Department of Biostatistics

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# Biostatistics Seminar Series
## Jeffrey Simonoff, Ph.D. (View Bio)

**Title:** "Lifting the Anchor: The Uses and Implications of Effect Codings for Categorical Predictors in Regression"

**Date:** Wednesday, November 18th, 12:30 - 1:30pm

**Abstract:** *"In this talk I highlight a very old idea that has become very timely in recent years. I describe effect codings as an alternative quantitative practice for analyzing and interpreting categorical predictors in regression models for applied research. Effect codings highlight comparisons against an overall level as a means for interpreting information. This technique is appropriate in any research context where a categorical predictor does not have a natural reference group, but a particularly important application is to racial groups. This procedure, in contrast to the use of indicator (dummy) variables, does not position responses of any particular raced group as normative — the standard against which all other race effects should be interpreted. I also discuss how effect codings can be easily extended to situations where subjects can be members of multiple groups (such as being multi-racial), taking advantage of another very old idea, that of regression models with linear restrictions imposed on the parameters."*

**Additional notes:** This should not be considered as a technical research talk; nontechnical and student audiences are encouraged to attend.

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