

around, maybe Jean Marx will, after all, see the day when a few dinosaurs are "rounded up and studied directly."

J. RICHARD GREENWELL

*Office of Arid Land Studies,
University of Arizona, Tucson 85719*

Yale's Discontinued Department

The article "'New wave in academia' wipes out department at Yale" (News and Comment, 17 Mar., p. 1189) contains several inaccuracies which should be put straight. The initiative for discontinuing the Department of the History of Science and Medicine at Yale did *not* originate in the School of Medicine. The fourth professor was George (not Charles) Rosen. At no time did the medical school "want to deploy the vacant professorship in a subject such as the ethics of medicine." In fact, the School of Medicine is currently engaged in a search for an individual to fill a senior faculty position at the rank of professor or associate professor as the head of a Section of the History of Medicine.

ROBERT W. BERLINER

*Office of the Dean,
School of Medicine, Yale University,
New Haven, Connecticut 06510*

Sex Differentials in Salaries:

Faults in Analysis of Covariance

Much criticism has been leveled against the use of covariance procedures to adjust for known differences among populations in order to test for hypothesized differences among them. The criticisms offered by Woodward and Goldstein (9 Sept. 1977, p. 1096) of the research on "communication deviance in the families of schizophrenics" apply, with minor variations, to the work of Bayer and Astin (23 May 1975, p. 796) relative to salary differences between men and women on university faculties.

The major conclusion of Bayer and Astin is that men are paid more than women of similar academic rank, departmental affiliation (1), number of publications, and so forth. Variables such as number of publications are, however, fallible indicators of constructs, and being fallible they control incompletely for the target construct, research productivity. As a result, one cannot infer a salary differential because of sex from the analysis offered by Bayer and Astin.

Instead of reiterating criticisms of analysis of covariance offered by Wood-

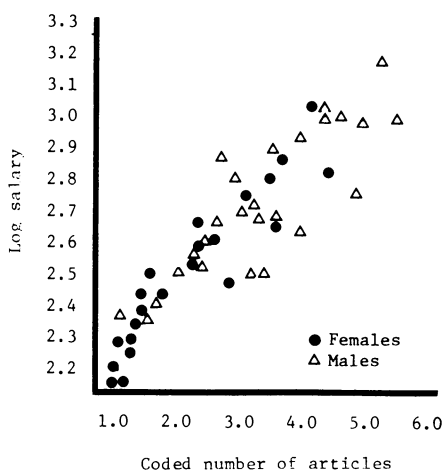


Fig. 1. Mean log salary plotted against mean number of articles for groups homogeneous with respect to sex, rank, and departmental affiliation (3). For each group $N \geq 25$.

ward and Goldstein and many others, I refer the reader to Fig. 1, which is derived from Bayer and Astin's data (2). In that figure it is evident that there are sex differences in both number of publications and salary. However, inspection of this figure, and other figures (3) based on the means of other homogeneous groupings in the same population, indicates that there is no systematic salary differential attributable to sex per se. Although in some of these groups men seem to have been paid more than women, the opposite seems true equally often.

In many respects this way of looking at the data is also vulnerable to criticism. No claim is made from this analysis that a sex differential in salary is not present. It seems reasonable to suppose, however, that one should be able to detect a sizable differential from inspection of such plots. On the other hand, the covariance analysis used by Bayer and Astin is known to be biased in the direction the results indicate: that is, the group higher on the fallible covariate will tend to appear disproportionately higher on the variate (when the variate and the covariate are positively correlated) even when there would be no such disproportionate difference if an infallible covariate were used.

LEROY WOLINS

*Department of Statistics,
Iowa State University, Ames 50011*

References and Notes

1. Departmental affiliation is a grouping of faculty according to kind of department: business, education, biology, physical sciences, social sciences, fine arts, humanities, health.
2. I thank Bayer and Astin for making these available.
3. Tables upon which Fig. 1 and the other figures are based are available from the author.
4. Supported by contract NIE-C-74-0115 from the National Institute of Education.



Counting a gel is like choosing a wine

You may not get a satisfactory result unless you know your polymers as well as your vineyards. Yet the number of different gels used for electrophoresis in biomedical research is almost infinite. So to avoid gel counting errors before they happen, call or write our LSC Applications Laboratory, where helping with counting problems is the staff's principal activity.

Meanwhile consider eluting the radioactivity from the gel as an alternative to solubilization. We have developed a procedure using our PROTOSOL® and ECONOFLUOR™ which is very simple and avoids problems that sometimes arise in preparing homogeneous samples. Ask us to send you LSC Application Note #22, by Dr. Yutaka Kobayashi.

NEN New England Nuclear
549 Albany Street, Boston, Mass. 02118
Call toll-free: 800-225-1572
(In Massachusetts and International:
617-482-9595)

NEN Chemicals GmbH: D-6072 Dreieich, W. Germany,
Daimlerstrasse 23, Postfach 401240,
Telephone: (06103) 85034, Telex: 4-17993 NEN D

NEN Canada Ltd., 2453 46th Avenue,
Lachine, Que. H8T 3C9,
Telephone: 514-636-4971, Telex: 05-821808