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Evolution of epidemiologic methods and concepts in selected textbooks of the 20th century

Introductory note by Alfredo Morabia

This article closes the series of contributions on the history of epidemiologic methods and concepts. It traces, in some epidemiology textbooks published in the 20th century, the evolution of the way five main topics have been taught: study designs (cohort studies and case-control studies), confounding, bias, interaction, and causal inference. These correspond to the topics covered by the other papers in the series. The only exception is the concept of interaction, for which I had not been able to find an author. This final paper has been sent to review and/or comment to all the living authors of the textbooks. Three authors opted for commentaries which are also published in this issue of *Social and Preventive Medicine* and two for reviews.

Our publisher, Birkhäuser, has been kind enough to let us post the pdfs of all these papers on the website: www.epidemiologic.ch/choose/history/. A revised version of these papers accompanied by a substantial introduction, pooled bibliography and index will appear in 2004 as a book entitled "The history of epidemiological methods and concepts" (Birkhäuser).

We have attempted to trace the evolution of five epidemiologic concepts and methods: study design (cohort studies and case-control studies), confounding, bias, interaction and causal inference. Overall, these eight textbooks can be grouped into three generations. Greenwood (1933) and Hill (first edition 1937; version reviewed 1961)'s textbooks belong to the first generation, "early epidemiology", which comprise early definitions of bias and confounding. The second generation, "classic epidemiology", represented by the textbooks of Morris (first edition 1957; version reviewed 1964), MacMahon & Pugh (first edition 1960; version reviewed 1970), Susser (1973), and Lilienfeld & Lilienfeld (first edition 1976; version reviewed 1980), clarifies the properties of cohort and case-control study designs and the theory of disease causation. Miettinen (1985) and Rothman (1986)'s textbooks belong to a third generation, "modern epidemiology", presenting an integrated perspective on study designs and their measures of outcome, as well as distinguishing and formalizing the concepts of confounding and interaction. Our review demonstrates that epidemiology, as a scientific discipline, is in constant evolution and transformation. It is likely that new methodological tools, able to assess the complexity of the causes of human health, will be proposed in future generations of textbooks.

Summary

Textbooks are an expression of the state of development of a discipline at a given moment in time. By reviewing eight epidemiology textbooks published over the course of a century,

Keywords: Epidemiology – History – Method – Bias – Confounding – Interaction – Causal Inference.

Evolution Of Epidemiologic Ideas Annotated Readings On Concepts And Methods

**Jørn Olsen, Rodolfo Saracci, Dimitrios
Trichopoulos**



Evolution Of Epidemiologic Ideas Annotated Readings On Concepts And Methods:

Evolution Of Epidemiologic Ideas Sander Greenland, **Evolution of Epidemiologic Ideas** Sander Greenland,1987

Teaching Epidemiology Jørn Olsen,Rodolfo Saracci,Dimitrios Trichopoulos,2010-04-15 Teaching Epidemiology is published in collaboration with the International Association of Epidemiology IEA and the European Educational Programme in Epidemiology EEPE Book Jacket **A Reader in Promoting Public Health** Jenny Douglas,Sarah Earle,Stephen Handsley,Linda J Jones,Cathy E Lloyd,Sue Spurr,2009-11-30 The second edition of A Reader in Promoting Public Health brings together a selection of readings that explore and challenge current thinking in the field of multidisciplinary public health This thoroughly updated and revised new edition addresses contemporary issues that are high on the agenda of public health and enables the reader to understand and negotiate this broad and dynamic field of study The book is organised into five sections each with an accessible and student friendly introduction that pulls together the key themes and issues Back to the future Reflections on multidisciplinary public health takes stock of the scope and ambition of contemporary public health Research for evidence based practice explores research methods tools and techniques for developing effective public health practice Promoting health through public policy examines policy challenges responses and key debates at national international and global level Promoting public health at a local level explores public health and health promotion in a participatory and community context Public health for the 21st century whose voices whose values examines debates which expose alternative futures priorities and boundaries for public health work This second edition includes new material on health inequalities health protection social marketing and health promotion as well as highlighting the practical requirements of public health work through grass roots accounts of practice It will be essential reading for all students of public health and health promotion as well as for health and social care professionals **Foundations of Evidence-Based Medicine** Milos Jenicek,2019-09-19 This comprehensive text focuses on reasoning critical thinking and pragmatic decision making in medicine Based on the author s extensive experience and filled with definitions formulae flowcharts and checklists this fully revised second edition continues to provide invaluable guidance to the crucial role that clinical epidemiology plays in the expanding field of evidence based medicine Key Features Considers evidence based medicine as a universal initiative common to all health sciences and professions and all specialties within those disciplines Demonstrates how effective practice is reliant on proper foundations such as clinical and fundamental epidemiology and biostatistics Introduces the reader to basic epidemiological methods meta analysis and decision analysis Shows that structured modern argumentative reasoning is required to build the best possible evidence and use it in practice and research Outlines how to make the most appropriate decisions in clinical care disease prevention and health promotion Presenting a range of topics seldom seen in a single resource the innovative blend of informal logic and structured evidence based reasoning makes this book invaluable for anyone seeking broad in depth and readable coverage of this complex and sometimes controversial field *Stata*

Survival Analysis and Epidemiological Tables Stata Corporation,2003 *Virginia Environmental Law Journal* ,1996

Making Sense of Data Joseph Herbert Abramson,1994 This self instructional manual on the interpretation and use of epidemiological data deals with the basic concepts and skills needed for the appraisal of published reports or one s own findings Applications in clinical medicine public health community medicine and research are all taken into consideration This book is designed as a workbook of short exercises and instructional self tests that introduce fundamental approaches and procedures in data interpretation and develop competency in working with basic epidemiological tools Basic concepts are presented in the first section which also demonstrates the step by step assessment of data The next section discusses rates and other simple measures and the third shows how to judge their accuracy The fourth and fifth sections deal with more complex issues of associations between variables and the appraisal of cause effect relationships The last section which is entirely new deals with meta analysis the critical review and integration of the findings of separate studies Its aim is to provide readers with the basic skills required for making sense of the results of a set of studies and for appraising published reports of meta analyses and deciding whether to use their results **Proceedings** ,1990 **Handbook of**

Neuropsychology ,1988 **Race, Class, and Health** Nancy Krieger,1989 **Stata Reference Manual: Sections: 5d, 5s(a-l)** ,1995 *Population and Health* Ian R. H. Rockett,1994 **UICC Manual of Clinical Oncology** Raphael E. Pollock,2004-12-03 The Manual of Clinical Oncology provides a concise and accessible reference covering all aspects of clinical oncology and is of use to all who care for people with cancer The new edition includes up to date summaries of all treatment modalities medical surgical and radiation for all tumour sites It also contains the revised TNM classifications outlined in the new edition of TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours The new Edition includes a new chapter on cancer molecular genetics focusing on genomics proteomics and microarray analysis as well as expanded coverage on cancer staging and prognostic factors **Veterinary Epidemiology** S. Wayne Martin,1992 **Stata 7 Reference Manual Extract** StataCorp LP.,2001 **Epidemiology for Public Health Practice** Robert H. Friis,Thomas A. Sellers,1996 This text provides an introduction to the principles and practice of epidemiology to public health professionals whose primary focus is not epidemiology Terminology concepts and sources of information enable readers to be knowledgeable consumers of the epidemiologic literature The book covers everything from the historical development of epidemiology concepts of causality and definitions of disease and health to measures of disease frequency and sources of community health data *Current Catalog* ,1988 First multi year cumulation covers six years 1965 70 **Human Ecology and Health** ,1983 **Racial Differences in Preterm Delivery** Diane Rowley,Heather Tosteson,1994

Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Report on "**Evolution Of Epidemiologic Ideas Annotated Readings On Concepts And Methods**"

In a world defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their capability to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is really awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**Evolution Of Epidemiologic Ideas Annotated Readings On Concepts And Methods**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by way of a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve in to the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound effect on the souls of its readers.

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Evolution Of Epidemiologic Ideas Annotated Readings On Concepts And Methods Introduction

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