

## Inside this Newsletter

Message from the Incoming Section Chair.....	1-2
Message from the Outgoing Section Chair.....	3-4
JSM 2016.....	4
Upcoming Webinars and Short Courses.....	5-6
Nominate Deserving Fellows.....	7
JSM 2015 Award Winners.....	8-10
Awards in memory of Robert Ferber and Seymour Sudman.....	11-12
Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.....	12
Application for the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship.....	13
Your SRMS Officers.....	14
SRMS Mission Statement.....	15

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## Message from the Incoming Section Chair

Michael Larsen



Happy New Year! I hope your year starts off well and you have a lot of positive anticipation for things to come. I am honored that you have selected me as Chair of SRMS. The members of the 2015 SRMS Executive Committee deserve many thanks for their efforts and leadership of our section. Based on my involvement as Chair-elect during 2015 it is apparent to me that the section has a solid foundation on which to continue to grow and serve its members. I wish to welcome the incoming 2016 SRMS board members and thank them in advance for their time and contributions.

A number of past incoming section chairs have noted in their opening letters that our profession and the field of survey research are evolving rapidly. This certainly is true today. Surveys and survey research increasingly encounter the potential and challenges of big data, administrative data and record linkage, a plethora of Internet enabled devices, and social media. Concerns about confidentiality, privacy, reproducibility, response rates, non-random samples, and costs figure prominently in many ongoing and new survey efforts.

The SRMS anticipates an exciting program for JSM 2016 in Chicago. Please consider submitting an abstract for a presentation, poster, or speed session to SRMS. We hope to see you at the SRMS business meeting and mixer, normally held Wednesday evening at JSM. Nonmembers are welcome, too. News of the section's activities will be reported. Awards will be given. We will discuss issues that affect the section and the ASA as a whole and welcome your participation and ideas. Please attend to enjoy the free food and drink and the opportunity to socialize with colleagues.

Besides the short courses, roundtables, and technical sessions at JSM, the SRMS plans a series of webinars throughout the year. The webinars and other opportunities are announced to the SRMS membership via email, in the section newsletter, and on the section website. The section website also contains links to the proceedings of our section, past newsletters, and other useful links, as well as the "What is a Survey" series, which should be updated during 2016. Please ask if you need help accessing any of these resources, and please let us know if you have suggestions for any SRMS education and information efforts.

The Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology (JSSAM), an Oxford journal sponsored by ASA and AAPOR, began publishing in 2013. The JSSAM aims "to publish cutting edge scholarly articles on statistical and methodological issues for sample surveys, censuses, administrative record systems, and other related data." In 2016 it will continue to be free to SRMS members. The executive committee has begun (in December of 2015) to discuss continuation of low-cost access to the journal for section members. The executive committee of SRMS also is discussing the possibility of a discount in membership for SRMS ASA members who also belong to AAPOR. Many see a close relationship between our section and AAPOR as a natural occurrence given the substantial overlap in society interests.

It is critical for the future of our profession, the ASA, and the SRMS that they attract students and young professionals to join our ranks. The SRMS sponsors travel, student paper, and poster awards for the JSM and the E.C. Bryant Scholarship for an outstanding graduate student in survey statistics. SRMS members participate in ASA formal mentoring efforts and engage in informal mentoring of junior colleagues as well. Please do what you can this year to encourage students and recent graduates to join and stay active in SRMS. If you have any suggestions for the Executive Board of SRMS to consider in this regard, please do not hesitate to let us know.

My email is [mlarsen@gwu.edu](mailto:mlarsen@gwu.edu). Here is hoping that we and our section have a very enjoyable and productive year!

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## Report from the Outgoing Chair

Michael Elliott



As 2015 comes to a close, I'd like to take a moment to review our section's activities and thank some of those who made it possible.

As always, one of our highlights was the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle. Program Chair Daniell Toth and Program Chair Elect Yan Li put together an excellent program, with SRMS sponsoring or co-sponsoring 4 Invited Paper Sessions, 1 Invited Poster Session, 16 Topic Contributed Paper sessions, 21 Contributed Paper sessions (including 2 Contributed Speed sessions), 2 Contributed Poster sessions, and 3 Roundtables. We also gave 8 Student Travel Awards, 5 Poster Awards, and co-sponsored 5 Student Paper Awards at JSM. SRMS congratulates the seven(!) section members who were named ASA fellows

in 2015: Ken Copeland (NORC at the University of Chicago), Jill Dever (RTI), Ofer Harel (University of Connecticut), Timothy Johnson (University of Illinois, Chicago), Peter Miller (US Census Bureau), Frank Potter (Mathematica Policy Research), and Diane Willimack (US Census Bureau). SRMS provided support for student travel to the 2015 Total Survey Error conference, as well as to the Fifth International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-V).

I want to acknowledge the members of the SRMS Executive Committee who kept the section running in 2015. Treasurer Michael P. Cohen paid bills, kept careful track of finances, and prepared the 2016 budget. Secretary Sam Hawala kept careful minutes of the board meetings and the annual Business meeting. Publication Officer Trent Buskirk announced our section activities in the Amstat News, and worked with Pushpal Mukhopadhyay to update our main website and to develop a "micro website" on the official ASA webpage to direct traffic to our main website. Education Officer Stas Kolenikov helped in a number of areas, most prominently organizing two webinars: David Judkins (Abt Associates) presented on statistical issues in population-based evaluation studies, and Paul Biemer (RTI International) reported on the ASPIRE quality control system. Council of Sections Representatives Jeffery Gonzalez and Howard Hogan attended Council of Section meetings, serving as intermediaries between SRMS and the larger ASA. I especially want to thank past Chair Phil Kott for his help and advice, and for guiding the SRMS "ship" smoothly, making my term easy, and Chair-Elect Michael Larsen, who has been working hard on a number of issues for 2016 to ensure another smooth transition. I also want to thank Rick Peterson, the ASA staff liaison who has helped me and others throughout 2015 with various critical day-to-day details.

Finally, I want to acknowledge other Section members who are not formal Section officers but who rather volunteer their time year after year to help SRMS. Pushpal Mukhopadhyay kept the Section website ([www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS](http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS)) up to date, and also oversaw a number of improvements, including adding the Social Statistics Proceedings (the section that SRMS "grew out" of) from its onset in 1958 through 1977, the year SRMS was founded. Dan Liao joined Jamie Ridenhour to continue publishing the newsletter, an important but time-consuming task.

May all SRMS members have a happy and healthy 2016!

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## JSM 2016

Yan Li



Dear SRMS session members,

Here is a gentle reminder that submission of abstracts is now open.

For contributed sessions, including papers, posters, and speed presentations, the abstract submission period closes on **February 1, 2016**.

For details or submission, go to <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2016/contributedsessions.cfm>

Thank you for your interest, and I hope to hear from you with a submission.

For the coming JSM 2016, six invited sessions are selected and (co-)sponsored by SRMS:

<b>SESSION ID</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
212308	Resampling Methods in Mixed Effects Models with Applications in Small Area Estimation and Other Related Fields
212310	Recent Developments in Survey Sampling – Session in Honor of Graham Kalton's 80th Birthday
212329	Modeling, Analysis, and Inference from Surveys Using Bayesian Methods
212362	Statistical Inference with Clustered Data in Survey Sampling
212363	Design and Analysis Issues with Modern Population Telephone Surveys
212371	Survey Costs and Survey Designs: Trade-Offs and Advances

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## Upcoming Webinars and Short Courses

Stas Kolenikov



In 2015, we had two webinars. On March 19, David Judkins (Abt Associates) offered a webinar "Design, weighting and variance estimation for population-based evaluation studies". On September 10, Paul Biemer (RTI) offered a webinar "A Total Survey Error Approach to Managing the Data Quality of Statistical Products".

We have two forthcoming webinars. On February 26, Annie Pettit (Peanut Labs) is going to offer a webinar on "How to create presentations that people will actually remember". Annie Pettit, Ph.D., is Chief Research Officer at Peanut Labs, an online market research company. Annie is a market research methodologist with fifteen years of experience in data quality of online surveys, research panels, and social media research, working across a spectrum of methodologies, be that quantitative, online panels, sampling, Big Data, and analytics. She is excited by the opportunity to project her expertise in psychology of visual perception of survey layouts such as web pages to improve the ways research presentations can be designed and delivered. Although the topic of making presentations may be somewhat tangential to survey research per se, it displays synergies that arise in our work. This is what she said about the material she is going to cover:

"You might think that choosing the most salient pieces of information and copying them into a presentation is all that is required to communicate research findings with an audience. That is false. In order to engage an audience and help them to follow and believe in your argument, you must follow some basic presentation techniques. And that doesn't mean adding clip-art to every other page. In this webinar, you will learn how to tailor your presentation for conferences versus other types of events. You will learn how to set-up slides so that audiences can quickly and easily identify the most important information, as well as learn techniques to help keep audience members engaged and able to follow your train of thought. This webinar is a must for anyone who wants to spark serious conversations at conferences such as ASA, AAPOR, SSC, and other professional gatherings, or gain an extra edge on the job market."

Another planned webinar, to be offered by Margaret R. Roller (Roller Research) and Paul J. Lavrakas (Independent Consultant), will be titled "Enhancing the Value of Qualitative Research Using the Total Quality Framework (TQF)". Margaret and Paul developed TQF as a projection of the total survey error (TSE) framework for qualitative research. The TQF is the focus of their new book, *Applied Qualitative Research Design: A Total Quality Framework Approach* (Roller & Lavrakas, 2015; Guilford Press). The TQF provides researchers with a systematic yet highly flexible way to (a) give explicit attention to quality issues in qualitative research, (b) critically examine the possible sources of bias and inconsistency in qualitative methods, (c) incorporate features into research designs that try to mitigate these effects, (d)

acknowledge and take their implications into consideration during analysis, and (e) thereby maximize quality research outcomes. The date for this webinar has not been set yet; please keep an eye on the announcements from ASA.

SRMS will offer two short courses at the JSM 2016 in Chicago.

The course "Advanced Topics in Survey Sampling" by Jae-Kwang Kim and Wayne Fuller (both of Iowa State University) is a condensed version of the graduate course taught at their school. The course will cover such advanced topics as use of auxiliary information in design and estimation, replicate variance estimation, and use of models in conjunction with sampling. These topics are not covered in the standard introductory courses, yet they represent the everyday reality of a survey statistician's practical work. As such, it would be a helpful course for statisticians who design complex survey samples and work with complex survey data.

The course "Indirect Sampling and Hard-to-Reach Populations" by Pierre Lavalley (Statistics Canada) is a unique course offering exposition of the weight share methods, related techniques of sampling from multiple frames, and generalizations of the weight share methods in relation to network sampling. With the complexity of survey data collection increasing over time, a lot of surveys utilize versions of multiple frame sampling in practice, and improving the methodology of such samples is an important practical matter. This is a unique educational opportunity; a course like this has not been offered for a very long time, and it may or may not be offered again.

Please keep these offerings in mind as you start planning for the JSM. The dates and times for these courses will be announced later when the ASA will have put the full program together.

Sincerely yours,

Stas Kolenikov, Abt SRBI

Education Officer

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## Nominate Deserving Fellows

David Marker, Chair of SRMS Fellows Committee

Each year the ASA selects up to 62 members to be honored as Fellows. Seven of this year's 62 Fellows were members of the SRMS. We believe there are more SRMS members who are deserving of this recognition. Everyone is encouraged to identify friends and co-workers who would be strong candidates. Anyone can be nominated by getting the application from <https://www.amstat.org/fellows/nominations/index.cfm?> . The deadline for applications is 3:00 AM, March 1, 2016.

The role of the SRMS Fellows Committee is to help facilitate this process by identifying worthy candidates and finding people to spearhead their nomination. I am the chair of the Committee, along with members Mick Couper (University of Michigan), Brian Harris-Kojetin (U.S. Office of Management and Budget), and Elizabeth Stasny (Ohio State University). To be eligible, a candidate must have been a member of the ASA for the most recent 3 years (as of March 1, 2016). Deserving candidates have been active professionally, whether through publications, involvement in the ASA, or other activities. More details can be found at <http://www.amstat.org/awards/fellows.cfm>

If you have a suggestion on who should be nominated, or are willing to help nominate someone but have questions about how to proceed, please feel free to contact any committee member. My email is [DavidMarker@Westat.com](mailto:DavidMarker@Westat.com).

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## JSM 2015 Award Winners

### Student Travel Awards

\$800:

- Sharr Barracks, Columbia University
- Isabelle Beaudry, University of Massachusetts
- Addison James, Oregon State University
- Sepideh Mosaferi, University of Maryland, JPSM

\$650:

- Yahia El-Horbaty, University of Southampton
- Finbarr Leacy, Cambridge University
- Xin Wang, Iowa State University
- Hui Yang, Ohio State University

### Student Paper Competition Winners

- Peng Ding (Harvard University) "*Randomization Inference for Treatment Effect Variation.*"
- Maryclare Griffin (University of Washington) "*Assessing Feasibility of Respondent Driven Sampling Using Pilot Data with an Application to Older Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Adults.*"
- Jingchen Monika Hu (Duke University) "*Dirichlet Process Mixture Models for Nested Unordered Categorical Data.*"
- Dandan Liao (University of Maryland, College Park) "*Adapting Threshold Regression to Analyzing Survival Data Collected in Complex Surveys.*"
- Yenny Webb-Vargas (John Hopkins ) "*Applying Multiple Imputation for External Calibration to Propensity Score Analysis.*"

### Poster Awards

- George Couzens (RTI International) "*Income interpolation from categories using a percentile constrained inverse-CDF approach*"
- Yinan Fang (Iowa State University) "*Semiparametric Estimation for Generalized Linear Models with Missing Covariates*"
- Heather Kitada (Oregon State University) "*Adjusting for effects of survey model difference across a longitudinal mixed-mode study*"
- Sahar Zangeneh (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center) "*Partially Missing at Random and Ignorable Inferences for Parameter Subsets with Missing Data*"
- Vladislav Beresovsky (National Center for Health Statistics) "*Sensitivity Analysis of Bias of Estimates from Web Surveys with Nonrandomized Panel Selection*"

## **Poster Judge Appreciation**

- Qixuan Chen, Columbia University
- Julie Gershunskaya, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Steven Heeringa, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
- Noorie Hyun, National Institutes of Health
- Phillip Kott, RTI International
- Dan Liao, RTI International
- Van Parson, National Center for Health Statistics
- Paul J. Smith, University of Maryland-College Park



**Student Travel Award Winners**



**Student Paper Competition Winners**



**Poster Awards**



**Poster Judge Appreciation**

There were two other awards also presented during the SRMS Business Meeting.

**ASA/GSS Data Challenge 2015 Winners**

- Professional Winner: Darryl Creel
- Student Winner: Lucy D'Agostino

**WSS Student Travel Award**

- Hui Shao (George Mason University)



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## 14th Annual Robert Ferber and Seymour Sudman Dissertation Awards

During a ceremony at the Survey Research Laboratory on the Urbana campus, four doctoral students were honored for the quality of their work utilizing survey research methodology. The two winners of the 2015 Robert Ferber and Seymour Sudman Dissertation Awards were presented with \$2000 awards and plaques commemorating their achievement. Two other students each received an honorable mention certificate and a check for \$200. Drs. Ferber and Sudman, in whose memory the awards were established, were eminent scholars at the University of Illinois in the field of survey research.



*From left to right: Stephanie Timm, Dongying Li, Blanche Sudman, Kaye Usry, Katherine Ann Magerko*

**Dongying Li**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Landscape Architecture, is the winner of the Robert Ferber Dissertation Award. Her dissertation, *Space-Time Access to Green Space and Adolescent Stress: Questions of Constraints and Equity*, examines access to green space and adolescent stress using space-

time accessibility framework. The knowledge provided by the results of this study could provide rationale for developing restorative environments that help adolescents recover from and build resilience to stress.

**Katherine Ann Magerko**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Human and Community Development, is the winner of the Seymour Sudman Dissertation Award. Her dissertation, *Healthy Hearts in Family Child Care: What is the Current State of Provider Health?* will study the health of family child care providers using a combination of survey, direct observations, and biological measures. Recognizing that child care providers can positively or negatively impact children's health, studying the health of the care givers provides a target for intervention to improve child health.

**Kaye Usry**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science received the Robert Ferber Honorable Mention for her dissertation, *The Consequences of Traumatic Life Experiences for Civic Engagement*.

**Stephanie Timm**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning received the Seymour Sudman Honorable Mention for her dissertation, *Learning from Singapore: The Role of Cultural and Behavioral Factors in Sustainable Water Planning*.

Past winners of the Dissertation Awards can be viewed at:  
<http://www.srl.uic.edu/ferbersudman/recipients.htm>.

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## American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow

SRMS Treasurer Michael P. Cohen has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) by their Council. Mike is a Principal Statistician at the American Institutes for Research in Georgetown. The honor of being elected an AAAS Fellow began in 1874 for members whose “efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished.” The AAAS citation for Mike reads: “For significant statistical research, especially methods for large-scale statistical surveys, and for fostering inter-disciplinary communication through many years of generous service to professional societies.” Mike is also an ASA Fellow.

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## Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Application

Application for the [Edward C. Bryant Scholarship](http://www.amstat.org/awards/ecbryantscholarship.cfm) is now available. Each year, an outstanding graduate student in survey statistics is awarded the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship to help support the student's graduate education. Application deadline is March 1, 2016. The award will be presented at the 2016 Joint Statistical Meetings. More information can be found at <http://www.amstat.org/awards/ecbryantscholarship.cfm>

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## Your SRMS Officers

Chair: Michael Larsen

Chair-Elect: Elaine Zanutto

Past-Chair: Michael Elliott

Treasurer: Michael P. Cohen

Secretary: Rachel A. Caspar

2016 JSM Program Chair: Yan Li

2016 JSM Program Chair-Elect: Tom Krenzke

Publications Officer: Trent Buskirk

Education Officer: Stas Kolenikov

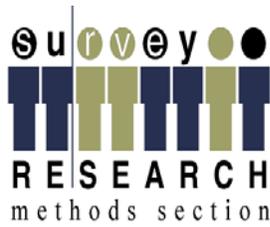
Section Representatives: Howard Hogan, Julia Soulakova

ASA Staff Liasion: Rick Peterson

More information can be found at

<http://www.amstat.org/sections/officers.cfm?txtComm=SSRMS>.

Newsletter Editors: Jamie Ridenhour and Dan Liao



## SRMS Mission Statement

SRMS has 1500 members, of which over 100 are based outside of North America, and is one of the largest ASA Sections. The SRMS mission is to promote the improvement of survey practice and the understanding of survey methods by encouraging both theoretical and applied research on survey-related topics, and by disseminating information on survey methods.

Areas of interest for the Section include all that employ survey methodology as a focus or as a prime tool of investigation. Of special interest are:

- ❖ Theoretical foundations of sampling;
- ❖ Sample design and estimation;
- ❖ Nonsampling errors and data collection methods;
- ❖ Analysis and presentation of survey data;
- ❖ Education of the public and students on the importance of scientific survey research;
- ❖ Publication and dissemination of survey research findings; and
- ❖ Ethics related to survey conduct and standards for survey practice.

**Not a member yet?** Here is how you can join:

- If you are not an ASA member, go to the membership page of the ASA and fill the application at [www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=becomeamember](http://www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=becomeamember). Then sign up for the SRMS section as part of your membership.
- If you are already an ASA member, just call customer service at 1-888-231-3473 to add SRMS membership.

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The SRMS has produced material and resources that are available on our website including:

- ❖ The “What is a Survey?” series for non-specialists, free of charge
- ❖ The SRMSNET Mailing List
- ❖ List of other related associations
- ❖ Survey Analysis Software (under *Links and Resources*)
- ❖ Universities and Laboratories
- ❖ ...and much more.

For more information, including links to specific officers, check out the SRMS website at: [www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html](http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html) or there is also a link from the ASA website at [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org).