



## Methodology Consulting Services (MCS)

The Center for Research on Families (CRF) is a multidisciplinary center whose mission is to support social and behavioral science research on issues relevant to families and to disseminate findings to scholars, families, practitioners, and policy-makers. As part of this mission, CRF's Methodological Consulting Services (MCS) provides consultation in study design and statistical analysis to faculty in the social and behavioral sciences. CRF has particular expertise in methods for analyzing non-experimental data that arise in studies of families and dyads, with an emphasis on multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling, and analysis of nested and longitudinal data.

### CRF's Methodological Consulting Services provides consulting in all stages of research, including:

- Issues in study design, measurement and sampling
- Power analysis
- Data analysis, including training in the use of software packages
- Writing and editing methodology sections of manuscripts and grant proposals

### Expertise:

- Consulting services are provided by a team of faculty, CRF staff, and advanced graduate students.
- Dr. Aline Sayer, director of CRF's methodology program, oversees the consulting services and provides direct consultation, as well as on-going supervision of the other team members.

### Facilities – CRF, 622 Tobin Hall:

- Fully equipped computer workstations enable individual consultation, software demonstration, and small group training.
- A meeting room holding 15 seats is available for larger group training and consultation
- Software includes SAS, SPSS, and STATA statistical packages; specialized programs for multilevel modeling (HLM) and structural equation modeling (LISREL, M+), specialized programs for power analysis (Optimal Design; Power & Precision); and database transfer programs (DBMS/Copy).

### Availability:

- Drop-in services during the academic year: *Mondays – 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. - 622 Tobin Hall.*
- Individual meetings by appointment throughout the academic year. (Limited summer availability)  
Contact the MCS Coordinator, JuliAnna Smith: [julianns@acad.umass.edu](mailto:julianns@acad.umass.edu).

### Consulting Rates:

- 5 hours/year without cost for UMass Amherst faculty in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.
- 10 hours/year without cost for CRF affiliates.
- 10 hours/year without cost on grant proposals in which MCS will be included in the budget.
- Reasonable cost for individuals outside of SBS (please contact: JuliAnna Smith to set up a time to assess your project, consulting needs and determine fee: [julianns@acad.umass.edu](mailto:julianns@acad.umass.edu).)

**For information** about *Consulting Services* or the *Discussion Group* contact JuliAnna Smith: [julianns@acad.umass.edu](mailto:julianns@acad.umass.edu).