



# A Primer on Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM)

By Joe Hair, G. Tomas M. Hult, Christian M. Ringle, Marko Sarstedt

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*A Primer on Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM)*, by Hair, Hult, Ringle, and Sarstedt, provides a concise yet very practical guide to understanding and using PLS structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM). PLS-SEM is evolving as a statistical modeling technique and its use has increased exponentially in recent years within a variety of disciplines, due to the recognition that PLS-SEM's distinctive methodological features make it a viable alternative to the more popular covariance-based SEM approach. This text?the only comprehensive book available to explain the fundamental aspects of the method?includes extensive examples on SmartPLS software, and is accompanied by multiple data sets that are available for download from the accompanying website ([www.pls-sem.com](http://www.pls-sem.com)).

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

The text is well written and relatively easy to understand. It provides abundant information without being overwhelming. It is very current. (Eleanor Witta 2012-11-21)

The author provided a great deal of practical advice on a variety of tangentially related topics that I think is great for students. (Richard S. Mohn 2012-11-21)

The book is of good quality as its content is easy-to-read, comprehensive, and up-to-date. Tourism researchers are highly recommended to read this book if they want to catch up with the latest trend of application of SEM techniques. (Lawrence Hoc Nang Fong and Rob Law *European Journal of Tourism Management*)

This book is a valuable reference to acquire basic grasps on PLS-SEM, especially for readers who do not have background in advanced statistics... The volume will undoubtedly become a basic reference for students, teachers, researchers, and practitioners interested in learning and teaching the fundamental concepts of PLS-SEM. (Adrian Leguina, University of Manchester)

#### About the Author

**Joe F. Hair, Jr.** is Professor of Marketing, DBA Director and the Cleverdon Chair of Business in the Mitchell College of Business, University of South Alabama. He previously was Senior Scholar, DBA Program, Coles College of Business, Kennesaw State University, held the Copeland Endowed Chair of Entrepreneurship and was Director, Entrepreneurship Institute, Ourso College of Business Administration, Louisiana State University. He has authored over 60 books, including *Multivariate Data Analysis* (7th edition, 2010) (cited 140,000+ times), *MKTG* (10<sup>th</sup> edition, 2016), *Essentials of Business Research Methods* (2016), and *Essentials of Marketing Research* (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2017). He also has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and was recognized as the Academy of Marketing Science Marketing Educator of the year. A popular guest speaker, Professor Hair often presents seminars on research techniques, multivariate data analysis, and marketing issues for organizations in Europe, Australia, China, India, and South America.

**Dr. G. Tomas M. Hult** is Professor and Byington Endowed Chair in International Business and Director of the International Business Center in the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. He has been Executive Director of the Academy of International Business and President of the AIB Foundation since 2004, was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science from 2009 to 2015, and has been on the U.S. Department of Commerce's District Export Council since 2012. Professor Hult is one of some 80 elected Fellows of the Academy of International Business. He is one of the world's leading authorities in global strategy, with a particular focus on topics dealing with the intersection of global strategy and supply chain management. In various ranking studies, Hult is listed as one of the top-cited authors in business and economics (e.g., Thomson Reuters). He regularly teaches doctoral seminars on multivariate statistics, structural equation modeling, and hierarchical linear modeling worldwide. Dr. Hult is a dual citizen of Sweden and the United States. More information about Tomas Hult can be found at <http://www.tomashult.com>

**Christian M. Ringle** is a Chaired Professor of Management at the Hamburg University of Technology (Germany) and Conjoint Professor at the Faculty of Business Law at the University of Newcastle (Australia). He holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Kansas and received his doctor of philosophy from the University of Hamburg (Germany). His widely published research addresses the management of organizations, strategic and human resource management, marketing, and quantitative methods for business and market research. He is cofounder of SmartPLS (<http://www.smartpls.com>), a software tool with a graphical user interface for the application of the partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) method. Besides supporting consultancies and international corporations, he regularly teaches doctoral seminars on multivariate statistics, the PLS-SEM method, and the use of SmartPLS worldwide. More information about Christian M. Ringle and his full list of publications can be found at <http://www.tuhh.de/hrmo/team/prof-dr-c-m-ringle.html>.

**Marko Sarstedt** is Chaired Professor of Marketing at the Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg (Germany) and Conjoint Professor to the Faculty of Business and Law at the University of Newcastle (Australia). He previously was an Assistant Professor of Quantitative Methods in Marketing and Management at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (Germany). His main research is in the application and advancement of structural equation modeling methods to further the understanding of consumer behavior and to improve marketing decision-making. His research has been published in journals such as *Journal of Marketing Research*, *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, *Organizational Research Methods*, *MIS Quarterly*, *International Journal of Research in Marketing*, *Long Range Planning*, *Journal of World Business*, and *Journal of Business Research*. According to the Handelsblatt ranking, Sarstedt is among the top three young academic marketing researchers in Germany. He regularly teaches doctoral seminars on multivariate statistics, structural equation modeling, and measurement worldwide.

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