In the structural equation modeling (SEM) literature, two models for the analysis of longitudinal data have become very popular: autoregressive (AR) cross-lagged models and latent trajectory (LT) models. AR models and LT models have typically been viewed as competing analytic viewpoints. Bollen and Curran (BOLLEN AND CURRAN, 2004, CURRAN AND BOLLEN, 2001), however, argued that, theoretically, there are many instances when both the processes described by the AR model and the processes described by the LT model are plausible. They proposed the autoregressive latent trajectory (ALT) model, which captures features of both the autoregressive (AR) cross-lagged model and the latent trajectory (LT) model and therefore covers most of contemporary modeling efforts in social science. Papers discussing applications of the ALT model, positive and negative experiences in the application as well as critical examinations, weaknesses, improvements and alternatives for the ALT model are welcome. As the ALT model encompasses both the AR and the LT model, papers addressing the latter models, especially problems and weaknesses in their application, are welcome too.


Key Words: structural equation modeling, autoregressive latent trajectory model, autoregressive cross-lagged panel design, latent growth curve model