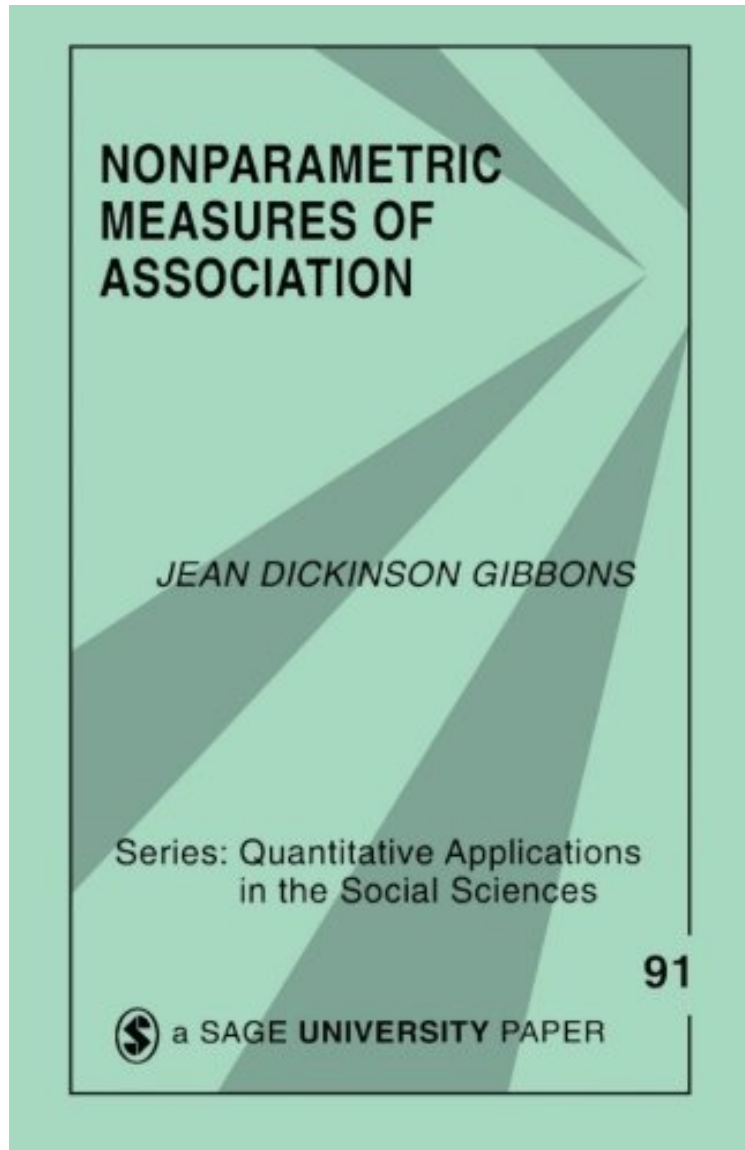


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Nonparametric Measures of Association (Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences)

Jean D. Gibbons Fielden

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Jean D. Gibbons Fielden : Nonparametric Measures of Association (Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nonparametric Measures of Association (Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. StatisticsBy Robert M. WilsonExcellent book on nonparametric

computational analysis (Spearman rho, Kendall tau a and b, and tests of statistical significance) with examples of usage. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Becci Item arrived on time and as described. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Useful and fun By not a natural It is extremely unusual to find a statistics text that is both useful and a pleasure to read. Gibbons' book is a welcome exception. The fact that the text is fun to read stems in part from the suitable simplicity of the measures discussed, namely measures of association for ranked and tabular data. In addition, however, the pleasure that comes from reading the book speaks well of the quality of the author's prose and her skill in organizing a discussion of material that most readers, especially those with limited statistical training, would find fairly technical. It is true that the kind of analyses covered in Gibbon's instructive text are no longer ubiquitous in academic work. Nevertheless, depending on the availability of good quality data and on the kind of issue an analyst wants to address, they all retain a respectable place in the social or behavioral scientist's statistical tool kit. I have found Gibbon's material to be especially useful for instructional purposes in classes I teach in basic statistics. For example, in most applications the ubiquitous measure of association Pearson's r requires a good deal of computational effort, too much to make it easy to use for in-class board work. However, Gibbon's discussion of Pearson's r as applied to tabular data involving the association between two dichotomous variables provides a conceptually comparable alternative which is easy to use and easy for students to understand. Gibbon's treatment of Gamma (Yule's Q) as applied to a two-by-two table provides a measure of association that is easy to compute, has an intuitively appealing interpretation (as these things go), permits use of the normal distribution for its sampling distribution, and has an easy to compute standard error. As such, Gamma is invaluable in introducing the elusive idea of statistical significance and in demonstrating construction of confidence intervals. Some may judge the material in Gibbon's book to be dated, even obsolete. I don't share that view. Instead, it provides us with a way of learning about basic statistical concepts in a comparatively painless but generalizable way. I'm glad this book is still in print and that I can refer to it from time to time when preparing lectures or when working with students on modest research projects that may best be served by easy-to-use, easy-to-understand statistical procedures.

When analyzing data, how should the relationship between two or more sets of observations be described, that is, values of two or more variables, when the variables are ordinal and not bivariate normal? Aimed at helping the researcher select the most appropriate measure of association for two or more variables, the author clearly describes such techniques as Spearman's rho, Kendall's tau, Goodman and Kruskal's gamma and Somers d and carefully explains the calculation procedures as well as the substantive meaning of each measure. In addition, each technique is illustrated by one or more examples from recent social or behavioural science studies. Finally, Gibbons provides information on the strengths and weaknesses of leading statisticians.

About the Author Gibbons, a retired professor from the University of Alabama who now lives in Florida, earned her Ph.D. in statistics from Virginia Tech in 1962. She says she made the gift as an effort to enable the university to recruit the nation's best doctoral candidates in her field, and to help the United States remain the global leader in the discipline. Statistics is my love, Gibbons said. It's my vocation, as well as my avocation. I was so delighted when I discovered statistics and I think that it is a field that will always be of utmost importance.