

22 March 1934.

Professor Fréchet,
University de Paris,
Institut Henri Poincaré,
11. Rue Pierre-Curie,
Paris Vème.

Dear Professor Fréchet,

I am very much obliged for the copy of Professor Gini's remarks, which you have sent me and which provide, in my opinion, an excellently lucid preliminary statement to the study of two variables. The exposition stops short, however, of any discussion of the relation between what we calculate from our observations and what we thence conclude about the population of which these observations form a sample, i.e. he does not discuss whether the quantities he mentions should be regarded as estimates of something existant in this hypothetical population or of the principles which should guide one's choice of estimates, when this is their object. In a word the Italian treatment seems to stop short at the descriptive and not pass on to the interpretive phase of statistical research.

Let me explain that I do not doubt the revelance in very many cases of the ratio known as η^2 and especially of its numerator. In English work, however, η

was put forward as a substitute for r in cases where, owing to non-linear regression, r was clearly inadequate and there are many cases in the literature in which a value of η has been substituted for a value of r , in for example, the equations of partial correlation. It is this kind of usage which I deplore, and indeed, I think it was a pity that two such different quantities should have been given similar names, as though their purpose and correct use were closely analogous.

I have no direct objection if M. Methost wishes it, to his having my previous note printed.

Yours sincerely,