survey RESEARCH methods section Newsletter

Inside this Newsletter

Message from the Incoming Section Chair

Dan Liao

Happy New Year! As we enter 2026, the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) are embarking on a year of profound significance and also significant challenge. Within our profession, the core mission remains unchanged: ensuring that "Everyone Counts." In an era where AI-driven decisions shape every facet of society, our work in ensuring data representativeness, minimizing respondent burden, and securing the quality of statistics available for public use and policymaking is a vital service to the public good.

The theme for this year's Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Boston is "Communities in Action: Advancing Society." This theme highlights how statistical communities confront challenges and drive progress through interdisciplinary collaboration. For the survey community, this means demonstrating that high-fidelity "ground truth" data is the foundation of reliable knowledge. We achieve this by building bridges, partnering with data scientists, subject matter experts, and policymakers, to ensure the human element is never lost in the digital transition.

While expansive, unstructured datasets offer scale, survey methodology provides the scientific rigor required to generate reliable statistics for diverse fields such as sociology, criminology, education, and public health. This rigor is equally essential for fine-tuning AI models, ensuring results are accurate, equitable, and truly beneficial to the communities they serve.

As we navigate declining response rates and the "Big Data" paradox, we continue to bridge gaps through Data Fusion. By integrating passive sources, such as social media, wearable biometrics, and IoT sensors, into valid probabilistic frameworks, we provide the structural "spine" for modern inference. Techniques like propensity weighting and small area estimation allow us to mitigate the "digital divide," ensuring that underrepresented voices are accurately reflected in the statistics that shape our world.

Beyond technical integration, our fundamental purpose is understanding the people who make up our society. While Big Data tracks behavior, it often fails to explain the motivations or lived experiences behind those actions. The rise of AI has introduced efficiencies, such as conversational agents that reduce measurement error, but we must remain vigilant. Because synthetic data reflects its training source, it carries the risk of amplifying historical biases. As members of SRMS, we serve as "Data Verifiers," ensuring that emerging digital tools are grounded in reality and held to the highest scientific standards.

To support our members in this mission, SRMS has curated a robust calendar of webinars and sessions for JSM 2026. I am thrilled to work alongside our 2026 Executive Council team: Qixuan Chen (Chair Elect), Eric Rancourt (Past Chair), Kristen Olson (Program Chair), James Wagner (Program Chair, Elect), Jingchen (Monika) Hu (Education Officer), Emily Berg (Publication Officer), Yajuan Si (Secretary), and Daifeng Han (Treasurer), as well as two Council of Sections Representatives Andreea Erciulescu and Stephanie Zimmer. I also want to acknowledge our dedicated support team: Newsletter Editors Wendy Van de Kerckhove & Darcy Steeg Morris, Website Editor Maura Bardos, and our Student Representatives Stephanie Morales & Ujjayini Das.

We stand at a thrilling crossroads where classical rigor meets the frontier of artificial intelligence. Whether you are a student, researcher, or practitioner, your voice is essential as we drive equitable progress. I look forward to seeing everyone in Boston this August or through our online events. Join us in SRMS and help us lead the future of truth for the public good.

Message from the Outgoing Section Chair

Eric Rancourt

Happy New Year dear colleagues.

It has been quite a privilege to serve the Survey Research Methods Section as chair in 2025. I would like to thank all members of the executive committee with whom it has been a pleasure to work.

Looking back at 2025, much has been accomplished by the team. During the year, the Executive Committee met every month, and efforts were made to multiply communications with members through newsletters, and beyond to all ASA members through the use of ASA Connect and through a monthly publication in Amstat News. Further, the SRMS offered three webinars: one on Hard-to-Reach Populations, one on the Academic Job Application Process and one on the context of Working in Academia.

The SRMS had a solid presence at the JSM25 with close to 30 invited paper sessions, topic contributed sessions, contributed sessions, poster sessions, speed sessions, roundtables and mentoring events. The SRMS had a mixer and a student lunch. The Annual General Meeting was held on-line the week after the JSM.

The Section was active with Awards, providing student paper awards (with GSS and SSS) and travel awards respectively to five and three students. Three SRMS members became Fellows, and one was recognized with the Founders award.

The executive committee also worked on updating the SRMS charter, and suggested changes will be submitted to all members for vote in 2026.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude to all members of the Executive who dedicated their time to SRMS members. Also, I want to warmly thank all the members who donated to the SRMS in the November donation drive! Your contributions will help maintain the momentum of activities supporting the future of our profession. Finally, I wish the new executive team, under the leadership of Dan Liao a great year and the same to all SRMS members.

Updates from the SRMS Council of Sections Representatives

Andreea Erciulescu and Stephanie Zimmer

The Council of Sections voted to approve the creation of three new ASA Interest Groups: **Statistics and Data Science in Aging**, **Mobile and Wearable Data Science**, and **Stats Up AI**. Many SRMS members have been active in areas spanned by these new groups, including weighting methods for aging survey data, integration of survey and wearable data, and leveraging both survey methods and AI tools. If these are areas of interest to you, consider joining the respective interest group. On the other hand, the Council of Sections voted to approve the dissolution of an ASA Interest Group, The Quantum Computing in Statistics and Machine Learning Interest Group. See Sections & Interest Groups for the current list of all ASA Sections and Interest Groups.

Every three years, SRMS nominates to the ASA a section member who has made extraordinary contributions to SRMS**. In 2020, we recognized Pushpal Mukhopadhyay** for many years of service to the section, including maintenance of the webpage and digital archiving of the decades of SRMS proceedings. **In 2023, we recognized Tony An** for his years of serving the section in multiple roles. We welcome nominations for the 2026 recognition round.

JSM 2026 Information from the SRMS Program Chair

Kristen Olson

Planning is underway for the 2026 Joint Statistical Meetings. Invited sessions have been accepted, and the Survey Research Methods Section will have five invited sessions this year. Two of these invited sessions, **Strategies in Creating Community Area Estimates in Health Surveys** and **Survey Research at the Crossroads: Novel Pathways to Better Data Science,** speak specifically to the 2026 conference theme of Communities in Action: Advancing Society. The invited sessions for which SRMS is the primary sponsor are:

Advances in AI and Machine Learning for Official Statistics and Survey Methodology – This paper session will have four speakers and a discussant highlighting the use of different types of AI and machine learning models in official statistics, with a special focus on spatial statistics, nonindependent data, and small area estimation.

Best Practices for Leveraging Nonprobability Samples – This paper session will have four speakers and a discussant examining alternative methods for inference from nonprobability samples, including estimation, inference, and data integration strategies with nonprobability samples.

Strategies in Creating Community Area Estimates in Health Surveys – This paper session will have five speakers and a discussant who will highlight how survey data are used for substate and community-level health estimates.

Survey Research and Education in the Age of AI – This panel session will have four speakers and a moderator who will discuss the role of survey research and survey statistics in the presence of artificial intelligence, and what educators can do to train students and early career researchers.

Survey Research at the Crossroads: Novel Pathways to Better Data Science – This paper session will have three speakers and a discussant on inference about health-related topics from nonprobability data sources.

Topic-contributed paper sessions are now closed, but contributed paper proposals are being accepted through February 2, 2026.

SRMS Awards at JSM 2025

SRMS would like to once again honor the outstanding winners of our awards at JSM 2025.

Joint SRMS / GSS / SSS Student Paper Award Winners:

- **Huiding Chen**, Vanderbilt University, "Synthetic Sampling Weights for Volunteer-Based National Biobanks: A Case Study with the All of Us Research Program"

- **Yuting Chen**, University of Maryland, "Impact of existence and nonexistence of pivot on the coverage of empirical best linear prediction intervals for small areas"

- **Zhuochao Huang**, University of Florida, "Causal inference and racial bias in policing: New estimands and the importance of mobility data"

- **Zhenhua Wang**, University of Missouri, "Echo State Networks for Spatio-Temporal Area-Level Data"

- **Seth Adarkwah Yiadom**, Ohio State University, "Formulating the Proxy Pattern-Mixture Model as a Selection Model to Assist with Sensitivity Analysis"

Joint SRMS / GSS / SSS Student Paper Award Honorable Mention:

- **Snigdha Das**, Texas A&M University, "Scalably Efficient Inference in Complex Surveys through Targeted Resampling of Weights"

- **Daniel Vedensky**, University of Missouri, "Bayesian Unit-level Models for Longitudinal Survey Data under Informative Sampling: An Analysis of Expected Job Loss Using the Household Pulse Survey"

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 all of the students!

SRMS Student Travel Award

- **Anne Cohen**, University of Michigan

- **Gauri Kamat**, Brown University

- **Srijeeta Mirta**, University of Maryland

All student travel award winners received funds for JSM travel and registration costs. Congratulations to the winners!

Nominate Deserving ASA Fellows

SRMS Fellows Committee

Each year the ASA selects members to be honored as ASA Fellows. Everyone is encouraged to identify friends and colleagues who would be strong candidates. ASA started receiving nominations for the 2026 class of ASA Fellows on its website on October 1. The deadline for submitting nominations is 11:59 PM EST, March 1, 2026. To be eligible, a candidate must have been a member of the ASA for the most recent 3 years (from March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2026). 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 SRMS Fellows Committee plays the role of helping to facilitate the ASA Fellow nomination process by identifying worthy SRMS candidates and finding people to spearhead their nomination. If you have a suggestion on who should be nominated, or would like to nominate an SRMS colleague but have questions about how to proceed, please feel free to contact any committee member. The committee members are Brady West and Craig Hill. If you are a current SRMS member and ASA Fellow and would like to join the committee, please contact a committee member.

Nominations Sought for the 2027 Waksberg Award

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. Joseph Waksberg was a giant in survey sampling for nearly seven decades, beginning at the U.S. Census Bureau in 1940 and then moving to Westat in 1973 where he served as Chairman of the Board from 1990 until his death in 2006. The award includes an honorarium made possible by a grant from Westat.

The recipient of the Waksberg Award will receive an honorarium and give the 2027 Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium, expected to be held in the autumn of 2027, or a webinar of the International Association of Survey Statisticians should there be no symposium in 2027. The paper will be published in an upcoming issue of *Survey Methodology* (targeted for December 2027).

The author of the 2027 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the *American Statistical Association*. **Nominations of individuals to be considered should be sent by email before February 15, 2026 to the chair of the committee, Paul Smith (P.A.Smith@soton.ac.uk). Nominations should include a CV and a nomination letter.** Nominations will remain active for five years.

2026 Waksberg Award

The 2026 recipient of the Waksberg Award is Frauke Kreuter. For the past two decades, Kreuter has spearheaded novel research in survey methodology, especially in big data and large-scale computing. She also directed and built training programs, producing a new generation of data science–savvy survey researchers. Kreuter will give the Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium in 2026 and author a paper for publication in the December 2026 issue of Survey Methodology.

The author of the 2026 Waksberg paper was selected by a four-person committee – Jae-Kwang Kim (Chair), Kristen Olson, Paul Smith, and Alina Matei – appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the *American Statistical Association*.

Report of 2026 SRMS Donation Drive

Daifeng Han

A big THANK YOU to everyone for your incredible generosity. Through this year's donation drive, we raised approximately $2,850. Because of your participation, our section won the ASA Giving Day Section Showdown and earned a $500 voucher for a mixer at the 2026 JSM. This achievement truly reflects the strength, engagement, and commitment of our SRMS community.

Despite ongoing financial challenges, SRMS remains committed to supporting Student Paper Awards, Student Travel Awards, and free or discounted webinars that serve our members. Looking ahead, we will continue exploring strategies to strengthen our financial position by increasing revenue and managing expenses.

If you have ideas or suggestions for improving our financial outlook, please feel free to reach out to me at daifenghan@westat.com. Thank you again for your continued support.

SRMS Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Darcy Steeg Morris and Wendy Van de Kerckhove

The SRMS newsletter is published twice a year in mid-January and in mid-July, typically posted on the SRMS website (https://community.amstat.org/surveyresearchmethodssection), and shared on ASA Connect. All 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 next July newsletter is mid-June 2026. 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 Darcy Steeg Morris (darcy.steeg.morris@census.gov) and Wendy Van de Kerckhove (WendyVanDeKerckhove@westat.com), either in the body of an email or in a Microsoft Word attachment. We cannot accept PDFs.

Your SRMS Officers for 2026

Chair: Dan Liao

Chair-Elect: Qixuan Chen

Past-Chair: Eric Rancourt

Treasurer: Daifeng Han

Secretary: Yajuan Si

2026 JSM Program Chair: Kristen Olson

2026 JSM Program Chair-Elect: James Wagner

Publications Officer: Emily Berg

Education Officer: Jingchen (Monika) Hu

Section Representatives: Andreea Erciulescu and Stephanie Zimmer

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

Newsletter Editors: Darcy Steeg Morris and Wendy Van de Kerckhove

Website Editor: Maura Bardos

Student Representative(s): Stephanie Morales and Ujjayini Das

SRMS Mission Statement

SRMS has over 1,000 members, of which over 100 are based outside of North America. The Survey Research Methods Section is for Association members who research survey methodology or employ survey methods as a prime tool of investigation. Some areas of special interest are:

- ❖ Design and execution of sample surveys;
- ❖ Analysis and presentation of survey data;
- ❖ Statistical inference from survey data;
- ❖ Publication of developments and findings in survey research;
- ❖ Standards of design, estimation, and reporting of surveys;
- ❖ Promotion of uniform survey terminology;
- ❖ Use of survey research procedures and findings to inform public policy, including relations between public and private agencies in the design, conduct, and presentation of findings of surveys; and
- ❖ Ethics relating to the conduct of survey research and to respondents and potential respondents.

Member Benefits

- ❖ Contributing a community and platform within the broader statistical community for sharing and discussing survey research, methodology, as well as emerging opportunities in our field;
- ❖ Being connected with the ASA survey research methods community and receiving an invitation to the annual section business meeting;
- ❖ Representing the survey statistics community and showing solidarity and support to the survey research profession;
- ❖ Accessing the SRMS email listserv and newsletter including career and learning opportunity announcements;
- ❖ Accessing the online addition of *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology (JSSAM)* for free;
- ❖ Participating in SRMS member-only discounts for webinars and short courses;
- ❖ Accessing all the SRMS JSM proceedings, the ICES proceedings, the Hard to Reach (H2R) proceedings among others at the section's proceedings website;
- ❖ Supporting free student membership, student conference travel awards, and student paper awards.

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 apply to be a member of the ASA; make sure to select "Survey Research Methods" from the "Choose Your Section(s)" list.
- If you are already an ASA member or renewing a membership, follow these instructions to add SRMS membership.

****

For more information on SRMS resources, member benefits, and much more, check out the SRMS website at https://community.amstat.org/surveyresearchmethodssection/home.

SRMS Sponsorship Opportunities

As the research data world continues to evolve, SRMS is committed to help promote the improvement of survey practice and the understanding of survey methods in the context of creation of research datasets based on multiple data sources. SRMS will continue to provide benefits to members with networking opportunities, webinars, information sharing, and conferences. SRMS is also committed to support graduate students and early career SRMS members to maintain a healthy pipeline of next generation SRMS members. Are you interested in helping SRMS to achieve these goals? Please consider becoming a 2026 SRMS Sponsor and getting valuable exposure for your organization.

SRMS Sponsorship Options

- ***SRMS Webinars***. *$500* with the following benefits:
    o Two (2) free registrations (via a promo code that will be shared with the sponsor).
    o Acknowledgement of the sponsorship in all announcements about each webinar and at both the beginning and end of each webinar.

- ***JSM Mixer and Business Meeting***: *$6000* (single sponsor) with the following benefits:
    o Acknowledgement of the sponsorship at the business meeting (including written acknowledgement on the agenda sheet).
    o Inclusion of a sponsor poster inside the business meeting room.
    o Acknowledgement of the sponsorship in the January 2027 SRMS newsletter.
    o One page of job postings / organization advertisements in the SRMS newsletter all year long.

- ***SRMS Friends***: *$1000* with the following benefits:
    o Acknowledgement of sponsorship in the SRMS newsletter all year long.
    o One page of job postings on the SRMS newsletter all year long

- ***General Donations***. *Any amount* with the following benefits:
    o Acknowledgement of sponsorship in the next SRMS newsletter.