ESP 178 Applied Research Methods

Notes on Causality from Articles

Nord, Luloff, and Bridger: pg. 239, 244
- Model: influence of forest recreation on environmental concern and pro-environment behavior
- Time order? Cross-sectional
- Associations potentially spurious? Culture or up-bringing could affect both forest recreation and pro-environment behavior, making observed association spurious. It seems equally likely that environmental concern causes forest recreation as the other way around. Authors note possibility of causation in reverse direction and possibility of spuriousness, bottom of pg. 238.
- Causal mechanism explained? In literature review, suggestion that
- Conclusions about causality? Wording is careful – “This finding is consistent with the hypothesis… but further research using a panel design would be needed to verify the causal pattern.”

Daneshvary, et al.: pg. 154, 158-159
- Time order?
- Associations potentially spurious?
- Causal mechanism explained?
- Conclusions about causality?

Nordulund and Garvill: pg. 746, 752-754
- Time order?
- Associations potentially spurious?
- Causal mechanism explained?
- Conclusions about causality?

McComas, Shanahan, and Butler: pp. 536-540
- Time order?
- Associations potentially spurious?
- Causal mechanism explained?
- Conclusions about causality?