tests; make informed measurement choices for a particular study; manage the practical aspects of data screening and preparation; and craft effective journal articles, oral presentations, and posters. Including annotated examples and recommended readings, most chapters feature theoretical and computer-based exercises; an answer appendix at the back of the book allows readers to check their work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Outstanding! Kline is masterful in helping to fill the sometimes cavernous gap between research coursework and applied practice. The focus on modern approaches, including emphasis on replication and effect sizes, represents a new (and needed) generation of research texts, which will benefit advanced undergraduate and graduate students alike in their research courses and seminars. The book honestly and artfully walks the fine line between applied accessibility and necessary depth of content."--Robin K. Henson, PhD, Department of Educational Psychology, University of North Texas

"Many beginning graduate students find that conventional statistics

and methods courses do not give them enough of the practical skills in data analysis, interpretation, and oral and written communication that they need to succeed. Kline has given us a wonderfully wise guide to these skills. This book is beautifully written, entirely practical, and includes the latest statistical approaches. It is essential reading for anyone who wishes to become a successful behavioral science researcher today."--Geoff Cumming, DPhil, School of Psychological Science (Emeritus), La Trobe University, Australia

"A book designed to improve the quality of behavioral and social science research and the way in which it is communicated. I would strongly recommend this text for use in both undergraduate and graduate research methods courses. It offers students a glimpse of many important issues in the field. In particular, the emphasis on, and presentation of, measurement and statistics reform should truly benefit students. This book is a valuable resource for anyone who intends to pursue a career in the behavioral or social sciences."--Chris L. S. Coryn, PhD, Director, Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Evaluation, The Evaluation Center, Western Michigan University

"This book could be used in a graduate seminar that has the goals of bridging the gap between statistics and methods courses and preparing students to conduct good research. I appreciated the section on data screening--a crucial topic--and found the author's treatment of how to write each section of an empirical paper quite valuable. The APA style manual is not nearly as instructive. This text is the kind of book that you keep; it would serve as a handy reference."--Theresa DiDonato, doctoral candidate, Department of Psychology, Brown University

"This is more than a textbook; it is a portable mentor! Kline brings his considerable knowledge and approachable style to the aid of advanced undergraduates and graduate students alike. The book addresses so many issues that fall through the cracks in our fragmented coursework, such as the general integration of design, measurement, and analysis. I would be remiss if I did not make this mandatory reading for all of my students."--Gregory R. Hancock, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Measurement, Statistics and Evaluation, University of Maryland, College Park

"Kline has written the finest synthesis of initiating and finishing research for graduate students that I have read. It is comprehensive, integrative, and couched at a level that will engage students in the research process. I wish I'd had this book when I was first starting out. This text could be used in a proseminar or basic research methods course for first-year graduate students, an honors undergraduate class, or an upper-division thesis course."--William R. Shadish, PhD, Chair, Psychological Sciences Section, University of California, Merced

"This book helps me sell research to my students and present the big picture like no other methods text I've seen. It not only covers basic research designs and methods, but also provides the most current treatment of effect sizes, meta-analysis, and the paradigmatic shift from significance tests to model

fitting--all within a painfully honest critique of the limits of research as currently conducted and published, and what social scientists need to do to improve it. Like Kline's book on structural equation modeling (which was all I needed to learn SEM), this book is crystal clear and engaging. Yet what makes it most unique and essential for my students is its synthetic approach and attention to the big issues. This is what I most want my students to learn. They can easily find more information about specific designs and sampling techniques, but if they don't 'get' research--its purpose, meaning, and importance--then I haven't done my job."--Michael J. Karcher, EdD, PhD, Department of Counseling, University of Texas at San Antonio "All students and beginning researchers will benefit from this book, especially those in the behavioral sciences. This could easily be a standalone book for a course or seminar as well as a supplemental text for any graduate or advanced level course in research methods. The author has done an exceptional job of closing the gap that has existed for far too long....I love this book. As a behavioral science researcher for a major pharmaceutical company and an educator, I will use this book and recommend it to my colleagues and students....4 stars!" (Doody's Review Service 2008-08-23) "The organization of chapters and sections makes this an extremely flexible resource that can be used in a variety of classes. Each chapter is primarily devoted to one independent topic, which allows for easy distribution to students without the need for additional chapters from the book....The major sections of the book revolve around themes that could easily be split up and covered in different classes....The complete book could undoubtedly be used as a supplement to an advanced research design and analysis course or as a way to guide mentoring of a research student. This amazing flexibility makes this book an invaluable addition to any teacher's library....It not only provides a current look at the field of behavioral science but also provides a means for moving the field forward. Each chapter provides current information on how to design, analyze, and present research that will invigorate psychology. Because of Kline's wonderfully comprehensive work, the book is an easy reference for all researchers looking for more modern approaches to research design and analysis. Even the most informed psychologist is likely to learn something by reading this book....A superb resource for students and teachers alike....It would enhance any psychology curriculum and help the students of today become first-rate researchers of tomorrow." (PsycCRITIQUES 2008-08-23)

Rex B. Kline, PhD, is Professor of Psychology at Concordia University in Montreal. Since earning a doctorate in clinical psychology, he has conducted research on the psychometric evaluation of cognitive abilities, behavioral and scholastic assessment of children, structural

equation modeling, training of researchers, statistics reform in the behavioral sciences, and usability engineering in computer science. Dr. Kline has published a number of books, chapters, and journal articles in these areas. His website is <http://tinyurl.com/rexkline>.

Really gives insight to successful careers in psychology. a wide variety of stories. Arrived on time to start online psychology master's class. Thanks

This book makes understanding the steps in research just a little easier

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