

JSM 2000 Approaching

At the Joint Statistical Meetings in Indianapolis on August 12-17, the Survey Research Methods Section will have a full technical program, including a short course on small area estimation, invited and contributed sessions on a wide variety of survey topics, and luncheon roundtables.

On Saturday, August 12, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. J.N.K. Rao will present the short course, "An Introduction to Small Area Estimation" as part of the Continuing Education Program of the ASA. See page 6 for more information about this course.

(Continued on p. 2)

Memoriam Seymour Sudman

Dr. Seymour Sudman, world-renowned researcher in survey sampling and the design of survey questionnaires, died on May 2 in Chicago. He was 71. The cause of death was complications from a stroke he had suffered in April in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Sudman was a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and a recipient of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Award. He was chair of the Survey Research Methods Section in 1995. Dr. Sudman was Walter H. Stellner Distinguished Professor of Marketing at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He had been on the Illinois faculty since 1968, and had planned to retire this summer.

In addition to his numerous and influential articles, Dr. Sudman was the author or co-author of nearly 20 books. Among them are Applied Sampling (1976), Asking Questions: A Practical Guide to Questionnaire Design (1982) and Polls and Surveys (1988). More recently, he combined results from survey research and cognitive psychology to explore why people answer survey questions the way they do. This research resulted in Thinking About Answers: Application of Cognitive Processes to Survey Methodology (1995), with Norman Bradburn and Norbert Schwarz.

The New York Times obituary stated: "A consummate semanticist, Dr. Sudman was fascinated by the way the outcome of a questionnaire could be tainted by the choice of a single word. Consequently, he contended that public opinion polls, particularly those done early on in political campaigns, 'are more a reflection of name recognition than of voting behavior.'"

A memorial session will be held in Dr. Sudman's honor at the Joint Statistical Meetings in 2001.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** JSM 2000 Approaching
- 1** Memoriam – Seymour Sudman
- 2** Section News
- 3** Executive Committee Reports
- 4** Minutes – August 1999 and April 2000
- 5** Focus On . . .
- 7** Upcoming Conferences
- 9** Highlights from the JSM Schedule
- 12** Awards
- 13** Announcements
- 14** Executive Committee Members

The SRMS will sponsor five invited paper sessions, thirteen topic contributed sessions and fifteen regular contributed sessions. The invited sessions include "Developments in Record Linkage: Theory and Application;" "Non-Parametric and Semi-Parametric Techniques in Survey Sampling," "Small Area Estimates of Poverty: Current Methods and Future Directions;" "Statistical Software for Complex Sample Survey Data;" and "Digital Government and Federal Statistics." In addition, the SRMS will co-sponsor several invited sessions organized by other groups including the Government Statistics Section, the Social Statistics Section, the Health Policy Statistics Section, the American Association for Public Opinion Research and the International Association of Survey Statisticians. See page 9 for the JSM schedule highlights (sessions sponsored by SRMS).*

Section News



Election Results

The newly elected section officers for 2001 are as follows. Congratulations to these individuals, and a special thanks to their predecessors for a job well done!

Section On Survey Research Methods (SRMS)

Chair-Elect

Lars Lyberg, Statistics Sweden

Program Chair-Elect

Patrick J. Cantwell, U. S. Bureau of Census

Treasurer

Sarah M. Nusser, Iowa State University

Publications Officer

Alan R. Tupek, National Science Foundation

Representative to the Council of Sections (2001-2003)

Rachel A. Caspar, Research Triangle Institute *

Changes in SRMS Officers

The secretary-treasurer position was separated into two positions late last year and Elizabeth Zell was appointed to fill the secretary position. Carol House resigned as Representative to the Council of Sections and Ralph Folsom was appointed to take her place. Also, David Chapman has replaced Barry Groubard as chair of the Continuing Education Committee. Congratulations to Elizabeth, Ralph, and David and thank you to Carol and Barry for serving our members. Look for biographical sketches on the new officers in future versions of this newsletter.*

New Co-Editors

It is a pleasure to be the new co-editors of the SRMS newsletter. Elizabeth Zell and Trena Ezzati-Rice were very active editors for SRMS, and we thank them for making the transition easier for us. Some changes will be brought to the newsletter in formatting and we hope to include more reports from the executive committee and standing committees, and more of your announcements. The current plan is to produce the newsletter twice a year, so if you have any information that you would like to see in this newsletter, please let us know. Our E-mail addresses and phone numbers are included toward the back of the edition. We also would like to acknowledge our indebtedness to Angelia Murphy, who has provided valuable assistance with the formatting and construction of this newsletter. Here is some information about us:

Leslie Wallace and Tom Krenzke are senior statisticians at Westat, a large employee-owned survey research organization in Rockville, Maryland, where they work on statistical issues related to sample design, weighting, variance estimation, and imputation. Leslie's experience is primarily in large-scale national and international education surveys including the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the Second International Assessment of Educational Progress (IAEP II), and the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). Leslie received an M.S. in statistics from Texas A&M University and a B.S. in mathematics from the College of William and Mary. Tom is also involved with NAEP, as well as the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) and the Alcohol and Drug Services Study (ADSS). Tom received an M.S. in applied statistics from Bowling Green State University and a B.A. in mathematics from Winona State University.*

Section Meetings at JSM

The SRMS will hold the following meetings at the JSM in Indianapolis:

SRMS Business Meeting: Wednesday August 16, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

This meeting is open to all SRMS members and includes a reception. We look forward to seeing you there.

SRMS Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday August 13, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

This meeting is closed. Only SRMS Executive Committee members and the Chairs of Standing Committees may attend.*

Web Site

Visit the SRMS web site through <http://www.amstat.org/sections/index.html>. The web site furnishes information about SRMS, information about survey research in general, and provides notices of upcoming conferences.*

Newsletter on the Web

The newsletter is now accessible through the main ASA section web page: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/index.html>.*

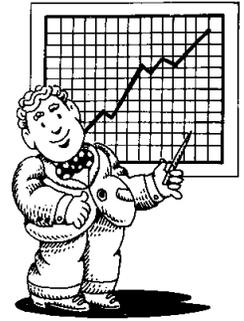
SRMSNET

If you haven't signed on yet, join now. If you aren't on the list, you aren't in the know! SRMSNET offers people the chance to ask questions or submit announcements relating to survey methods to a group of users through the use of E-mail. To sign up, send a message to listserv@umdd.umd.edu and, in the body of the message, type subscribe SRMSNET your name. Users, please remember that if you just click on "reply", your answer will go out to everyone on the SRMSNET - be sure to direct personal replies to the sender's own E-mail address! To unsubscribe, in your message to listserv@umdd.umd.edu, type in the body of the message unsubscribe SRMSNET.*

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

by Keith Rust



As of March 31, 2000, the section's account shows a balance of \$71,508.63. This healthy state of affairs, continuing the pattern from the last two years, arises largely because of the section's proceeds from the international conferences that we have sponsored. The most recent of these have been the International Conference on Survey Nonresponse held in Portland, OR, last October, and the Second International Conference on Establishment Surveys, held in Buffalo, NY, in June 2000. The section proceedings of papers presented at the JSM and the AAPOR annual meetings also bring in more revenue than they incur costs.

The SRMS Executive Committee is seeking creative and fruitful ways to use this healthy balance in activities that benefit the membership. We keep sponsoring good conferences, but that just seems to raise more funds. One idea that was proposed at last August's business meeting, that the committee decided to follow up, was to find a way to fund students, who contribute papers, to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings. We had started to form the idea of some sort of competition, when wouldn't you know it we found out that the Social Statistics Section is in a similar predicament, and has already started to move forward with such an idea. So for 2001 we asked SSS if we could bring our money along and join in, and they graciously agreed to allow us to participate in their efforts. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see an item about the student paper competition for 2001. Meanwhile chair-elect Dan Kasprzyk has been charged with coming up with a longer-range plan for future student paper competitions.

If you have good ideas for how we should use the section's funds, get in touch with Brenda Cox or any of the executive committee members. A good plan is to come along to the section's business meeting at the JSM in Indianapolis, at 5:30pm on August 16. That way you can see if your ideas resonate with the members, and you can generate a ground swell that the executive committee cannot ignore! I know a few of you made proposals at last year's business meeting that haven't gone very far yet (but at least one good idea is moving ahead), but don't let that dissuade you from coming forward again - that's how things get done around here.*

Publications Officer's Report

by Sharon Lohr

The Survey Research Methods Section has the distinction of having the largest and heaviest proceedings volume of any of the sections. Our volume not only contains a wealth of up-to-date research about survey methods, but it can also be used for developing muscle tone.

You will be able to continue to "work out" with the 2000 proceedings volume, which will be produced in the usual book form. However, as approved by Section members in the August 1999 business meeting, we are working with ASA to have future volumes available on the web, starting in 2001. We are also exploring possibilities for making prior proceedings volumes available in electronic form, either on CD or on the web.

The Section web page has been revised (and should be in place by the time you receive this newsletter). Our web page is now part of the ASA "Amstat Online" at www.amstat.org. We would like this page to be a primary source of information for persons interested in survey research. Contributions are welcome! If you have links or information that you think would be of interest, or comments or suggestions about the web page, please contact me at sharon.lohr@asu.edu.*

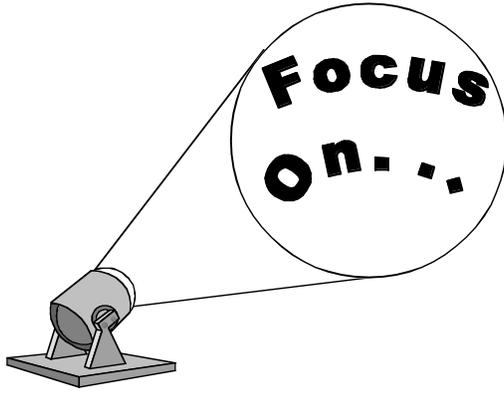
Minutes

August 1999 and April 2000

Meeting Highlights

What follows is a summary of key decisions or discussion points made during the Executive Committee Meetings on April 17, 2000 and August 9, 1999, and the Business Meeting on August 11, 1999. For more information, contact the Chair or attend the next Business Meeting (in Indianapolis)!

- ◆ The Committee voted to support Fritz Scheuren's proposal to compile the "What is a Survey?" pamphlets into one book. The Section will also initiate discussion between ASA and Urban Institute, the proposed copyright holder, and will request a more formal proposal that includes marketing and financial plan details.
- ◆ The Committee voted to sponsor the International Conference on Questionnaire Development, Evaluation, and Testing (ICQDET) to be held Fall of 2002.
- ◆ The SRMS Award for Innovation in Survey Research Methods was approved. See Page 13 of this newsletter for more information about this award.
- ◆ The Committee feels strongly that some of the excess funds currently on hand should go toward supporting students in their section activities. In the short term, the Social Statistics Section has accepted our offer to join them in funding a student paper competition for JSM 2001. See Page 12 of this newsletter for more information on this award. In the long-term, the Committee agreed to research other student support initiatives.
- ◆ The Committee agreed to continue supporting the Survey Research Newsletter from the University of Illinois for the next four years (2001 – 2005), with the commitment to be reviewed in 2005.
- ◆ The Committee decided the Section needs both a web master and a web editor (not necessarily the same person). These duties are currently undertaken by the Publications Officer, but with the growing interest in the web site, they will soon be too much for one person to handle in addition to other duties.
- ◆ The publications officer, Sharon Lohr, has been involved with discussions with ASA about publishing section proceedings on the internet in future years.
- ◆ In accordance with the existing section charter, we now have a secretary (Elizabeth Zell) and a treasurer (Keith Rust), rather than a secretary/treasurer.
- ◆ Tom Krenzke and Leslie Wallace of Westat have been appointed as newsletter editors, succeeding Trena Ezzati-Rice and Elizabeth Zell.*



Standing Committee Report

This is the first in a series of articles that will focus on a different standing committee in each issue. The current spotlight is on the Continuing Education Committee. Look for an article on the Research Industry Coalition in the next issue.

Continuing Education Committee

by **Barry Graubard – former Chair**

Continuing Education Committee

Chair: David Chapman

Phone: (202) 898-7280

Fax: (202) 898-7149

E-mail: dachapman@fdic.gov

Members: John Eltinge, Ralph DiGaetano. Robert Santos is the SRMS member of the ASA Advisory Committee on Continuing Education.

The Continuing Education Committee for the Survey Research Methods Section consists of a chair (now David Chapman of FDIC) and two other members John Eltinge, BLS and Ralph DiGaetano, Westat.

The Continuing Education Committee arranged with the ASA's Continuing Education Office to co-sponsor a 1-day short course given by Jon Rao on small area estimation at the 2000 Joint Statistical Meetings in Indianapolis. The course is scheduled for Saturday, August 12 beginning at 8:30 am. See below for a title and abstract of the course with other information about the course.

I want to say that I hope the Continuing Education Committee will get more recognition in the future by the Section for the important role it plays. There are several areas into which the committee can expand that will better serve SRMS members. Some possible areas are (1) directly work with the Outreach Committee of the ASA, which wants to provide courses and workshops to nonstatistical professional organizations – my experience is that there is a clear need for sampling and other survey method workshops for lawyer and public health worker audiences; (2) better coordination with the program chair in selecting courses that follow the program topics more closely e.g., if there are invited sessions on analysis of survey data then it would be nice if there were workshops or courses on software for analyzing survey data at the same meeting; and (3) that there be some system set up, possibly by E-mail or the web, where SRMS members could provide input on topics and instructors for courses that the Section should sponsor.

The Mission of the Continuing Education Committee of the Section on Survey Research Methods of American Statistical Association:

The Continuing Education Committee (CEC) is a standing committee that will advise the executive committee of the Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) about continuing education issues and activities. A major function of the CEC will be to recommend for consideration by the executive committee short courses or workshops that the SRMS can sponsor as ASA continuing education courses at the annual Joint Statistical Meetings. A recommendation will be made to the Section Chair in time to be presented at the annual executive committee meeting at the Joint Statistical Meetings. For the courses that are approved by the executive committee, the CEC will be responsible for making arrangements with the instructors to submit the necessary course abstracts and other materials by the deadline (usually in the middle of October) established by the ASA for the next annual meeting.

There will be three members including a chair who will serve on the CEC. The members of the CEC will rotate off the committee about every three years. The chair of the CEC will be selected by the chair of the SRMS. New members for the CEC will be selected by the chair of the CEC with approval from the chair of the Section.

J.N.K. Rao's Course Description

TITLE: An Introduction To Small Area Estimation

I. LENGTH AND FORMAT: 1-day Course

II. ABSTRACT: Data obtained from a well-designed sample survey can be used to derive reliable estimates for large areas(domains) of a population. But sample sizes in small areas(domains) are seldom large enough for conventional direct estimates to provide adequate precision for small areas. Yet there is growing demand for reliable small area statistics from both public and private sectors. This makes it necessary to employ indirect estimates that borrow strength from related small areas. Such indirect estimates are based on either direct or indirect models that provide a link to related areas through supplementary data such as recent census counts and administrative records. This short course will provide an introduction to indirect estimation methods, traditional as well as model-based. Methods for measuring variability of the estimates will be discussed as well as techniques for model validation. Extensions to binary response data through generalized linear mixed models and to time series data will be covered. Several recent applications of indirect estimates will be presented, including those in U.S. Federal Programs. Methods will be compared on a simulated population resembling a real business population. Design issues that have impact on small area estimation will be discussed.

V. OBJECTIVES: The primary objectives of this short course are: (1) to introduce the participants to the various types of direct and indirect small area estimates; (2) to cover methods for estimating variances of small area estimates; (3) to illustrate with applications the methods of estimation; (4) to provide analytical and empirical comparisons of the estimation methods.

7. OUTLINE: The course will be presented in four sections. The first section will review traditional direct estimation methods, the second will introduce traditional indirect estimation methods that borrow information from related areas. The third section will study a basic area level model and associated empirical best linear unbiased prediction (EBLUP), empirical Bayes (EB) and hierarchical Bayes (HB) methods as well as recent applications of this model. The fourth section will deal with a basic unit level model and applications and various extensions of the area level and unit level models.

1. Introduction (1 hour)
 - 1.1 Terminology and notation
 - 1.2 Direct estimators: poststratification and calibration
 - 1.3 Design issues

2. Traditional indirect estimation (1.5 hours)
 - 2.1 Demographic methods
 - 2.2 Synthetic, composite estimation
 - 2.3 Benchmarking, MSE estimation

3. Basic area-level model (2 hours)
 - 3.1 EBLUP, EB methods, applications
 - 3.2 Model-based MSE estimation
 - 3.3 HB method: Gibbs sampling, software
 - 3.4 Model diagnostics

4. Unit level model, extensions (2 hours)
 - 4.1 Model-based estimators, applications
 - 4.2 Pseudo-EBLUP: survey weights
 - 4.3 Empirical study: real business population
 - 4.4 Extensions: multi-level, logistic, disease mapping, multivariate, time series

VI. TARGET POPULATION: The target population is statisticians who want to learn about small area estimation but have not had any recent formal training in the subject. The participants should have a good understanding of linear and binary regression methods and some basic understanding of linear random effect models. The participants should also be familiar with survey sampling, including multi-stage sampling and weighting of survey data.

VII. LEARNING OUTCOMES: The participants should become familiar with the various methods for small area estimation, the limitation of those methods, and how to go about applying the methods to their surveys. They will also be introduced to the literature and key references to allow them to become more knowledgeable about the subject.

VIII. INSTRUCTOR: J.N.K. Rao is Professor of Statistics at Carleton University and a Consultant to Statistics Canada. Much of his recent research has focused on small area estimation, resampling methods and imputation for missing data. He co-edited a Wiley publication on small area statistics. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, American Statistical Association, and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. He may be contacted by Phone: +1(613) 520-2146; Fax: +1(613) 520-3536; or E-mail: jrao@math.carleton.ca.

Other SRMS Standing Committees

Research Industry Coalition

Liaison: Warren Mitofsky
Phone: (212) 980-3031
Fax: (212) 980-3107
E-mail: mitofsky@mindspring.com

SIPP Working Group

Chair: Mike Sheridan
Phone: (613) 951-9480
Fax: (613) 951-0085
E-Mail: shermik@statcan.ca

Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Working Group

Chair: Mary Grace Kovar
Phone: (202) 223-6040
Fax: (202) 223-6104
E-mail: kovar@norcmail.uchicago.edu
Members: Bob Groves, Bill Kalsbeek

Committee on ASA Fellows

Chair: Mary Mulry
Phone: (972) 506-3971
Fax: (972) 506-3505
E-mail: mary.mulry@marcresearch.com
Members: Don Dillman, Rod Little, Paul Biemer, Lynne Stokes, Clyde Tucker

Newsletter Editors

Leslie Wallace
Phone: (301) 738-3543
Fax: (301) 738-8397
E-mail: wallacL1@westat.com

Tom Krenzke

Phone: (301) 251-4203
Fax: (301) 738-8397
E-mail: krenzkt1@westat.com*



What follows is a list of selected conferences taken from the online Amstat News "dateline" as of May 24. See <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/dateline.html> for a current and complete listing.

August 2000

3-4 – A Statistics Conference for Mathematics Teachers Teaching Introductory Statistics, Rochester, New York
Location: Monroe Community College, 1000 East Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY 14623

The agenda will include: Two addresses by keynote speaker Richard Scheaffer, two real world statistical case studies, several sessions encompassing curriculum issues and classroom teaching strategies, several hands-on computer (web and software) and calculator sessions, dinner and an after-dinner speaker (Robert Hogg), and Publishers Book Exhibit.

Invited speakers are as follows: Professor Richard L. Scheaffer, Keynote Speaker, Dept of Statistics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Professor Joan Garfield, Dept. of Educational Psychology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; Professor Robert V. Hogg, Dept. of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA; and Professor Kyle Siegrist, Mathematical Sciences Dept., University of Alabama in Huntsville, AL. For complete information, visit <http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/math/beyond1.htm> or contact Bob Johnson by E-mail: BeyondTheFormula@MonroeCC.edu; Phone: Dept. Office: 716-292-2930; Fax: Dept. Office: 716-292-3874; or Postal: Dept. of Mathematics; Monroe Community College; Rochester, NY 14623.

13-17 – 2000 Joint Statistical Meetings, Indianapolis, Indiana

To be held at Indiana Convention Center & RCA Dome. Sponsored by ASA, ENAR, WNAR, IMS, and SSC. Information from ASA, 1429 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314-3415; Phone: (703) 684-1221; E-mail: meetings@amstat.org; Web site: www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2000/. Also see feature articles in this newsletter.

22-24 – The Fifth Iranian Statistics Conference, Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran

The Fifth Iranian Statistics Conference (ISC5) will be held at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran. This conference is jointly sponsored by the Iranian Statistical Society. The program includes invited and contributed talks in the areas of theory and applications of statistics and probability, short introductory sessions on current popular fields in statistics, sessions on promoting statistical culture in the society, and sessions on statistical education. A number of grants are available to those presenting papers from abroad. The grants will cover the local hotel and meal expenses.

For more information please contact Fifth Iranian Statistics Conference; School of Mathematical Sciences; Isfahan University of Technology; Isfahan 84156, Iran; Phone: +98 (31) 891 2600; Fax: +98 (31) 891 2602; E-mail: isc5@cc.iut.ac.ir; Web sites: www.iut.ac.ir/math/isc5.htm or <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~iss/>.

September 2000

11-15 – Royal Statistical Society Conference, University of Reading, United Kingdom

For further information please see www.rdg.ac.uk/rss2000/ or contact Dr. Dave Collett, Dept. Applied Statistics, University of Reading, Reading RG6 6FN, UK; d.collett@rdg.ac.uk; Phone: +44 (118) 931 8024; Fax: +44 (118) 975 3169.

October 2000

12-13 – Annual Fall Technical Conference, Marriott City Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

SPES will be co-sponsoring the 44th Annual Fall Technical Conference in October 2000. We would like

to encourage those interested to submit an abstract! The Fall Technical Conference continues to be an excellent opportunity to meet informally and exchange views with speakers and colleagues during breaks and the always-friendly hospitality suite. Sessions offer the latest developments in statistical methods as they relate to quality improvement and quality decision making. And, for the first time, NIST will be contributing to the program with a session or possibly an entire track in honor of Jack Youden! If you are interested in presenting an applied or expository paper in any of three parallel sessions (Statistics, Quality Control, or Tutorial/Case Studies) be sure to check out the SPES page at www.amstat.org/sections/spes/ for the Call for Papers.

16-20 – The 15th Annual Meeting of the Mexican Statistical Association, Mexico City

The theme of the conference is the application of Statistics to Quality and Productivity and will be held in the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM), in México City. The program will feature talks by outstanding world and local personalities from the statistical community, and many contributed papers. For more information contact Dr. Eduardo Castaño, Facultad de Química, UAQ Apartado, Postal 184, Queretaro, Queretaro 76000 MEXICO; Phone and Fax: (524) 215-6867; E-mail: tosta@sunserver.uaq.mx.

November 2002

International Conference on Questionnaire Development, Evaluation, and Testing (ICQDET) – (Site not yet determined)

The goals of the first international conference devoted exclusively to questionnaire development, evaluation, and testing are to bring together researchers and survey practitioners working in this area, to stimulate research papers that contribute to the science of reducing measurement error through questionnaire evaluation, to provide documentation of the current practices, and to stimulate new ideas for future practices. Both invited and contributed sessions are planned. An integrated volume representing the theoretical, methodological and statistical contributions to the field will be produced after the conference. For more information, contact Jennifer Rothgeb, Organizing Committee Chair, U.S. Census Bureau, FB 4, Room 3125, Washington, D.C. 20233; E mail: jennifer.m.rothgeb@cmail.census.gov; Phone: (301) 457-4968.*

Highlights from the Joint Statistical Meetings Schedule:

Sessions Sponsored by the Survey Research Methods Section

Session	Title	Time
<i>Sunday, August 13, 2000</i>		
11	Design and Analysis of Education Surveys Topic Contributed Session	2:00 – 3:50 p.m.
12	Rooting Out Response Error: Methods to Identify Problem Questions Topic Contributed Session	2:00 – 3:50 p.m.
18	Analysis of Incomplete Survey Data Regular Contributed Session	2:00 – 3:50 p.m.
25	Developments in Record Linkage: Theory and Application Invited Session	4:00 – 5:50 p.m.
36	Evaluation of Data Collection Methods Regular Contributed Session	4:00 – 5:50 p.m.
37	Sample Design Regular Contributed Session	4:00 – 5:50 p.m.
<i>Monday, August 14, 2000</i>		
51	Development and Validation of Models for Complex Survey Data Topic Contributed Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
60	Surveys Over Time Regular Contributed Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
74	Evaluations of the Census Bureau's Master Address File for Census 2000 And Beyond: Part I Topic Contributed Session	10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
80	Establishment Surveys Regular Contributed Session	10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
81	Modes of Data Collection in Surveys Regular Contributed Session	10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
94	Non-Parametric and Semi-Parametric Techniques in Survey Sampling Invited Session	2:00 – 3:50 p.m.

Session	Title	Time
<i>Monday, August 14, 2000 (continued)</i>		
104	Postdoctoral Research Programs in the Federal Statistical System Topic Contributed Panel	2:00 – 3:50 p.m.
109	Methods for Evaluation of the 2000 Decennial Census, Part I Regular Contributed Session	2:00 – 3:50 p.m.
<i>Tuesday, August 15, 2000</i>		
114	Small Area Estimates of Poverty: Current Methods and Future Directions Invited Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
121	Interdisciplinary Survey Research Involving the Computer and Cognitive Sciences Topic Contributed Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
130	Methods for Evaluation of the 2000 Decennial Census, Part II Regular Contributed Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
142	Evaluations of the Census Bureau's Master Address File for Census 2000 and Beyond: Part II Topic Contributed Session	10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
143	Current Methods Research Issues: The NCHS Centers for Excellence in Health Statistics Topic Contributed Session	10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
175	Hierarchical Models for Complex Survey Data Topic Contributed Session	2:00 – 3:50 p.m.
181	Imputation for Missing Survey Data Regular Contributed Session	2:00 – 3:50 p.m.
<i>Wednesday, August 16, 2000</i>		
190	Statistical Software for Complex Sample Survey Data Invited Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
195	Calibration Estimates and Calibration-Adjusted Variance Estimation Topic Contributed Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.

Session	Title	Time
<i>Wednesday, August 16, 2000 (continued)</i>		
202	Incomplete Data in Longitudinal Surveys Regular Contributed Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
217	New Directions for the NIS Topic Contributed Session	10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
226	Sample Design, Design Effects and Split Questionnaires Regular Contributed Session	10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
246	Methodological Research Involving the NIS Topic Contributed Session	2:00 – 3:50 p.m.
252	Survey Estimation and Inference Regular Contributed Session	2:00 – 3:50 p.m.
<i>Thursday, August 17, 2000</i>		
264	Sampling in Developing Countries Topic Contributed Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
270	Telephone Surveys: Methodological and Empirical Issues Regular Contributed Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
271	Variance Estimation for Sample Surveys Regular Contributed Session	8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
276	Digital Government and Federal Statistics Invited Session	10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
287	Health and Education Surveys Regular Contributed Session	10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

The SRMS Award for Innovation in Survey Research Methods

1. Motivation

The annual award will recognize the accomplishments of new statistical developments, methodological research findings, data collection implementation, or other innovations in the theory and practice of survey research. All areas of focus that are within the mission of the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association are eligible for the award. The accomplishments recognized might be:

- a. the publication of a journal article, monograph, or book that after at least 2 years of its publication is judged to be an important contribution to the field; or
- b. the publication of survey documentation, a web site, or other publication medium that is judged, after at least 2 years of its publication, to be evidence of importance innovation in practice; or
- c. multi-year evidence of cumulative impact on the theory and practice in the field, through a series of individual widely disseminated results.

2. Nature of Award

The award will be presented at the annual business meeting of the SRMS, in the form of a plaque designating the name of the winner and reason for selection. A maximum of \$200 per year will be allocated in the SRMS budget for purchasing the plaque.

3. Frequency of Award

The award will be given annually. There will be only one recipient of the award each year, although for collaborative accomplishments, the single award can be given to the group.

4. Selection Process

4.1 Criteria

The most important criterion is innovation in theory and methods that can lead to improvement in the quality or cost efficiency of survey based estimates. The evidence used in the selection process must contain some documentation of

the innovation that is disseminated to the larger field (articles, books, written documentation, video presentations).

4.2 Protocol

A standing committee of the SRMS will be established with three members (in current good standing as SRMS members), each serving three-year terms, staggered so that continuity is maintained. The chair of the SRMS each year will serve as an *ex officio* member of the committee, with full voting rights. The chair of the committee will be designated by the chair of the SRMS.

In choosing members to serve on the committee the chair of SRMS will endeavor to choose SRMS members who have long and broad experience in the various subfields of the survey research methods.*



.....
• Fellow SRMS members: In the wake of the Portland •
• conference on Nonresponse, a group of us from the •
• San Francisco Bay Area have created a face-to-face •
• discussion group. We meet monthly to discuss issues •
• relevant to survey research. If you are traveling to •
• the Bay Area and would like to meet colleagues, we •
• invite you to contact us. Write to Dominic Lusinchi •
• at unovic@aol.com (Dominic Lusinchi).*
.....

We welcome announcements from SRMS members that are of general interest to survey research professionals.

Contact the editors at wallacL1@Westat.com or krenzkt1@Westat.com.*

Awards



Survey Research Methods Section co-sponsors Student Paper Competition for JSM 2001

The Survey Research Methods Section is pleased to announce that it will join the Social Statistics Section in sponsoring a student competition for papers to be presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings in 2001. SRMS will award a subsidy of as much as \$800 to support attendance by a winning presenter on a topic in survey statistics at the JSM in Atlanta on August 5-9, 2001. The Social Statistics Section will support four additional awards for topics in Social Statistics. Winners of the awards will present their papers at a session of the meeting and will be recognized at the Sections' business meetings. Current students at any level, including those graduating in 2000 who wish to present research they conducted as students, are eligible to participate.

Papers entered in the Student Competition must involve either a new statistical methodology or a creative application of existing methodology to a problem or issue in survey statistics (or social statistics, for that section's awards). Research for the submitted papers does not have to be complete, but competitors must be able to submit an abstract prospectus describing the planned research, including the nature of the intended innovative work.

Applications will include (1) an abstract of up to 300 words, (2) a 2-page research prospectus, (3) a draft paper if available, and (4) a letter from the advisor certifying student status. See the Social Statistics Section web site (<http://home.uchicago.edu/~nic5/>) for details and instructions on how to apply, which will be posted in late August. Applications will be due in November.*

Bryant Scholarship to be Awarded

Each year an outstanding graduate student in Survey Statistics is awarded the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship to help support the student's graduate education. Westat established the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Trust Fund in 1995 to honor its co-founder and long-time leader. Under Dr. Bryant's leadership, Westat, an employee-owned statistical firm established in 1961, grew into what is now one of the world's leading statistical research firms with a full-time permanent staff of 1200. Selection of the scholarship recipient is made by the ASA Bryant Scholarship Award Committee. The selection criteria includes potential to contribute to survey statistics, applied experience in survey statistics, and performance in graduate school. The award consists of a certificate and a \$1500.00 cash prize.

The 2000 winner will be presented at the Presidential Address at the JSM in Indianapolis. To apply for the 2001 scholarship, see www.amstat.org/awards/bryantap.html or contact ASA at (703) 684-1221, Ext. 148. Applications and letters of recommendation must be received by April 1, 2001 for consideration. For more information, contact Jean Opsomer, the 2000 Committee Chair at jopsomer@iastate.edu or (515) 294-0212.*

Cochran-Hansen Prize Seeking Applicants

Submissions are invited for the Cochran-Hansen Prize, awarded by the International Association of Survey Statisticians for the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a Developing or Transition Country.

The author of the winning paper will be invited to present the paper at the Seoul Session of the ISI in 2001 with expenses paid, and will also receive books and journal subscriptions to the value of about 500 Euros.

The paper must be submitted to the IASS Secretariat to arrive by 30 November 2000.

For further details see www.cbs.nl/isi/chprize.htm.*

Executive Committee Members

SECTION OFFICERS Survey Research Methods Section Executive Committee	
<p>Past Chair Robert Groves Phone: (301) 314-7911 Fax: (301) 314-7912 E-mail: <i>bgroves@survey.umd.edu</i></p>	<p>Chair Brenda G. Cox Phone: (202) 484-4231 Fax: (202) 863-1763 E-mail: <i>Bcox@mathematica-mpr.com</i></p>
<p>Chair-Elect Daniel Kasprzyk Phone: (202) 219-1588 Fax: (202) 219-1325 E-mail: <i>daniel_kasprzyk@ed.gov</i></p>	<p>Program Chair-Elect James M. Lepkowski Phone: (734) 936-0021 Fax: (734) 764-8263 E-mail: <i>jimlep@umich.edu</i></p>
<p>Program Chair John Eltinge Phone: (202) 691-7404 Fax: (202) 691-7426 E-mail: <i>Eltinge_J@bls.gov</i></p>	<p>Publications Officer (1999-2000) Sharon Lohr Phone: (480) 965-4440 Fax: (480) 965-8119 E-mail: <i>sharon.lohr@asu.edu</i></p>
<p>Secretary (2000-2001) Elizabeth Zell Phone: (404) 639-4710 Fax: (404) 639-2780 E-mail: <i>ezrl@cdc.gov</i></p>	<p>Treasurer (1999-2000) Keith Rust Phone: (301) 251-8278 Fax: (301) 294-2034 E-mail: <i>rustk1@westat.com</i></p>
<p>Council of Sections Representative (2000) Ralph Folsom Phone: (919) 541-6248 Fax: (919) 541-5985 E-mail: <i>ref@rti.org</i></p>	<p>Council of Sections Representative (2000-2002) William Kalsbeek Phone: (919) 962-3249 Fax: (919) 966-2221 E-mail: <i>bill_kalsbeek@unc.edu</i></p>
<p>ASA Staff Liaison Mary Fleming Phone: (703) 684-1221, ext. 162 Fax: (703) 684-3768 E-mail: <i>mary@amstat.org</i></p>	

Bios

Brenda G. Cox, SRMS Chair, is a Senior Fellow in the Washington, DC office of Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. and an occasional instructor in the USDA Graduate School. Previously, she was a Senior Statistician at Research Triangle Institute, a Research Fellow at the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and an Adjunct Associate Professor at North Carolina State University. She received her Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Statistics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University in Blacksburg, VA. after earning a B.A. in History (!) and Mathematics from Concord College in Athens, WV. She led the SRMS committee that organized the 1st International Conference on Establishment Surveys and edited the monograph on *Business Survey Methods* and co-authored *Methodological Issues for Health Care Surveys*. Her research interests include sampling methods and survey methodology, treatment of missing and faulty survey data, establishment surveys and longitudinal surveys. Dr. Cox reports that what she likes most about SRMS is that it provides a way to find out what her competitors are up to and what her clients are concerned about while staying in touch with current survey methods and getting to know a lot of neat people.

John Eltinge is the current SRMS Program Chair. He currently is a Senior Mathematical Statistician in the Office of Survey Methods Research of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. He also serves as an associate editor of *Survey Methodology* and *The American Statistician*, and is one of four editors of the forthcoming monograph, *Survey Nonresponse*, developed from the October 1999 International Conference on Survey Nonresponse. He received Ph.D. in 1987 from the Department of Statistics at Iowa State University, and taught survey sampling and statistical methods as an assistant and associate professor in the Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University. In addition, he previously was an ASA/NSF/BLS research fellow and an Associate Editor for JASA. His principal interests are in nonresponse, measurement error, inference from complex survey data, quantile estimation, sample design and disclosure limitation.

Keith Rust is a vice president, and associate director of the statistical group, at Westat, in Rockville, Maryland, where he has worked for the past 13 years. He is also a Research Associate Professor at the Joint Program in

Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland - College Park. Previously he was employed at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. He has a Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the University of Michigan, and is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. His areas of interest in survey research include variance estimation, and methods for surveys of educational achievement.

Robert M. Groves is Director of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, based at the University of Maryland, consortium of the University of Maryland, University of Michigan, and Westat, Inc. sponsored by the Federal statistical system. He is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Michigan and Senior Research Scientist at its Institute for Social Research. At the Michigan Survey Research Center he is a member of the Survey Methodology Research Program. From 1990-92 he was an Associate Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, on loan from Michigan. He is the author of *Survey Errors and Survey Costs* (Wiley, 1989); (with M. Couper) of *Nonresponse in Household Interview Surveys* (Wiley, 1998); (with R. Kahn) of *Surveys By Telephone* (Academic Press, 1979); chief editor of *Telephone Survey Methodology* (Wiley, 1988); a co-editor of *Measurement Errors in Surveys* (Wiley, 1991); chief editor of *Survey Nonresponse* (Wiley, forthcoming); and an author of many journal articles in survey methodology.

He has over twenty-five years of experience with large-scale surveys. He has investigated the impact of alternative telephone sample designs on precision, the effect of data collection mode on the quality of survey reports, causes and remedies for nonresponse errors in surveys, estimation and explanation of interviewer variance in survey responses, and other topics in survey methods. His current research interests focus on theory building in survey participation and models of nonresponse reduction and adjustment.

Groves has an A.B. degree from Dartmouth College and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, former President of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, and Chair of the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association.*



Mission Statement

The mission of the Section on Survey Research Methods 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.

American Statistical Association
1429 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3402
USA

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALEXANDRIA, VA
PERMIT NO. 361

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION