

**Remember:**

- Partial correlation takes a correlation between 2 variables and makes an **adjustment** for the fact that they both correlate with a third variable (it **'recalculates'** the correlation **cleaned up** from the 'combination' of the third variable).
- This results in a 'first order partial correlation' but you can control for more variables, e.g. with two controlled variables you would have a resulting **'second order** partial correlation' etc.
- However, this is **not a fishing expedition**, there needs to be a rationale and control needs to be **kept to a minimum** to be meaningful!
- Be aware: if you had, say found that 3 variables were strongly bi-correlated, it does not at all follow that partialling out one variable will make a substantive difference.
- Partial correlation can only be carried out if there appears to be a **linear relationship**.
- Causality: simply removing the influence of a third or fourth variable **does not** mean that the resultant partial correlation all of a sudden becomes evidence of a **causal** relationship!

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