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SRMS – In Search of Lost Time Message from the Section Chair

Phil Kott



Back in January, John McKenzie, Chair of the ASA’s Committee on Archives and Historical Materials asked if I would prepare on poster for this year’s JSM on the history of the SRMS. I am sad to say, I fumbled the ball on that and did not get an abstract written in time. Instead, I decided to write up a short history and put it in the newsletter.

I did not fully succeed.

One of the reasons John came to me rather than the SRMS historian is that there was no active historian. We had one once, but the position was unoccupied. Worse, all the material in the historian’s possession was – and continues to be – missing.

Fortunately, we do have a number of useful resources on SRMS history. One is Irene Hess’s 1990 American Statistician article on the history of the section, which is now posted on our

website. The other is the website itself (<http://www.amstat.org/sections/srms/>), which originated in 1996. All but the first three SRMS newsletters are available on the website in electronic form (the paper version disappeared entirely in 2008). These newsletters, semi-annual since 1996, are chock full of what is now historical information.

Thanks to David Lyon, the second and third – dated May 1994 and April 1995 – are now in the possession of our newly appointed historian, Michael P. Cohen. We are still trying to find a copy of the first newsletter. Anyone with access to a copy should let Mike know.

The Irene Hess article lists all the chairs of the section from its inception in 1978 (between 1974 and 1978, it was a subsection of the Section on Social Statistics) until 1990. Below is a list from 1993 forward. If anyone can fill in the chairs for the missing two years, let us know. The ASA maintains a list of all *elected* section officers starting in 1995. Currently, there is no list of *appointed* section officers, like newsletter editors, webmasters, and historians.

The SRMS website contains a link to all the Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM) Proceedings of the section. These began with the section in 1978. It also lists the conferences sponsored and co-sponsored by the section since 1999, but not those before (the Hess articles covers 1978 to 1990). Mention of other sponsored conferences can be found in the newsletters. Also in the newsletters are the winners of the Student Travel Awards given to six students annually since 2004 to support their going to the JSM, the winners of the student paper awards given jointly with the Social Statistics Section since 2001 and eventually the Government Statistics Section. SRMS has also given awards for the best posters at the JSM since 2008. This was extended to include the best speed posters last year.

Finally, at least for now, the website provides a list to webinars given jointly with the American Association of Public Opinion Research since 2009. There are links to most of the slides as well.

As you can see, Mike has a lot of work to do filling in the missing pieces of our history as well as correcting for any errors and omissions I may have made here, although I will handle one omission myself. SRMSNET, the section listserv housed at the University of Maryland, has been in operation since 1995 as anyone can tell by visiting its archives at <https://listserv.umd.edu/archives/srmsnet.html>.

Chairs of the Survey Research Methods Section since 1993

1993 Fritz Scheuren	2000 Brenda G. Cox	2007 William D. Kalsbeek
1994 Judith T. Lessler	2001 Daniel Kasprzyk	2008 Mary H. Mulry
1995 Seymour Sudman	2002 Lars Lyberg	2009 Roderick A. Little
1996 David A. Binder	2003 S. Lynne Stokes	2010 Howard Hogan
1997 Kirk M. Wolter	2004 Sharon Lohr	2011 Steven H. Cohen
1998 Donald B. Rubin	2005 Sarah M. Nusser	2012 John L. Czajka
1999 Robert M. Groves	2006 Roger Tourangeau	2013 Jill Montaquila
		2014 Phillip S. Kott

Calling All Interested Mentors and Mentees

Jill M. Montaquila



For all members interested in serving as a mentor or in being mentored, this article provides information about resources and an exciting mentoring pilot program.

The ASA Committee on Applied Statisticians (CAS) is maintaining a clearinghouse of mentoring resources and programs; for information, see <http://community.amstat.org/CAS/mentoring1>.

Also, CAS will be facilitating a second hands-on mentoring pilot this year, based on their 2013 program. They are seeking mentors and mentees for the 2014 program. Interested parties should email their contact information and a current résumé/CV to appliedstatisticians@gmail.com with “ASA CAS Mentoring Program” in the subject line.

Report from the Council of Sections Representatives

Jeff Gonzalez and Chris Moriarity



A group of over 100 ASA members has petitioned the Council of Sections Governing Board to become a Section of ASA. The name of the proposed section is the Section on Statistics in Genomics and Genetics. The Council of Sections will discuss the group's petition at our business meeting at JSM, and we will vote on the motion to grant a section charter to the group shortly after JSM. We welcome your input on this topic.

The number of ASA sections has grown to 27, with the addition of the new Section on Medical Devices and Diagnostics, chartered in January 2014. The list of sections is online at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sectionlist.cfm>

Stacy Lindborg is the new SRMS representative from the Council of Sections Governing Board. Her term as one of the three Governing Board Vice-Chairs runs through the end of 2016.

Congratulations to the newly elected SRMS officers. A generic Section Officers Handbook (not completely up to date) in HTML format is located within the ASA member only area at: <https://www.amstat.org/membersonly/sections/handbook/index.cfm?fuseaction=main>. Stacy Lindborg said in January that the Section Officers Handbook is being revised this year; we provided several suggestions for revisions to the handbook.

All SRMS members are welcome to review the section officer information in the handbook. Please let your current SRMS officers know if you are interested in helping out our section, or to express your interest in serving as an SRMS officer in the future.

JSM 2014

Karol Krotki



SRMS sessions for the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings are final and can be reviewed in the online JSM program.

We have **four Invited Sessions** on the program all on topics of current interest: paradata, calibration, vendor data for address based sampling, and adaptive survey design. We have co-sponsors for these sessions, e.g., Government Statistics Section and Statistics Without Borders.

Next, SRMS is sponsoring 11 **Topic Contributed Sessions** covering a wide variety of topical issues. We are also cosponsoring a **Panel Topic Contributed Session** with Statistics Without Borders focusing on the global impact of SwoB.

Then we have 20, count them, **Regular Paper Contributed Sessions** so there should be enough diversity of topics to satisfy any survey statistician's intellectual and practical curiosity. Thanks to all who volunteered to chair these sessions. Please check your assignment and let Karol (kkrotki@rti.org) know if you cannot make the assignment.

This year SRMS will sponsor one traditional **Poster Contributed Session** as well as two **SPEED Sessions**. The first is sponsored by SRMS and the second is jointly sponsored with the Section on Statistics in Epidemiology. The SPEED sessions consist of two parts: a very short oral presentation followed by a poster session during which there is much opportunity for rich discussion.

Roundtable discussions are another great way to generate interchange with attendees who share similar interests. There will be three such roundtables at JSM2014: analyzing survey nonresponse, disclosure limitation for microdata, and practical tools for designing and weighting samples.

Last but not least, our fearless leader Phil Kott will be offering a **Course** on Saturday afternoon. The topic is calibration.

All SRMS members are invited and encouraged to attend the open SRMS **Business Meeting** on Wednesday 6 August, 6-8pm, in Room CC-157C.

Report from the Publications Officer

John Finamore



The SRMS Publications Officer is responsible for ensuring that the SRMS members and those considering SRMS membership are aware of the ongoing SRMS activities and the work the section is accomplishing. There are four main publication tools used by the Publications Officer in this effort:

- The SRMS website (www.amstat.org/sections/srms)
- The SRMS Newsletter (www.amstat.org/sections/srms/newsletter.html)
- The “ASA Section News” section of the monthly AmstatNews Magazine
- The ASA social network sites ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#))

So, if you are looking for the latest happenings in the SRMS world, please check out these publication tools. Of course, if you have a question about a SRMS activity and cannot find any information on it, please feel free to contact me directly by email at jfinamor@nsf.gov.

And since I have your attention, I will use the opportunity to publicize a few SRMS-sponsored activities that will take place at the upcoming 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston. SRMS is sponsoring one continuing education course and three roundtables. Please consider signing up for these options when you register for the conference. Remember that space is limited, so sign up sooner rather than later.

- **Continuing Education Course (Saturday, August 2nd, 1-5pm):** [Calibration Weighting in Survey Sampling](#) by Phil Kott (RTI International)
- **Lunch Roundtable (Monday, August 4th, 12:30-1:50pm):** [Analyzing Survey Nonresponse](#) by Polly Phipps (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- **Breakfast Roundtable (Wednesday, August 6th, 7:00-8:15am):** [Valid Analytic Properties and Disclosure Limitation for Microdata](#) by William Winkler (U.S. Census Bureau)
- **Lunch Roundtable (Wednesday, August 6th, 12:30-1:50pm):** [Practical Tools for Designing and Weighting Survey Samples](#) by Jill Dever (RTI International)

If you have any ideas or suggestions for improving our publication activities, please let me know. Have a great summer!

Introductory Overview Lecture: Modern Perspectives on Estimation for Surveys — Invited Special Presentation

Tue, 8/5/2014, 8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

ASA , ENAR , WNAR , IMS , SSC , International Chinese Statistical Association , International Indian Statistical Association , Korean International Statistical Society , International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) , Royal Statistical Society , Statistics Without Borders , Conference on Statistical Practice Steering Committee

Organizer(s): Jay Breidt, Colorado State University

Chair(s): TBD TBD, TBD

Introductory Overview Lecture on Methods of Estimation for Complex Surveys, Part I — Jay Breidt, Colorado State University

Introductory Overview Lecture on Methods of Estimation for Complex Surveys, Part II — David Haziza, Associate Professor, Université de Montréal

Floor Discussion

SRMS JSM Student Travel Award Winners

2014 Award Winners

Andreea Erciulescu, Iowa State University

Raphael Nishimura, University of Michigan

Elizabeth Petraglia, The Ohio State University

Tracy Schifeling, Duke University

Matthias Speidel, Institute for Employment Research (IAB)

ASA Student Paper Competition Winners

- **Audrey Beliveau** (Simon Fraser University) *"Aerial-Access Creel Survey with Incomplete Matching of Aerial and Access Components "*
- **Jonah Deutsch** (Harris School of Public Policy) *"Using School Lotteries to Evaluate the Value-Added Model "*
- **Julia Lee** (Program in Survey Methodology, University of Michigan) *"Enhancing Respondent Representativeness through External Benchmarks "*
- **Hanzhi Zhou** (Program in Survey Methodology, University of Michigan) *"An Innovative Multiple Imputation Method to Accommodate Complex Sample Design Features "*
- **Jose Zubizarreta** (The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania) *"Matching for Balance, Pairing for Heterogeneity in an Observational Study of Effectiveness of For-Profit and Not-For-Profit High Schools in Chile "*

2014 SRMS Election Results

Chair-Elect : Michael Larsen, The George Washington University

Program Chair-Elect : Yan Li, University of Maryland

Treasurer : Michael P. Cohen, American Institutes for Research

Publications Officer : Trent Buskirk, Marketing Systems Group and Saint Louis University

Council of Sections Representative : Howard Hogan, U.S. Census Bureau

Education Officer : Stas Kolenikov, Abt SRBI

Your SRMS Officers

Chair: Phil Kott

Chair-Elect: Michael Elliott

Past-Chair: Jill M. Montaquila

Treasurer: Jill Dever

Secretary: Sam Hawala

2014 JSM Program Chair: Karol Krotki

Program Chair-Elect: Daniell Toth

Publications Officer: John Finamore

Education Officer: Marilyn Seastrom

Section Representatives: Jeffrey Gonzalez, Chris Moriarity

ASA Staff Liasion: Rick Peterson

More information can be found at

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

Newsletter Editors: Shelton Jones and Jamie Ridenhour



SRMS Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

- If you are not an ASA member, go to the membership page of the ASA and fill the application at www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=becomeamember. 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: www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html or there is also a link from the ASA website at www.amstat.org.