



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI TRENTO

Dipartimento di Psicologia
e Scienze Cognitive

Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science

SEMINARY DiPSCo

lavaan: an R package for structural equation modeling (and more)

Yves Rosseel, University of Ghent - Belgio

Scientific coordinator: Luigi Lombardi

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Sala Convegni – Department of Psychology and Cognitive Science - Corso Bettini, 31 – Rovereto

Abstract:

For several decades, software for structural equation modeling was exclusively commercial and/or closed-source. Today, several free and open-source alternatives are available. In this presentation, I will tell the story of the R package `lavaan'. How was it conceived? What were the original goals, and where do we stand today? And why is it not finished yet? As the story unfolds, I will highlight some aspects of software development that are often underexposed: the importance of software archaeology, the design of model syntax, the importance of numerical techniques, the curse of backwards compatibility, the temptation to use compiled code to speed things up, and the difficult choice between a monolithic versus a modular approach.

Finally, I will talk about my experiences with useRs, discussion groups, community support and the lavaan ecosystem.

Contacts

Staff di Dipartimento - Psicologia e Scienze Cognitive
tel. 0464 808608 - DipartimentoPSC@unitn.it