



Newsletter

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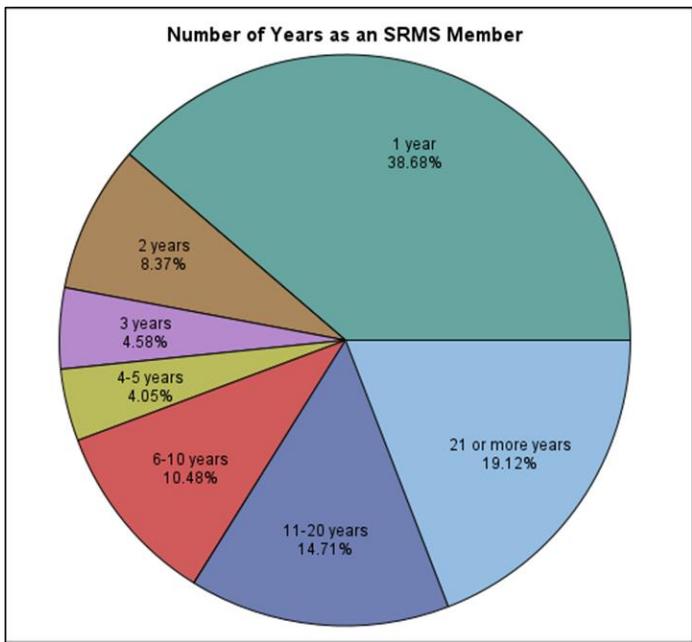
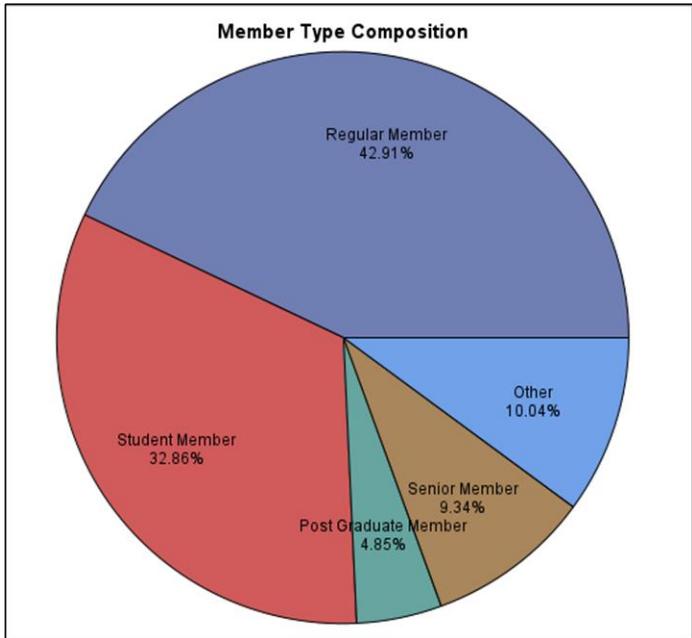
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Message from the Incoming Section Chair

Tony An



I don't need a model or AI to predict that many of you are as thrilled as I am to be able to look at 2020 in the rearview mirror. Even though we are still in the middle of a devastating pandemic, I am filled with hope that we will soon recover from it. I look forward to turning the page on a horrific and challenging year full of natural and man-made disasters. I am even more hopeful that with your support and the group of dedicated volunteers serving as our section's officers, the SRMS section will thrive and offer even more to our members in the coming year. I am humbled and honored to serve as the section chair in 2021, and I will make serving our members as my top priority.



Currently, the section provides many services, such as a subscription to the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology* and the SRMS online proceedings. The section officers have been working hard to put together short courses, webinars, JSM programming, and many awards for our members. The section has been an invaluable community that survey statisticians can use for collaboration and networking. Every

To better serve our section members, it's essential to understand who our members are. When I examined the membership data, I was both surprised and pleased that almost a third of our members (32.86%) are students! The section's outreach efforts over the years, such as offering free student membership and student travel awards, seem to have paid off and the section now has a significant number of student members.

Another striking fact is that 38.68% of SRMS members are first-year members, and the turnover rate is as high as around 30% every year. This indicates that the SRMS is definitely popular among statisticians interested in survey research, but the section should do more to retain members so they can both benefit from and contribute more to this community.

Similar to the trend in ASA membership, the SRMS has also experienced a steady decline in membership over the last few years. For example, in 2020, SRMS membership fell to 1,135 – almost a 9% drop from 2019. Student membership contributes greatly to this fluctuation: almost half the departing SRMS members each year are students.

To overcome this challenge, the SRMS can and should do more to provide more services to our members and to retain their membership.

regular membership also indirectly supports a student membership by providing a student's subscription to the journal.

Besides continuing to offer these great services, in the coming year we will organize more webinars that will be free to our members. I will propose to the board the appointment of a student representative to better identify and address the needs of our large student membership and to help retain them as regular members upon graduation. I am also re-establishing the SRMS Fellow Nomination Committee consisting of Don Jang (NORC), Mary Mulry (Census Bureau), and Jean Opsomer (Westat). I am grateful for their service. Please feel free to contact the committee for assistance if you are working on nominating a SRMS member.

To make our section successful, we need the involvement of all our members, not just the volunteers on the board and in the committees. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact me (Tony.An@sas.com) or any of our board members.

Thank you, and happy new year!

Report from the Outgoing Chair Morgan Earp



Happy New Year SRMS! 2020 was a challenging year both personally and professionally. Throughout the pandemic we faced multiple challenges as survey researchers, both in terms of data collection and estimation. Over the last year, many surveys were forced to halt in person data collection altogether, while also facing a growing demand for new, timely, and accurate information.

As a section we also faced some internal challenges, starting with the resignation of our 2020 JSM Program Chair. We were very fortunate to have Jeff Gonzalez (the 2019 Program Chair for the Government Statistics Section) agree to serve as our new 2020 Program Chair, and Brady West as our 2020 Program Chair Elect.

Together Jeff and Brady put together not one, but two JSM programs (an in-person and later a virtual conference program), including 10 invited sessions, 14 topic-contributed sessions, 8 contributed sessions, 1 poster session, and 4 roundtables, as well as hosting a virtual mixer for all SRMS members.

SRMS continued to provide members with subsidized subscriptions to the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, sponsor Student Travel Awards (to JSM), and co-sponsor the Student Paper Competition with the Government Statistics Section (GSS) and the Social Statistics Section (SSS). SRMS Newsletter Editors Dan Liao and Elizabeth Petraglia published our section newsletter in both January and July, and our Publications Officer Steven Pedlow submitted regular news articles to AmStat News and made regular

announcements on ASA Community and Twitter (@srmsasa). Our Webmaster Pushpal Mukopadhyay uploaded new SRMS conference proceedings to our website, making them publicly available to all SRMS members.

This year SRMS maintained our support of related conferences, like the second Big Data Meets Survey Science (@BigSurv20) conference that met virtually in November and December, and the sixth International Conference on Establishment Statistics that was postponed and will be hosted virtually in 2021.

In 2020, we awarded three student travel awards to the following students: Debangan Dey, Hao Sun, and Shalima Zalsha. Together with GSS and SSS, we awarded five student paper awards and organized a topic contributed session featuring the following winners: Serge Aleshin-Guendel (overall winner), Ali Rafei , Daniel Schwartz, Sepideh Mosaferi, and Adam Walder. This year, SRMS awarded our first “Outstanding Section Service Award” to the section’s long-time Webmaster, Pushpal Mukhopadhyay. At the 2020 Joint Statistical Meetings, five SRMS members became ASA Fellows: Rebecca R. Andridge, Laura Lee Johnson, Rochelle W. Martinez, Matthias Schonlau, and Zhengyuan Zhu.

This year our Education Chair, James Wagner, organized a four-part webinar on weighting with Dr. David Haziza in November, as well as an upcoming webinar on Respondent-Driven Sampling with Dr. Krista Gile on January 21st, 10am-12pm EST. Registration for this webinar can be accessed at <https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Education/Web-Based-Lectures.aspx> .

I would also like to acknowledge our 2021 Chair Tony An for putting together an excellent slate of candidates this past year, our Past Chair Ken Copeland for his mentorship and guidance, our Treasurer Darcy Steeg Morris for tracking all our finances, our Secretary Gina Walejko for documenting all our decisions and actions throughout the year, and our Council of Section Representatives Jamie Ridenhour and Julia Soulakova for representing the SRMS on the ASA Council of Sections. It has been an absolute honor and pleasure to serve the SRMS over the last two years, and I look forward to seeing where 2021 takes us. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our section and our field.

Report from the Outgoing Publications Officer

Steven Pedlow



It has been my pleasure to serve as Publications Officer, 2019-2020, for this section. The incoming Publications Officer is Dan Liao (dliao@rti.org). She has been a Newsletter Editor for several years now. Thank you for your service, Dan! Thanks also to our volunteer Webmaster Pushpal Mukhopadhyay, who maintains the wonderful SRMS website at <https://community.amstat.org/surveyresearchmethodssection/home>. Yes, you should go there right now and check it out. And if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, you should contact Dan.

One highlight of our website is that our section provides free access to the Proceedings for the entire history of the Survey Research Methods Section (1978-2019), 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 go directly to our Proceedings website at <http://www.asasrms.org/Proceedings/index.html> or simply click on “Proceedings” on the top of our section’s homepage. Look for the 2020 JSM Proceedings to appear on our website early in the new year.

Besides these SRMS Newsletters in July and January, look for section news in Amstat News Section News articles and on Twitter. The section is on twitter with the handle @srmsasa (<https://twitter.com/srmsasa>). We now have 633 followers. Follow us, and send us your news to share with the SRMS membership and survey researchers everywhere. Finally, if you attend JSM 2021 in Seattle (or online) from August 7-12, 2021, please make plans to attend our SRMS Business Meeting, which will take place in Seattle or online (just like in 2020) if JSM is online-only.

JSM 2021

Brady West

We are excited to announce six excellent SRMS invited sessions for JSM 2021 that were ultimately selected from a very competitive process. In no particular order, here are the five invited paper sessions and the one invited panel that were selected:

- Recent developments in probabilistic record linkage, multiple systems estimation and entity resolution
- Modern modeling approaches for imputation using survey data
- The missing puzzle piece: estimating survey data collection costs
- Privacy in the context of digital trace and sensor data
- Biased data, biased models? Bridging advances in survey research and computer science for improving fairness in algorithmic decision-making (invited panel, winner of open competition across all sections)
- COVID-19 and survey sampling: challenges and opportunities (winner of open competition across all sections)

Please stay tuned for the schedule of these invited sessions. Thanks to everyone who assisted with reviewing invited session proposals!

We also received a number of excellent topic-contributed session proposals, and we ultimately selected six proposals for topic-contributed sessions. Stay tuned for the schedule of these sessions as well!

Finally, the call for the joint 2021 SRMS/GSS/SSS student paper competition resulted in 23 submissions. These will be reviewed by a committee of the program chair-elects across the three sections in January, and we look forward to reviewing these papers.

The official format for JSM 2021 has not yet been announced, but whether it is virtual or in-person, SRMS will continue their rich tradition of providing a variety of interesting and inspiring talks on survey research methodology.

Review of SRMS Awards at JSM 2020

Brady West

SRMS would like to once again honor the outstanding winners of our awards at JSM 2020.

Joint SRMS / GSS / SSS Student Paper Award Winners

- **(OVERALL WINNER)** Serge Aleshin-Guendel (University of Washington) “Multifile Record Linkage and Duplicate Detection Via a Structured Prior for Partitions”
- Sepideh Mosaferi (Iowa State University) “Transformed Fay-Herriot Model with Measurement Error in Covariates”
- Ali Rafei (University of Michigan) “Robust Bayesian Non-parametric Inference for Non-probability Samples: An attempt to Combine Sensor-based Records with Traditional Survey Data”
- Daniel Schwartz (University of Chicago) “An Overlooked Bias-Variance Tradeoff for Average Treatment Effects in Multisite Randomized Trials”
- Adam Walder (Pennsylvania State University) “Privacy for Spatial Point Process Data”

All student paper award winners presented their promising work in a topic-contributed session jointly sponsored by the three sections, and were awarded \$1,000. Congratulations to the winners!

Student Travel Awards

Debangana Dey, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics
Hao Sun, Iowa State University, Department of Statistics; and
Shalima Zalsha, Southern Methodist University, Department of Statistical Science

Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Awards

Student Travel Award Winner: Aaron R. Williams, Georgetown University

Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award: Rajeshwari Sundaram, NIH-NICHD

Congratulations to all of these excellent award winners in 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://ww2.amstat.org/fellows/nominations/index.cfm>. The deadline for applications is 11:59 PM EST, March 1, 2021.

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 Don Jang (NORC), Mary Mulry (Census Bureau), and Jean Opsomer (Westat). More information is available on the SRMS website: <https://community.amstat.org/surveymethodssection/fellows>.

To be eligible, a candidate must have been a member of the ASA for the most recent 3 years (from March 1, 2018, to February 29, 2021). Deserving candidates have been active professionally, whether through publications, involvement in the ASA, or other activities. More details on selection criteria 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/TipsforNomiators.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.

Nominations Sought for the 2022 Waksberg Award

Jean Opsomer

The journal *Survey Methodology* has established an annual invited paper series in honor of the late Joseph Waksberg to recognize his outstanding contributions to survey statistics and methodology. Each year a prominent survey statistician is chosen to write a paper that reviews the development and current state of an important topic in the field of survey statistics and methodology. The paper reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterized Joseph Waksberg's work.

The recipient of the Waksberg Award will receive an honorarium and give the 2022 Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium, expected to be held in the autumn of 2022. The paper will be published in an upcoming issue of *Survey Methodology* (targeted for December 2022).

The author of the 2022 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the *American Statistical Association*. **Nomination of individuals to be considered as authors or suggestions for topics should be sent before February 28, 2021 to the chair of the committee, Jean Opsomer, email: JeanOpsomer@westat.com.**

Previous Waksberg Award honorees and their invited papers are:

- 2021** Sharon Lohr, Manuscript topic under consideration.
- 2020** Roger Tourangeau, “Science and survey management”, *Survey Methodology* (expected for vol. 47, 1).
- 2019** Chris Skinner.
- 2018** Jean-Claude Deville, “De la pratique à la théorie : l'exemple du calage à poids bornés”. 10^{ème} Colloque francophone sur les sondages, Université Lumière Lyon 2.
- 2017** Donald B. Rubin, “Conditional calibration and the sage statistician”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 45, 2, 187-198.
- 2016** Don A. Dillman, “The promise and challenge of pushing respondents to the Web in mixed-mode surveys”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 43, 1, 3-30.
- 2015** Robert M. Groves, “Towards a quality framework for blends of designed and organic data”. Proceedings: *Symposium 2016, Growth in Statistical Information: Challenges and Benefits*.
- 2014** Constance F. Citro, “From multiple modes for surveys to multiple data sources for estimates”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 40, 2, 137-161.
- 2013** Ken Brewer, “Three controversies in the history of survey sampling”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 39, 2, 249-262.
- 2012** Lars Lyberg, “Survey quality”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 38, 2, 107-130.

- 2011** Danny **Pfeffermann**, “Modelling of complex survey data: Why model? Why is it a problem? How can we approach it?”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 37, 2, 115-136.
- 2010** Ivan P. **Fellegi**, “The organisation of statistical methodology and methodological research in national statistical offices”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 36, 2, 123-130.
- 2009** Graham **Kalton**, “Methods for oversampling rare subpopulations in social surveys”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 35, 2, 125-141.
- 2008** Mary E. **Thompson**, “International surveys: Motives and methodologies”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 34, 2, 131-141.
- 2007** Carl-Erik **Särndal**, “The calibration approach in survey theory and practice”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 33, 2, 99-119.
- 2006** Alastair **Scott**, “Population-based case control studies”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 32, 2, 123-132.
- 2005** J.N.K. **Rao**, “Interplay between sample survey theory and practice: An appraisal”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 31, 2, 117-138.
- 2004** Norman M. **Bradburn**, “Understanding the question-answer process”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 30, 1, 5-15.
- 2003** David **Holt**, “Methodological issues in the development and use of statistical indicators for international comparisons”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 29, 1, 5-17.
- 2002** Wayne A. **Fuller**, “Regression estimation for survey samples”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 28, 1, 5-23.
- 2001** Gad **Nathan**, “Telesurvey methodologies for household surveys – A review and some thoughts for the future?”. *Survey Methodology*, vol. 27, 1, 7-31.
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Software corner – A SAS® Macro for Calibration of Survey Weights

Tony An

For SAS users who need to perform calibration of their survey weights, I am pleased to inform you that a SAS macro I developed is [free to download](#).

The %SurveyCalibrate macro enables you to input the design information, the controls for the auxiliary variables, and your preferred calibration method, including either a linear or exponential method. The macro also supports bounded versions of both linear and exponential calibration methods. The macro creates calibration replication weights according to the sample design and the specified calibration method. You can watch the [BigSurv20 presentation](#) to learn more about the macro.

BigSurv20 Summary

Antje Kirchner and Peter Lugtig

The second Big Data Meets Survey Science (BigSurv20) took place virtually every Friday in November and the first Friday of December. Thanks to our generous sponsors, the registration was free of charge. BigSurv20 was a truly interdisciplinary and international experience, with nearly 1,800 registered researchers and practitioners from around the globe. We would like to thank all participants for making the conference a success, and very much appreciate SRMS sponsorship.

The conference kicked off with the [keynote](#) “Computer analysis of large-scale human behavior” by Dr. Albert Ali Salah moderated by Dr. Peter Lugtig, chair of the BigSurv20 organizing committee. BigSurv20 then proceeded to the first six of the 33 paper, demo, and poster sessions that would be held across the BigSurv20 Fridays. Topics of discussion ranged from expertly designed data carefully measuring human behaviors, attitudes, and opinions to organic, electronic data capturing massive quantities of observations about our everyday lives in real-time; generating summary statistics that describe entire populations to leveraging fine-grained data that inform the context of each observation; from the sampling of individuals within populations to considering the implications of “N=all”; and from applying the Total Survey Error paradigm to adopting a total statistical uncertainty framework that will be needed to encompass the new quality issues associated with Big Data. More information on the conference and the program including many of the presentation recordings and slides can be found here: <https://www.bigsurv20.org/glance>.

BigSurv20 closed with a [plenary](#) on Data and Privacy featuring Jennifer Hunter Childs, Dr. Chipo Dendere, Dr. Radha Iyengar Plumb, and Bianca Marcu, moderated by Dr. Amelia Burke-Garcia. Dr. Craig Hill gave the [closing remarks](#) including an overview of conference highlights and the announcement of the next BigSurv conference at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador.

Other BigSurv20 highlights include the [Big Data Challenge](#) where early career researchers attacked open research problems posed by Statistics Netherlands, Eurostat, and Studiekeuze123 (winning team: “Travel Escape” Jan-Philipp Kolb, Laurent Smeets, Qixiang Fang, and Shivam Sharam), the [student paper competition](#) (winners: Dewi Peerlings and Nadiya Kostyuk), and the [poster competition](#) (winners: Daniela Duca, James Rineer, Deji Suolang, and Chan-Hoong Leong).

Much of BigSurv20’s success will be reflected in the forthcoming special issues of *EPJ Data Science* and the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A* that feature selected papers from the event. Details on these two publications—which should be released in 2021 and 2022, respectively—will follow soon. Most of the presentations from the conference will remain publicly available. For now, you can visit www.bigsurv20.org, but starting February 2021 you can also find papers, presentations, and other information at www.bigsurv.org. This website is where we will announce updates and plans for future BigSurv events, so please stay tuned and don’t forget to follow our @BigSurvConf account on Twitter.

New Springer Book “Sampling Theory and Practice”

Professors Changbao Wu and Mary Thompson of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo, Canada, have a new book “*Sampling Theory and Practice*” published by Springer in 2020. The book is designed to provide:

- A concise introduction to basic sampling theory and methods;
- A detailed coverage of selected topics that reflect the current state of the art in survey methodology research;
- A useful resource and pragmatic guide to survey design and implementation as well as survey data analysis; and
- A rigorous treatment of non-probability survey samples.

It can be used as a textbook with ample exercise problems for a rigorous course in survey sampling at the senior undergraduate or graduate level, a running start for junior researchers to current methodological advances in the field, and a reliable resource for survey practitioners that addresses applicable theory and practical issues from different subject areas under a single connected roof. The book is available at <https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783030442446>. Members of institutions with a subscription to Springer Link can download a free copy of the eBook at <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-030-44246-0>.

Innovation to Respond to Covid-19: NYC Neighborhoods COVID-19 Dashboard

New York City (NYC) was an early epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and had more cases than any country other than the United States by May 2020. Although the NYC Department of Health has collected and made publicly available data on COVID-19, there was no layperson-friendly website that provided COVID tracking and development information in local neighborhoods. Motivated by this, Professor Qixuan Chen and her students in the Department of Biostatistics at Columbia University developed the New York City Neighborhoods COVID-19 Dashboard (<https://msph.shinyapps.io/nyc-neighborhoods-covid>). The dashboard was first published in August 2020 and has been updated daily since then.

The Dashboard tracks daily new cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and tests for every NYC neighborhood by Zip Code and provides data visualizations of distributions and time trends for COVID cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and tests by neighborhoods and demographics. Sorting by new cases or incidence rates in the tracker allows to quickly identify the neighborhoods with the most new cases citywide. Interactive maps of new cases and incidence rate by Zip Code enable identification of clusters of neighborhoods with the most virus cases emerging on a daily basis. Using the 7-day moving average time trend plot of new cases by Zip Code, we can detect neighborhoods with alarming increases in COVID cases in the past weeks. Projections plots visualize the projected trends on new infections, new cases, new hospitalizations, and new deaths in the next 8 weeks. This dashboard has been playing a central role in disseminating timely local COVID information to the lay public in NYC.



SRMS Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Elizabeth Petraglia and Darcy Steeg Morris

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 18th, 2021**. 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 Elizabeth Petraglia (elizabethpetraglia@westat.com) **and** Darcy Steeg Morris (darcy.steeg.morris@census.gov), either in the body of an email or in a Microsoft Word attachment. We cannot accept PDFs.

Your SRMS Officers

Chair: Tony An

Chair-Elect: Jean Opsomer

Past-Chair: Morgan Earp

Treasurer: Jessica Kohlschmidt

Secretary: Gina Walejko

2021 JSM Program Chair: Brady West

2021 JSM Program Chair-Elect: Jana Asher

Publications Officer: Dan Liao

Education Officer: Daniell Toth

Section Representatives: Julia Soulakova, Stas Kolenikov

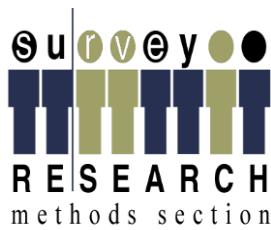
ASA Staff Liasion: Rick Peterson

More information can be found at

<http://ww2.amstat.org/sections/officers.cfm?txtComm=SSRMS>.

Newsletter Editors: Elizabeth Petraglia and Darcy Steeg Morris

Website Editor: Pushpal Mukophadhyay



SRMS Mission Statement

SRMS has over 1,100 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. 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.

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: <https://community.amstat.org/surveypresearchmethodsssection/home> (note updated link) or there is also a link from the ASA website at www.amstat.org.