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Message from the Incoming Section Chair
Morgan Earp

Happy New Year! The American Statistical Association (ASA) and the Survey Methods Research Section (SMRS) have some exciting plans for 2020. The theme of this year’s Joint Statistical Meetings is “Everyone Counts: Data for the Public Good.” As a statistician and a public servant for the last 14 years, this year’s theme really hits home for me. Much of the work we do in SRMS focuses on reducing total survey error (all the way from data collection through dissemination), and as a research statistician in the government, I am constantly thinking about how we can minimize survey errors, improve our estimates, and reduce respondent burden. One important component to achieving all three of these goals is demonstrating that the data
we collect and the estimates we provide are not only useful but essential for our society to make fact based decisions, decisions that ultimately serve the public good.

In 2017, the ASA launched the Count on Stats campaign to highlight all the ways in which the US Federal statistical agencies work to provide accurate estimates related to the economy, agriculture, health, crime, etc. As we transition into a new decade, we continue to face response rate and big data challenges, with questions arising as to how we can use the abundance of one form of data to combat the shortage of another. How do we continue to provide valid and reliable data for the public good in an ever changing survey climate?

The SRMS is working to provide our members with multiple opportunities to explore these questions further. In addition to an array of webinars throughout the year and pertinent invited and topic contributed session at the Joint Statistical Meetings, SRMS is also sponsoring the International Conference on Establishment Statistics in New Orleans (ICES VI).

This year, the SRMS will introduce four new Executive Council members, all of whom I’ve had the pleasure to work with in the past. Jeff Gonzalez stepped up as our 2020 Program Chair; he has served SRMS previously as our 2015-2017 Section Representative and was the 2019 Program Chair for Government Statistics Section. Brady West is our 2020 Program Chair Elect and served as the Chair of the American Association for Public Opinion Research’s Education Committee in 2017-2018. Gina Walejko is our 2020-2021 Secretary and was the 2018 Program Chair for the Government Statistics Section. Last, but not least, Tony An, who served as our 2017-2018 SRMS Publications Officer is our 2020 Chair Elect.

Please read on for a recap on all the great work done last year and how we are building upon it this year.

I look forward to continuing to serve the ASA and the SRMS and of course seeing everyone in Philadelphia this summer.
Report from the Outgoing Chair
Kennon R. Copeland

Happy New Year, SRMS members! It has been a privilege to serve as chair of the Survey Research Methods Section for 2019. Many people contribute to section activities, and I’d like to take this opportunity to recognize our section’s achievements and some of the people who made it all possible.

Of course, our main highlight of the year was the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver. Program Chair Asaph Young Chun and Program Chair-Elect Yang Cheng put together an excellent program with SRMS sponsoring a large number and variety of sessions (13 invited, 18 topic contributed, 7 contributed, 4 speed and 2 poster) and round tables (5). We also gave out one student travel award, 6 poster/speed-poster awards, and 5 student paper awards (jointly with GSS and SSS). I would also like to recognize 2020 Program Chair-Elect Brady West who stepped and in and helped Young get SRMS to the finish line at JSM after Yang Cheng had to unexpectedly resign. We congratulate our members who were named ASA fellows in 2019: Babette Brumback, Craig Hill, and Jonathan Schildcrout.

Thanks also to Education Chair James Wagner, as he organized and had SRMS offer two webinars: *Multi-level Models and Poststratification* (Yajuan Si) and *Use of Census Data* (Nancy Bates); this latter webinar was organized by James and offered jointly with GSS and WSS.

Several accomplishments and developments:

- SRMS is a Sponsor for the International Conference on Establishment Surveys-VI (ICES-VI), to be held in New Orleans June 15-18, 2020. Look for our inserts in the conference bags; our sponsorship is also funding student travel awards and a student contest award.

- SRMS will be making an Outstanding Section Service award in 2020, as part of an ASA initiative that will have us make such an award every three years. A request for nominations, due by March 1, has been distributed to members.
• We conducted our periodic review of the SRMS Charter. A proposed revision, addressing redundant information, will be subject to approval by members during the annual election.

I would like to recognize the work and support of all members of the SRMS Executive Committee who kept the section running in 2019. Treasurer Darcy Steeg Morris monitored our financial flows, kept us fully informed with detailed monthly reports, and prepared the 2020 budget. Secretary Safaa Amer took detailed and copious minutes as a record of committee meetings. Publication Officer Steven Pedlow took care of announcing our section activities in the Amstat News and online. Education Officer James Wagner organized two webinars in 2019. Council of Sections Representatives Julia Soulakova and Jamie Ridenhour attended Council of Sections meetings, serving as intermediaries between SRMS and ASA, our mother ship. Past Chair Karol Krotki provided support throughout the year and Chair-Elect Morgan Earp is preparing for a busy 2020.

I also want to thank Rick Peterson, the ASA staff liaison who has provided critical help with various critical day-to-day details. Finally, I want to acknowledge other section members who are not elected section officers but who volunteer their time year after year to help SRMS. Pushpal Mukhopadhyay kept the Section website up to date and oversees the publishing of the SRMS JSM proceedings online. Dan Liao and Elizabeth Petraglia publish the biannual (January and July) newsletter, an important task that keeps our memberships informed of the section activities. Looking forward, special thanks are due to Tony An, incoming Chair, for putting together an excellent candidate slate for 2020 elections. Gina Walejko is taking over as Secretary from Safaa Amer, who has already worked with Gina in the transition process. Brady West will be JSM Program Chair-Elect in 2020, and already had a baptism by fire helping Young with final details for 2019 JSM. Thanks also to everyone for participating in section activities and contributing to our community. Hope to see everyone at JSM 2020 in Denver.
Report from the Publications Officer

Steven Pedlow

Our section provides free access to the Proceedings for the entire history of the Survey Research Methods Section (1978-2018), as well as the Proceedings from the Social Statistics Section (from which our section separated in 1978) from 1958-1977; and from all five International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES) meetings (1993-2016). Please note that some of these years are prior to the electronic proceedings available through ASA (2009-today); the section has scanned all earlier papers as a service to survey researchers. To access the proceedings page, you can simply click on “Proceedings” on the top of our section’s new homepage, or proceed directly to http://www.asasrms.org/Proceedings/index.html. This beautiful page is largely due to the excellent work of our dedicated volunteer Webmaster Pushpal Mukhopadhyay.

Look for the 2019 JSM Proceedings to appear on our website during the summer next year.

The section is on twitter with the handle @srmsasa (https://twitter.com/srmsasa). We now have 519 followers. Look for a midweek tweet 2-3 times a month with upcoming news and events. Follow us, and send us your news to share with the SRMS membership and survey researchers everywhere.

Besides these SRMS Newsletters in July and January, look for section news in Amstat News Section News articles and on Twitter. If you attend JSM 2020 in Philadelphia on August 1-6, 2020, please make plans to attend our SRMS Business Meeting in Philadelphia.
Here is a preview of the sessions slated for the SRMS Invited Program:

- Technology Impact on Total Survey Error
- State-of-the-art Developments with Nonignorable Nonresponse
- Synthetic Data and Differential Privacy: Data, Privacy and the Public Good
- Modern Modeling Approaches using Unit Level Survey Data
- New Approaches to Model-Assisted Survey Estimation with Informative Weights
- Current Trends in Bayesian Survey Sampling

The call for Topic-Contributed Sessions has passed, but don’t miss your chance to participate in the program!

Other key dates are:

- **SRMS Contributed Sessions** - Submissions are open Dec 3, 2019 – Feb 4, 2020
- **SRMS Roundtable Submissions** - Submissions are open Dec 3, 2019 – Feb 4, 2020
Nominate Deserving Fellows

SRMS Fellows Committee

Each year the ASA selects up to 62 members to be honored as Fellows. 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 filling out the nomination form at https://www.amstat.org/fellows/nominations/index.cfm. The deadline for applications is 11:59 PM EST, March 1, 2020.

The role of the SRMS Fellows Committee is to help facilitate this process by identifying worthy candidates and finding people to spearhead their nomination. The committee members are Mary Gray, Jay Breidt, Jill Dever, and Ruth Ann Killion. To be eligible, a candidate must have been a member of the ASA for the most recent 3 years (from March 1, 2017, to February 29, 2020). 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/ASA/Your-Career/Awards/ASA-Fellows.aspx. The ASA has also provided helpful suggestions for potential nominators at https://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/fellows/TipsforNominators.pdf.

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.
Congratulations to the JSM 2019 SRMS Poster Award Winners

Asaph Young Chun

The Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) of the American Statistical Association (ASA) offers Poster Awards for the most outstanding poster or speed session presentations. This year, six winners were selected:

2019 JSM SRMS Poster Award Winners

- **Allshine Chen** (University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center) "Statistical Disclosure Control with Machine Learning"
- **Rachel Harter** (RTI International) "A Practical Guide to Small Area Estimation, Illustrated Using the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey"
- **Christian Léger** (Université de Montréal) "A Smooth Pseudo-Population Bootstrap Approach in Survey Sampling with Applications to Quantile Estimators"
- **David McGrath** (Department of Defense) "Effect of Monetary Incentives on Response Rates and Data Quality in a Survey of the U.S. Military"

Photos of winners who attended the SRMS Business Meeting are included below, as well as a photo of student award winners in attendance. Congratulations to all!
SRMS Poster Competition winners being congratulated by 2019 SRMS Chair Kennon Copeland.

**Clockwise from upper left:**
Christian Léger, David Popko, Jerry Maples

**Left to right:**
2019 SRMS/SSS/GSS Student Paper Competition winner Joshua Bon, SRMS 2019 Chair Kennon Copeland, 2019 SRMS Student Travel Award winner Ali Rafei
Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians

The 53rd Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians will be offered by the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research from June 3 to July 31, 2020. Founded by Professor Leslie Kish in 1961, the Sampling Program is devoted to training statisticians in sound probability sampling methods for diverse complex survey research problems. Since its inception, the Sampling Program has trained hundreds of participants from over 100 countries.

This intensive eight-week training program covers the principles and practice of survey sampling, the analysis of complex sample survey data, and application of sampling methods in many settings in three courses:

- Methods of Survey Sampling
- Analysis Methods for Complex Sample Survey Data
- Workshop in Survey Sampling

Participants in the Sampling Program enroll in these three courses and are considered Fellows in the Program. The methods and the analysis courses may be taken without being a Fellow, but the workshop is reserved only for Sampling Program Fellows and cannot be taken alone.

The online application is now open at [http://www.si.isr.umich.edu](http://www.si.isr.umich.edu), and includes an optional application for limited scholarship assistance through the Leslie Kish International Fellowship. For more information, please visit [http://www.si.isr.umich.edu/spss](http://www.si.isr.umich.edu/spss) or email isr-summer@umich.edu.
Now Accepting Applications for Edward C. Bryant Scholarship

Applications for the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship are now being accepted. Each year, an outstanding graduate student in survey statistics is awarded the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship to help support the student's graduate education. The application deadline for the 2020 award is March 1, 2020. The award will be presented at the 2020 Joint Statistical Meetings.

Westat established the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Trust Fund in 1995 to honor its cofounder and chair emeritus. Under Bryant's leadership, Westat, an employee-owned statistical firm established in 1961, has grown into what is now one of the world's leading statistical research corporations serving federal, state, and local governments, as well as businesses and foundations.

Graduate students in survey statistics are encouraged to apply for the scholarship. For more information, including application instructions, see http://www.amstat.org/ASA/YourCareer/Awards/Edward-C-Bryant-Scholarship-for-an-Outstanding-Graduate-Student-in-Survey-Statistics.aspx.

Dipankar Bandyopadhyay, Virginia Commonwealth University
Chair, Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Committee
Dear SRMS Members,

Our Section has an opportunity to designate one member for the ASA’s Award for the Outstanding Section Service in 2020. This award recognizes the extraordinary contributions made by a particular Section member. The awardee will be invited to attend the Awards Celebration session at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), presented with a certificate, and acknowledged in the JSM award program. Every Section has an opportunity to designate one member for the award only once in three years.

In your nomination (self-nominations are permitted), please address how the nominated person meets the three Award Criteria stated below. The nominations should be limited to one paragraph and submitted via email (julia.soulakova@ucf.edu or jridenhour@rti.org) by March 1, 2020.

Award Criteria (NOTE: “Officer” refers to any Member of the SRMS Executive Committee):

1. The awardee should be a current or past SRMS Officer AND a current SRMS member,
2. The awardee should be one who made a notable contribution to the SRMS that is beyond his/her assigned duties as an Officer, and
3. The awardee should be one who stands as a role model for the other SRMS Officers.

The SRMS Representatives will consider all nominations received by the deadline, select the top three candidates and present the selected nominations to the SRMS Executive Committee. The Committee Members (except for nominated candidates, if applicable) will vote and one awardee will be selected. If there is a tie then the SRMS Chair will identify the finalist.

Thank you for helping the SRMS to select the Awardee,

SRMS Representatives,
Julia Soulakova and Jamie Ridenhour
Submit Your BigSurv20 Abstract Now!

Antje Kirchner and Peter Lught

Following a very successful conference in Barcelona, Spain in 2018, BigSurv returns in Utrecht, The Netherlands in 2020!

**Big Data Meets Survey Science (BigSurv20)** will be held November 4-6, 2020, at Utrecht University, in Utrecht, The Netherlands. The conference offers an opportunity to address the ongoing paradigm shift in how researchers and practitioners produce, analyze, and use data. *The event is intended to foster communication, collaboration, and understanding between two groups: (1) computer and data scientists focusing on Big Data sources and analysis techniques, and (2) methodologists and social science researchers working with traditional sources of data collection and statistical analyses. By uniting efforts, we can identify and overcome academic divides and make unified “Big Survey Data” population inference a reality. Utrecht is located a convenient 25-minute train ride from Amsterdam airport, and has excellent train connections to the rest of Europe.*

**BigSurv20 is currently accepting abstracts and session proposals** on the theme, “Continuing to Explore New Statistical Frontiers at the Intersection of Big Data and Survey Science.” **The call for abstracts and session proposals closes on February 13, 2020.** To submit your abstract visit [https://www.bigsurv20.org/abstracts](https://www.bigsurv20.org/abstracts).

If you want to stay informed regarding BigSurv20 simply subscribe to our newsletter. If you have any questions, please email us at info@bigsurv20.org. We hope to see you in Utrecht in November 2020!
ASA SPAIG Award Nominations Open

The ASA’s Statistical Partnerships in Academe, Industry, and Government (SPAIG) Committee is seeking nominations for the SPAIG Award. The award will be presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2020 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The award was established in 2002 to recognize outstanding partnerships between academe, industry, and government organizations, as well as to promote new partnerships among these organizations. The award is sponsored by the ASA SPAIG Committee and distinct from other ASA awards in that it recognizes outstanding collaborations between organizations, while also recognizing key individual contributors. Recent SPAIG winners were highlighted in the November issue of AMSTAT News.

For more information, please visit the ASA SPAIG Award website. To submit a nomination, complete the online nomination form and upload supporting documents by March 1, 2020. Nomination packets will remain active for two award cycles following the submission date.

If you have any questions, please contact the SPAIG Committee at SPAIGAward@gmail.com. We look forward to receiving your nominations!

Thank you,
The ASA SPAIG Committee
SRMS Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Dan Liao and Elizabeth Petraglia

The SRMS newsletter is published twice a year in mid-January and in mid-July, typically posted on the SRMS website and shared on ASA Connect. All the SRMS members are welcome to submit items that may be of interest to other SRMS members for publication in the newsletter.

The deadline for submissions to the July newsletter is June 15th, 2020. Any submissions received after the deadline may not be accepted.

The SRMS newsletter could include:

- JSM-related materials;
- Announcements of upcoming conferences, seminars, webinars, or short courses (taking place after the newsletter’s publication date);
- Summaries of recent events or awards involving SRMS members (pictures always appreciated!).

Other types of submissions are also welcome! All submissions are subject to review by the newsletter editors and by the SRMS Executive Committee, and may be edited for length and/or clarity.

Please email any submissions to Dan Liao (dliao@rti.org) and Elizabeth Petraglia (elizabethpetraglia@westat.com), either in the body of an email or in a Microsoft Word attachment. We cannot accept PDFs.
Your SRMS Officers

Chair: Morgan Earp
Chair-Elect: Tony An
Past-Chair: Kennon Copeland
Treasurer: Darcy Steeg Morris
Secretary: Gina Walejko
2020 JSM Program Chair: Jeffrey Gonzalez
2020 JSM Program Chair-Elect: Brady West
Publications Officer: Steven Pedlow
Education Officer: James Wagner
Section Representatives: Julia Soulakova, Jamie Ridenhour
ASA Staff Liaison: Rick Peterson

More information can be found at http://ww2.amstat.org/sections/officers.cfm?txtComm=SSRMS.

Newsletter Editors: Dan Liao and Elizabeth Petraglia
Website Editor: Pushpal Mukophadhyay
SRMS Mission Statement

SRMS has 1,300 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](http://www.amstat.org))
- Universities and Laboratories
- …and much more.

For more information, including links to specific officers, check out the SRMS website at: [https://community.amstat.org/surveyresearchmethodssection/home](https://community.amstat.org/surveyresearchmethodssection/home) (note updated link) or there is also a link from the ASA website at [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org).