



WSS NEWS

July/August 2006

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

Federal Committee On Statistical Methodology Statistical Policy Seminar

Keeping Current: What We Know – What We Need To Learn
November 28-29, 2006
The Eighth in a Series of Seminars Hosted by COPAFS
(The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics)

Participants will include Statisticians, Economists, and Managers, as well as Other Professionals in the Broader Statistical Community who Share an Interest in Keeping Current on Issues Related to Federal Data

Support Provided by:

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality * Bureau of Economic Analysis * Bureau of Justice Statistics * Bureau of Labor Statistics * Bureau of Transportation Statistics * Energy Information Administration * Environmental Protection Agency * National Agricultural Statistics Service * National Center for Education Statistics * National Center for Health Statistics * Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics of the Social Security Administration * Statistics of Income Division of the Internal Revenue Service * U.S. Census Bureau

Topics:

- * The Quality of Administrative Records for Statistical Uses
- * Longitudinal Survey Designs: Current Best Practices and Continuing Challenges
- * Providing Researchers Access to Federal Data
- * The Future of Telephone Surveys
- * Positioning the Federal Statistical System to Quickly Respond to Data Needs in Times of Crisis or Catastrophe
- * Nonresponse Bias Analyses in Federal Surveys
- * Incentives – New Results on the Effects of Incentives
- * Total Survey Error in Economic Statistics
- * How to Encourage Innovation
- * Using Internet Panels For National Data
- * Modeling Survey Costs: Towards a Research Agenda
- * Establishing Archival Data Systems for Agency Historical Information

Keynote Address: Kenneth Prewitt, Columbia University

Location and Cost:

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington D.C. 20024
To Reserve a Room Call: 202-484-1000

Seminar Registration Cost: \$195.00 per person

A Registration Form Can Be Downloaded From Our Site At: www.copafs.org

For Further Information, Contact the COPAFS Office at:

Phone: 703-836-0404

Email: copafs@aol.com

Program Announcement

- Title: **A**
Multiscale Method for Disease Mapping in Spatial Epidemiology
- Chair: Linda Williams Pickle, National Cancer Institute, NIH
- Speaker: Mary M. Louie, National Center for Health Statistics
- Discussant: Myron J. Katzoff, National Center for Health Statistics
- Date/Time: Tuesday, July 25, 2006 / 12:30 to 2:00 pm
- Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center in G440. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor: Methodology Section, WSS
- Abstract: The effects of spatial scale in disease mapping are well-recognized, in that the information conveyed by such maps varies with scale. Here we provide an inferential framework, in the context of tract count data, for describing the distribution of relative risk simultaneously across a hierarchy of multiple scales. In particular, we offer a multiscale extension of the canonical standardized mortality ratio (SMR), consisting of Bayesian posterior-based strategies for both estimation and characterization of uncertainty. As a result, a hierarchy of informative disease and confidence maps can be produced, without the need to first try to identify a single appropriate scale of analysis. We explore the behavior of the proposed methodology in a small simulation study, and we illustrate its usage through an application to data on gastric cancer in Tuscany. By way of comparison, we also present results from a hierarchical Bayesian model. Throughout, we discuss broader issues associated with the task of disease mapping such as over-dispersion and estimating relative risks for small areas.

Program Announcement

Title: **Bayesian Methods for Incomplete Two-way Categorical Table with Application to the Buckeye State Polls**

Speaker: YouSung Park, Korea University, and Jai Won Choi, NCHS

Chair: Joe Fred Gonzalez, NCHS

Date/time: Thursday, July 27, 2006 / 10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Location: Auditorium 1405B, National Center for Health Statistics, 3311 Toledo Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782. Park at the next building. A photo ID is needed to enter the NCHS/CDC building. Please call Jai Choi (301-458-4144) or Joe Gonzalez (301-458-4239) for directions and to let them know that you are attending.

Sponsor: WSS Public Health and Biostatistics Section

Abstract: When survey counts or responses are classified into a two-way table, substantial counts miss information on the column or row or both. Then we can not have correct cell inference with fully classified counts only. Hence we propose a method how to utilize the partially classified counts to have correct inference on the cells. To accomplish this goal, we use Bayesian method with five different priors, three previously known and two newly created; we then compare them to maximum likelihood (ML) method under the assumption that responses could be ignorable or nonignorable. Although Bayesian method (BM) often solve the boundary solution problem of ML, BM not always gives better solution as the performance of BM depends partly on the prior specification. We use four sets of data from 1998 Ohio state polls to illustrate the method. Our simulation study also compares the five Bayesian models of five different priors to ML under the ignorable or non-ignorable nonresponse assumption. It is interesting to see that the winner of Columbus Mayor could loose if more people who were unlikely to vote actually voted.

Employment

As a service to local statisticians, *WSS News* provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com or (703) 373-6645.

WESTAT

AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED RESEARCH CORPORATION

Westat is an employee-owned corporation headquartered in the suburbs of Washington, DC (Rockville, Maryland). We provide statistical consulting and survey research to the agencies of the U.S. Government and to a broad range of business and institutional clients. With a strong technical and managerial staff and a long record of quality research, Westat has become one of the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States.

Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 1,800 includes over 60 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in field sites around the country. The work atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to professional growth.

Our statistical efforts continue to expand in areas such as the environment, energy, health, education, and human resources. Westat statisticians are actively involved in teaching graduate-level courses in statistical methods and survey methodology in collaborative arrangements with area colleges and universities.

We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

Survey Sampling Statistician (Job Code WSS/DRM/6001)

Three or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Must have a master's or doctoral degree in statistics and have excellent writing skills. Coursework in sample survey design is highly desirable.

Westat offers excellent growth opportunities and an outstanding benefits package including life and health insurance, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a 401(k) plan, flexible spending accounts, professional development, and tuition assistance. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter, indicating the Westat Job Code, and resume by one of the following methods to:

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**The George Washington University
School of Public Health & Health Services**

Faculty Member in Biostatistics

The Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics is recruiting for a full time faculty member at the Assistant or Associate Professor level with expertise in biostatistics.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to join a growing Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the nation's capital that has a highly respected and energetic teaching and research faculty and the opportunity to conduct clinical trials research at The Biostatistics Center.

Under the leadership of its new Chairman, Alan E. Greenberg, MD, MPH, the Department has expertise in HIV/AIDS, cancer, behavioral, and aging epidemiology, geographical health information systems, and biostatistical methods. In addition, the Department has established collaborative opportunities with other Departments in the GWU School of Public Health and Health Services, the GWU Medical Center, the Veterans Administration Hospital, Children's National Medical Center, the National Cancer Institute, the Department of Defense, and the DC Department of Health.

The Biostatistics Center is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institute of Health. The center is renowned for its leadership in multi-center trials in diabetes, cardiovascular disease, maternal/fetal clinical medicine, osteoporosis, and urology, and the genetic basis for a series of diseases.

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is involved in the MS and PhD degree programs in biostatistics and in epidemiology, among other graduate degree programs. The MS and PhD degree programs in biostatistics and in epidemiology admitted its first class in 1995. There are currently 15 doctoral students matriculated in the PhD degree in biostatistics and 10 students matriculated in the MS degree in biostatistics. More than half of the doctoral students in biostatistics are working on their dissertation research.

Responsibilities of the position will include teaching upper level courses in theoretical and applied biostatistics, mentoring masters and doctoral students in biostatistics, participating in clinical trials research at the GWU Biostatistics Center (<http://biostat.bsc.gwu.edu>), and developing an externally-funded research program.

Faculty rank and compensation will be commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin on March 1, 2006, and will continue until the position is filled. Send letter of application, CV, and a list of 3 references, preferably electronically, to:

Dr. Dante A. Verme

Chair, Search Committee, Biostatistics
E-mail: sphdav@gwumc.edu (electronic submissions strongly preferred)
Vice Chair for Educational Activities
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
The George Washington University
School of Public Health & Health Services
2300 Eye St., NW, Ross Hall 125
Washington, DC 20037

GWU SPHHS Webpage: <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs>
The Biostatistics Center Webpage: <http://biostat.bsc.gwu.edu>

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

The Biostatistics Center

**CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS
M.S. and Ph.D. Level Positions**

With an opportunity for substantial leadership responsibility in studies of international public health import.

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University, founded in 1972, is a leader in

the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institutes of Health. We enjoy over \$45 million per year of NIH research funding for major studies in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal/fetal medicine, osteoporosis, urology, and the genetic basis for various diseases. The center has a staff of over 100 with 27 biostatisticians/epidemiologists, including 10 faculty. We are recruiting M.S. and Ph.D. level staff to participate in these and future studies. Please visit our web site (below).

Master's Level Research Positions: These positions require a Master's in Biostatistics or Statistics and 1-5 years experience in analysis, supervision of data management and study design for biomedical applications. Good written and oral communication skills, and detailed knowledge of SAS required. Send CV to address below.

Assistant to Full Research Professorial Positions are available immediately to serve as Co-Investigator or Principal Investigator (Project Director) and to provide statistical direction of the design, conduct and analysis of studies and the conduct of methodologic research to meet the projects needs. We are seeking individuals who want to join a highly competent team of academic biostatisticians and epidemiologists; who desire to contribute to the design and analysis of major medical studies, seek substantive scientific and statistical responsibility, enjoy interacting with medical investigators; take pride contributing to the publication of major papers in leading medical journals, and desire to make an impact on the public health. Our faculty also participate in graduate programs in biostatistics, epidemiology and statistics which afford opportunities for teaching at the graduate level. The research projects also provide an environment rich in methodological problems, with opportunities for collaboration with research active Center faculty and graduate students.

Minimum Position Requirements: Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, or alternatively an M.D. or Ph.D. in Biological Science, Physical Science or Computer Science with a Masters in Biostatistics or Statistics, 1-5 years' experience with clinical trials, especially study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS, excellent oral and written English communication skills, and supervisory experience.

Application Procedures: Applicants must send a Curriculum Vitae and three letters of reference; a letter to include a synopsis of their role in collaborative medical research that has led to medical scientific presentation or publication and a statement of career purpose indicating their career goals and how this position can help you achieve those goals; and applicants for Assistant Research Professor positions must send an Official Transcript of graduate coursework leading to the doctoral degree to: Sarah Fowler, Research Professor and Director, The George Washington University Biostatistics Center, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852.
[HTTP://WWW.BSC.GWU.EDU](http://www.bsc.gwu.edu)

Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employees (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children.

All research and regular faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics or Statistics may apply for the Samuel W. Greenhouse Biostatistics Research Enhancement Award. For a period of 1 year, the award will provide 20% effort for methodological research and a discretionary fund to support professional activities, travel to professional meetings, supplies and equipment. Applicants for the research faculty position may also apply for the Greenhouse Award while their faculty application is being considered. For complete information including Award Application Materials Requirements, please visit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu.

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VISITING FACULTY POSITION

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON, DC 20052

The Department of Statistics at The George Washington University invites applications for a Visiting Assistant Professor position for one year to start in fall 2006. The primary responsibility is teaching 3 courses in Fall 2006 and 3 courses in Spring 2007.

The Department is the first department of statistics in a college of arts and sciences in USA, and is well recognized for its teaching and research accomplishments. The Department provides a stimulating academic environment and great opportunities for research collaboration. The Department has a strong research program and has received research grants from most of the major research funding organizations, NSF, DoD, NIH, EPA, etc.

The Department has 13 full-time faculty members, and offers the B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Statistics; M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Biostatistics and in Epidemiology, in collaboration with the School of Public Health and Health Services; and a Graduate Certificate in Survey Design and Data Analysis. The Department also teaches statistics to about one thousand students from other departments every semester. Applicants are encouraged to visit the Department's website (www.gwu.edu/~stat) for information on current research interests and activities of the faculty.

The Department's location in the nation's capital offers unique cultural and professional opportunities. Many major Government agencies, international organizations, research institutions, and companies located in Washington, DC offer excellent opportunities for applied research collaboration and professional development. The Department faculty has engaged in collaborative research efforts with several statistical branches of government agencies. Statisticians with collaborative research interest should find our location and the position attractive.

Applicants should have a doctoral degree in Statistics or related field, and demonstrated excellence in teaching. Review of applications will begin on April 17, 2006, and will continue until the position is filled. Please send application, CV, and 3 recommendation letters to:

Search Committee
Department of Statistics
George Washington University
Washington, DC 20052.

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Visiting Assistant Professor

One-year appointment for visiting assistant professor in statistics and instructor in mathematics or statistics, American University, beginning Fall 2006.

Duties include teaching and department service. PhD in statistics required for assistant professor, MA or MS in math/stat for instructor. American University is an AA/EEO employer, committed to a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. Minority and women candidates are encouraged to apply. For position information and application instructions, see www.mathstat.american.edu/positions or contact the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at (202)885-3120.

Contact

Linda Greene

American University
 Department of Mathematics and Statistics
 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW
 Washington, DC 20016-8050
 (202) 885-3137

Research Associate, Special Education

The Research Associate will synthesize educational research focused on interventions for children and youth with disabilities, develop 6-10 page reviews of the research around identified topic areas, and participate in specialized conferences. In addition, s/he will assist with the review of other NICHCY research products; assist with collection of research and applications of research, assist with evaluation and other activities of the Dissemination Center.

Doctorate degree in education, special education, psychology or related area; min 4 year(s) of relevant experience required; involvement in research analysis; knowledge of special education, early intervention, and the disability field in general; ability to manage multiple priorities; experience in grant application development.

Interested applicants should send resume with cover letter referencing position #KN6092ipr to: AED/HR, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; fax: (202) 884-8413 or email: employ@smtp.aed.org. For additional information, visit our website at <http://www.aed.org>.

AA/EOE/M/F/D/V

Biostatistician - Health Care Analyst (0603173)

Defining the future. Join the men and women of Northrop Grumman Mission Systems in meeting the largest, most complex systems challenges imaginable for government, military and business.

The biostatistician position serves as a technical expert in the areas of biostatistics, epidemiology, public health, and health risk assessments related to military personnel. Designs, conducts, and interprets studies using sound statistical and epidemiological methods and evidence-based decisions. The selected candidate will apply advanced statistical theories and a diverse array of modeling techniques used in health sciences, such as Poisson regression, repeated measurements, logistic regression, and variance analysis. Will also develop and implement research hypotheses, sample size requirements, analytical designs, statistical methods, sampling strategies, and data collection plans, alone and in consultation with health surveillance team. Interprets study results, display data, and writes reports on statistical methodologies/findings. This position requires giving formal presentations on research work for internal and external customers. This position is located in Falls Church, VA.

Experience in the following areas is required:

- * A minimum total of 6 yrs. of experience is required, with a minimum of 3 yrs. in applied public health and 2 years in analysis of epidemiological data
- * Minimum of Master's Degree in biostatistics, epidemiology or related field (additional yrs of experience may be used in lieu of education)
- * Demonstrated skill with ORACLE/SQL databases, Microsoft Excel, and statistical analytical software such as SAS or SPSS
- * Extensive experience with Microsoft Office products, including Access
- * Demonstrated ability to develop collaborative working relationships
- * Flexible with the ability to handle multiple duties and manage time-critical tasks
- * Excellent written and oral communication skills and the ability to confidently brief customers and clients

- * Must have the ability to obtain an active Secret clearance

Experience in the following areas is an asset:

- * Prior military service or experience working for the DoD in the study of military or veteran populations
- * Prior experience supporting a government client/customer
- * Familiarity with syndromic surveillance systems and methodology (using pre-diagnostic data for outbreak detection)
- * High work ethic characterized by attention to detail and pride in accomplishment
- * Current and active Secret Clearance

For immediate consideration, please apply online at

<http://careers.northropgrumman.com/ExternalHorizonsWeb/getJobPostDetail.do?sequenceNumber=96842>

Final grade determination will be made based on qualifications of the selected candidate. Final grade will be determined by the experience and abilities of the selected candidate.

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Announcements

FFC/2006

The 15th Federal Forecasters Conference

September 28, 2006

Aging: Implications for Forecasting

As the population of the United States and other major countries continues to age, policy makers at every level face major challenges in providing needed services while maintaining economic prosperity. A graying society has major effects on the dynamics of our economic and societal activities including the composition of the labor force, the nature of jobs to be filled, and the demands for goods and services including health care, pension benefits, and other public services. The implications of this aging phenomenon on forecasting in the public sector are equally profound affecting both the input side and the output side of many projection models. The 2006 Federal Forecasters Conference seeks to highlight key aspects of how forecasting must account for the aging trend which demographers have long seen coming.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Conference and Training Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC

September 7, 2006 Conference Registration Deadline

~SPONSORING AGENCIES ~

**Bureau of Health Professions • Bureau of Labor Statistics • Bureau of Transportation Statistics •
Department of Veterans Affairs • Economic Research Service • Internal Revenue Service • International
Trade Administration • National Center for Education Statistics • U.S. Census Bureau • U.S. Geological
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~ PARTNERING ORGANIZATION ~

Center for Economic Research, The George Washington University

Announcing
The 15th Federal Forecasters Conference
September 28, 2006
BLS Conference & Training Center
Registration Form -- Due by September 7, 2006

There is no charge for participation. Please share this form with your colleagues.

Name:

Agency/Department:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

(E-Mail) Address:

Return this information by **September 7, 2006** to Terry Manzi, FFC/2006 Registrar.
E-mail registration is preferred and can be sent to: Terry.Manzi@IRS.GOV.
Fax registration with cover page is also possible at 202-874-0613.

I _____ **do** _____ **do not** wish my name to appear in the FFC Directory.

For more information, call FFC Committee Chair Mitra Toossi at 202- 691-5721.

For registration forms and other information: www.federalforecasters.org

Announcements

U.S. FEDERAL STATISTICS AS A SYSTEM

A one-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology

SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Presented at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, MD

KATHARINE G. ABRAHAM

Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland

ROBERT M. GROVES

Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Michigan

TOPICS AND APPROACH

Motivation

This is a course for new employees of Federal statistical agencies or anyone else who wants to learn more about how the various Federal statistical agencies work collectively to provide needed information to the citizens of the United States. Even if you know how some piece of the statistical system works, you may feel poorly informed about how the system as a whole functions.

What is the Federal Statistical System? We answer this question with reference to the history, activities, outputs and customers of the 70 plus Federal agencies whose responsibilities include the production of statistical information, focusing especially on the dozen or so agencies whose principal mission is to provide such information. How the agencies adapt to changing circumstances is an important theme, illustrated by the redesign of the household survey used to produce the monthly unemployment rate, the development and implementation of the new North American Industry Classification system and other examples. Mechanisms for coordination among the statistical agencies and between the United States and other countries are covered. We conclude with a discussion of the enduring debates over centralization versus decentralization of the statistical system, agency principles and practices, privacy and confidentiality and other issues regarding the organization and functioning of the system.

INSTRUCTORS

Katharine G. Abraham is a professor in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology and holds an adjunct appointment in the Department of Economics at the University of Maryland. Abraham served from 1993 through 2001 as Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and her research has included work on a variety of economic measurement issues.

Robert M. Groves is a research professor at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology and the director of the University of Michigan Survey Research Center. Groves has extensive experience in research and teaching on a wide range of survey methodology issues.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

8:00 - 9:00 Check In

9:00 - 10:15 What is the U.S. Federal statistical system?

10:15 - 10:30 Break

- 10:30 - 12:00 Snapshots of social and economic reality:
Learning about the Federal statistical system through its major programs
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:30 Keeping the picture in focus
- 2:30 - 2:45 Break
- 2:45 - 3:30 Continuity and change in the Federal statistical system
- 3:30 - 4:30 Inventing the future
Great debates

MINORITY FELLOWSHIPS

The Joint Program in Survey Methodology strives to increase the number of survey professionals from groups traditionally under-represented in the field. As part of this effort, a limited number of competitive minority fellowships are available to African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native American Indians to attend JPSM short courses. Applicants should submit:

- (1) A 500-word essay describing their reasons for wanting to attend this short course and how their participation will enhance their chosen career path. The essay should indicate the applicant's race/ethnic background.
- (2) A recommendation written by a person knowledgeable about the applicant's aptitude and interest in survey methodology.
- (3) The course registration form.

If you are applying for a minority fellowship, please be certain to register early. Applications are due before August 28, 2006. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by September 5, 2006. The fellowship covers the registration fee for the course, including the cost of materials to be distributed during the course and lunch.

JPSM CITATION PROGRAMS

The citation programs are built around the JPSM short courses. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Survey Methodology is designed to provide the working professional and interested students with state-of-the-art knowledge about current principles and practices for conducting complex surveys combined with practical skills of day-to-day utility. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Economic Measurement is designed for professional staff requiring a grounding in the principles and practices of economic measurement. Completion of the citation programs involves taking a semester-length JPSM credit-bearing course and eight JPSM short courses, of which four are specified core courses. For information on the Certificate and Citation Programs visit the website at <http://www.jpsm.org> or call 301-314-7911.

LOCATION

The course will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, One Bethesda Metro Center, at Wisconsin Avenue and Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda, Maryland. The hotel is in the heart of Maryland's high-tech corridor, just 6 miles from downtown Washington, D.C., with convenient access to the Capital Beltway and the Metro subway system. The Hyatt is accessible via the Metro Red Line at the Bethesda Metro stop. A map will be sent with your registration confirmation. For overnight room reservations, call the Hyatt Regency Bethesda at 301-657-1234. There is a parking garage located directly underneath the Hotel which offers both valet and self-parking. The garage is not owned or operated by the Hyatt Regency.

http://www.hyatt.com/usa/bethesda/hotels/map_bethe.html

FEES & COURSE MATERIALS

The registration fee is \$400. Full-time university students (with a supervising faculty advisor's signature) and employees of JPSM sponsor/affiliate organizations are eligible for a reduced fee of \$300. Lunch and refreshments are included in the fee. Participants will be provided with a notebook containing detailed course notes.

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Confirmation of registration and further instructions will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive a confirmation letter. Payment by credit card is required. Payment may be made online following receipt of the confirmation letter using the student's confirmation number. Please note your confirmation number. The registration deadline is September 11, 2006. Payment is required by September 11, 2006 or the registration will be cancelled.

Please notify JPSM as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration. You will receive a full reimbursement if you cancel on or before September 11, 2006. If you cancel during the period September 12- September 18, 2006, you will be charged a \$100 administrative fee; the remainder of your course fee will be reimbursed. No reimbursements will be made for cancellations received on or after September 19, 2006. Minority Fellowship essays and letters of recommendation are due August 28, 2006 and should be faxed or mailed to the address below. Fellowship winners will be notified September 5, 2006. Questions about this course should be directed to (301) 314-7911, Fax: (301) 314-7912, JPSM, University of Maryland, 1218 LeFrak Hall, College Park, MD 20742.

INQUIRIES

For information on JPSM short courses contact JPSM at 301-314-7911; fax 301-314-7912; or e-mail jpsm@survey.umd.edu or visit the JPSM website at <http://www.jpsm.org>.

Primary funding for JPSM is provided by agencies of the Federal Statistical System

Announcements

HOW VISUAL LAYOUT AFFECTS ANSWERS TO SELF-ADMINISTERED SURVEYS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR MIXED-MODE SURVEYS

A one-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology

OCTOBER 18, 2006

Presented at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia

DON A. DILLMAN

Washington State University

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This short course describes how and why words, numbers, symbols and graphics independently and jointly influence answers to questions in Internet and paper surveys. These determinants of how people comprehend and respond to survey questions are placed in the context of two other developments that are changing how surveys are designed: changes in Internet access and use, and the increased reliance on mixed-mode surveys as a solution to the coverage and response problems that limit dependence upon a single mode of data collection. The content and organization of this course build upon an updated version of the presenter's 2000 book, *Mail and Internet Surveys* (available in August, 2006) that will be provided to participants as part of the short course registration. Research that has tested many of the visual design ideas to be presented in questionnaire experiments will be discussed as a basis for developing principles for how questionnaires should and should not be designed. Applications of the theory and research to designing both individual person and establishment surveys in ways that improve their usability for respondents will be provided. The short course ends with a discussion of the substantial implications these ideas have for the design of mixed-mode surveys in which some respondents are asked to report aurally (e.g. telephone) and others are asked to respond to visually

communicated survey questions (web or mail). The challenge of choosing between mode-specific and unified modes of constructing survey questions will also be discussed.

THE INSTRUCTOR

Don A. Dillman is Regents Professor and The Thomas S. Foley Distinguished Professor of Government and Public Policy in the Departments of Sociology, Community and Rural Sociology and the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center at Washington State University in Pullman. He served as the Senior Survey Methodologist at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1991-95, and is internationally known for his work on the improvement of self-administered survey methods. He has authored or edited four books on survey methodology, including *Mail and Internet Surveys* (2000), an updated version of which is now in press. His current research emphasizes the effects of visual layout and design on answers to paper and web surveys. Recent papers on these topics are available on his web page <http://www.sesrc.wsu.edu/dillman/>.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

7:45 – 8:30 Check-in and continental breakfast

8:30 – 9:00 The changing nature of survey methods

9:00-10:00 Why and How Words, Numbers, symbols and graphics influence question meaning in visual surveys.

Gestalt Psychology and the processing of visual information

10:00 – 10:20 Break

10:20 – 12:00 Examples from individual-person and establishment surveys.

Results from web and paper research: experimental tests of how visual layout influence respondent behavior.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:45 Application of the visual design principles discussed during the morning session to the construction of individual-person and establishment surveys conducted on the Internet and by mail.

2:45 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 4:30 Bridging between aural and visual surveys.

Mode-specific vs. unified mode design with examples

Summary and Conclusion

4:30 Adjourn

COURSE MATERIALS

Registrants will be provided with a course lecture notebook and an updated version of the presenter's 2000 book, *Mail and Internet Surveys*.

MEALS

JPSM group continental breakfast, lunch and breaks are included in the course fee and will be served buffet style to accommodate the needs of vegetarians and others.

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST: <https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

FEES

The registration fee for staff at sponsoring agencies and affiliates is \$370, \$370 for full-time university students, and \$470 for other participants. Payment by credit card is required. Post registration payment may be done online using the registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. Payment is required by October 4, 2006.

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Confirmation of acceptance will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive an acceptance email. The

email will include directions to the course. The automatic web registration number is not an acceptance letter. Payment by credit card is required. Post registration payment may be done online using the web generated registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. The registration deadline is October 4, 2006.

CANCELLATION

Please notify JPSM as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration. Cancellation requests should be done online. You will be fully reimbursed if you cancel by October 4, 2006. Cancellation October 5-10, 2006 will require a \$100 administrative fee, the remainder will be reimbursed. Cancellation on or after October 11, 2006 is subject to the full fee amount.

LOCATION

The course will be held at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia. The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel is located in the "Crystal City" business district of Arlington, with nearby access to the Crystal City Metro Stop. Located at the intersection of 18th and Eads Street the hotel is 1 mile from Ronald Reagan National Airport. For room reservations call the hotel at (703) 486-1111 or 1-800-862-ROOM. Information, directions, and times will be sent with your acceptance email letter.

MINORITY FELLOWSHIPS

The Joint Program in Survey Methodology strives to increase the number of survey professionals from groups traditionally under-represented in the field. As part of this effort, a limited number of competitive minority fellowships are available to African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native American Indians for the short course. Applicants should submit:

- (1) A 500-word essay describing their reasons for wanting to attend this short course and how their participation will enhance their chosen career path. The essay should indicate the applicant's race/ethnic background.
- (2) A recommendation written by a person knowledgeable about the applicant's aptitude and interest in survey methodology.
- (3) The course registration form.

If you are applying for a minority fellowship, please be certain to register early. Applications are due before September 20, 2006. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by September 27, 2006. The fellowship covers the registration fee for the course, including the cost of materials to be distributed during the course and lunch.

JPSM CITATION PROGRAMS

The citation programs are built around the JPSM short courses. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Survey Methodology is designed to provide the working professional and interested students with state-of-the-art knowledge about current principles and practices for conducting complex surveys combined with practical skills of day-to-day utility. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Economic Measurement is designed for professional staff requiring a grounding in the principles and practices of economic measurement. Completion of the citation programs involves taking a semester-length JPSM credit-bearing course and eight JPSM short courses, of which four are specified core courses. For information on the Certificate and Citation Programs visit the website at <http://www.jpsm.org> or call 301-314-7911.

INQUIRIES

Questions for this course should be directed to the JPSM Short Course, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 426 Thompson Street, Room 4050, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2321, Phone: (800) 937-9320, Fax: (734) 764-8263, Email: jpsmshort@isr.umich.edu .

JPSM HOME PAGE: <http://www.jpsm.org> Click on "Short Courses"

JPSM SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST: <https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>
COURSE INFORMATION: <https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2006-1018.html>
LISTS, REGISTRATION, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION:
<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/>

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

Announcements

INTRODUCTION TO ITEM RESPONSE THEORY (IRT) MODELING AND APPLICATIONS

A one-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology

NOVEMBER 14, 2006

Presented at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, MD

BRYCE REEVE

National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Each year, new surveys are developed or revised from previous measures in the hope of obtaining surveys that are reliable, valid, sensitive to change, and provide interpretable scores that accurately characterize a respondent's standing on a measured construct. This need for psychometrically sound measures calls for better analytical tools beyond the methods available from traditional measurement theory. Applications of item response theory (IRT) modeling have increased considerably in educational, psychological, and health outcomes measurement because of its utility for survey development and evaluation, assessment of measurement equivalence, instrument linking, and computerized adaptive testing. IRT models the relationship, in probabilistic terms, between a person's response to a survey question and their standing on a latent construct such as depression, anxiety, or fatigue. This information allows survey developers to build reliable and efficient measures tailored for an individual or group.

This introductory course will discuss the basic concepts and methods of IRT models including understanding the theory behind the models, defining and interpreting IRT model properties, differentiating among the various IRT models, checking model assumptions, and interpreting IRT scores. Further, the course will use examples from previous research to demonstrate how IRT methods can be used to inform and refine survey development, assessment measurement equivalence, link survey scores, and build item banks for short forms or computer-adaptive testing (CAT).

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The course is geared to individuals in government, universities, business, and nonprofit organizations interested in understanding and applying item response theory modeling in instrument development and evaluation. Introductory course work in statistics is recommended but not required.

THE INSTRUCTOR

Bryce Reeve is a Psychometrician and Program Director at the U.S. National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Cancer Institute (NCI), where he has worked since 2000. At NCI, he directs an active program to enhance the use of patient-reported outcomes (including health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and patient satisfaction with healthcare) in clinical

research and practice to improve the quality of care for both pediatric and adult cancer patients. With a degree in quantitative psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his work at NCI is focused on integrating the tools of psychometrics into the field of health outcomes research to develop and to improve HRQOL measurement.

Dr. Reeve serves as a NIH Science Officer on the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) Network. The PROMIS Network is in the process of building a public domain Web-based resource to dynamically administer, collect, and report data on key HRQOL domains relevant to a variety of chronic diseases. In 2004, he organized an international conference on improving health outcomes measures using tools available from modern measurement theory and computer technology. Attended by over 230 members from government, academia, and industry, this conference sparked great interest in the field and provided a foundation to explore the new arena of application of computerized-adaptive testing.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

November 14, 2006

- 8:00 - 9:00 Check-In and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:30 Introduction and Overview - Item Response Theory (IRT)
 - Theory behind IRT
 - IRT Item and Scale properties
 - IRT Family of Models
 - Model Assumptions
 - Classical versus Modern Measurement Theory
- 10:30 - 10:45 Break
- 10:45 - 12:00 Illustration of above concepts and methods in Dataset
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:30 Application of IRT methods for:
 - Survey Development and Refinement
 - Examining Differential Item Functioning (DIF)
- 2:30 - 2:45 Break
- 2:45 - 4:15 Application of IRT methods for:
 - Linking Surveys
 - Item Banking
 - Computerized-Adaptive Testing
- 4:15 - 4:30 Wrap-up

COURSE MATERIALS

Registrants will be provided with a course lecture notebook.

MEALS

JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and breaks are included in the course fee and will be served buffet style to accommodate the needs of vegetarians and others.

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

FEES

The registration fee for staff at sponsoring agencies and affiliates is \$300, \$300 for full-time university students, and \$400 for other participants. Payment by credit card is required. Post registration payment may be done online using the registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. Payment is required by October 31, 2006.

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Confirmation of acceptance will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive an acceptance email. The email will include directions to the course. The automatic web registration number is not an acceptance letter. Payment by credit card is required. Post registration payment may be done online using the web generated registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. The registration deadline is October 31, 2006.

CANCELLATION

Please notify JPSM as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration. Cancellation requests should be done online. You will be fully reimbursed if you cancel by October 31, 2006. Cancellation November 1-6, 2006 will require a \$100 administrative fee, the remainder will be reimbursed. Cancellation on or after November 7, 2006 is subject to the full fee amount.

LOCATION

The course will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, One Bethesda Metro Center, at Wisconsin Avenue and Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda, Maryland. The hotel is in the heart of Maryland's high-tech corridor with convenient access to the Capital Beltway and the Metro subway system. The Hyatt is accessible via the Metro Red Line at the Bethesda Metro stop. For overnight room reservations, call the Hyatt Regency Bethesda at 301-657-1234. There is a parking garage located directly underneath the Hotel which offers both valet and self-parking. The garage is not owned or operated by the Hyatt Regency.

<http://bethesda.hyatt.com/property/areaguide/maps/index.jhtml>

MINORITY FELLOWSHIPS

The Joint Program in Survey Methodology strives to increase the number of survey professionals from groups traditionally under-represented in the field. As part of this effort, a limited number of competitive minority fellowships are available to African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native American Indians for the short course. Applicants should submit:

- (1) A 500-word essay describing their reasons for wanting to attend this short course and how their participation will enhance their chosen career path. The essay should indicate the applicant's race/ethnic background.
- (2) A recommendation written by a person knowledgeable about the applicant's aptitude and interest in survey methodology.
- (3) The course registration form.

If you are applying for a minority fellowship, please be certain to register early. Applications are due before October 17, 2006 JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by October 24, 2006. The fellowship covers the registration fee for the course, including the cost of materials to be distributed during the course and lunch.

JPSM CITATION PROGRAMS

The citation programs are built around the JPSM short courses. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Survey Methodology is designed to provide the working professional and interested students with state-of-the-art knowledge about current principles and practices for conducting complex surveys combined with practical skills of day-to-day utility. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Economic Measurement is designed for professional staff requiring a grounding in the principles and practices of economic measurement. Completion of the citation programs involves taking a semester-length JPSM credit-bearing course and eight JPSM short courses, of which four are specified core courses. For information on the Certificate and Citation Programs visit the website at <http://www.jpsm.org> or call 301-314-7911.

INQUIRIES

Questions for this course should be directed to the JPSM Short Course, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 426 Thompson Street, Room 4050, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2321, Phone: (800) 937-9320,

Fax: (734) 764-8263, Email: jpsmshort@isr.umich.edu .

JPSM HOME PAGE: <http://www.jpsm.org> Click on "Short Courses".

COURSE INFORMATION:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/materials/2006-1114.html>

CLASS LISTS, REGISTRATION, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION:

<http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/>

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council

Announcements

METHODS FOR TESTING SURVEY QUESTIONS

A two-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology

JANUARY 18-19, 2007

Presented at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, MD

PAMELA CAMPANELLI

Survey Methods Consultant

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- (1) To raise participants' awareness of the different methods currently available to test survey questions
- (2) To provide participants with the knowledge to be able to use these techniques to test their own survey questionnaires.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to introduce the broad range of techniques currently available to test and improve survey questionnaires, for both self-completion and interview. It will have two strands: the first focusing on the question testing literature; the second, a very practical "hands-on" approach where you learn how to implement these methods. Question testing methods covered include standard field pretesting, expert review, cognitive and systematic forms appraisal, interviewer rating forms, respondent debriefing and vignettes, classical behaviour coding and sequence-based approaches, cognitive interviewing and the "3 Step Test Interview", focus groups, and split ballot experiments. Discussion will also focus on the strengths and weaknesses of each individual method as well as proposals for multi-method question evaluation strategies.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This course is for anyone interested in testing and evaluating survey questions in order to produce better questionnaires. Participants with some prior experience of questionnaire design will benefit most.

THE INSTRUCTOR

Pamela Campanelli is a Survey Methods Consultant and U.K. Chartered Statistician. She received her Ph.D. in statistics from the London School of Economics, and an M.A. in applied social research and B.A. in psychology from the University of Michigan. Prior to becoming an independent consultant, she was a Research Associate at the Office of Educational Research and Resources at the University of Michigan, a Survey Statistician at the Center for Survey Methods

Research at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Chief Research Officer at the UK Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex, and a Research Director at the Survey Methods Centre at the National Centre for Social Research, London. Her main interests and publications are in the study of survey error and data quality issues, with a special emphasis on questionnaire design, question testing strategies, interviewing techniques, survey nonresponse, and survey sampling. She regularly teaches short courses in these subjects at the University of Michigan, the University of North Carolina, the University of Hong Kong, the University of Neuchatel and the Swiss Summer School, the University of Essex, City University and the University of Southampton as well as for UK local and central government, UK survey research companies and various other organisations (see www.thesurveycoach.com).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2007

- 8:00 - 9:00 Check-in and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:30 Traditional pretesting methods
- 10:30 - 10:45 Break
- 10:45 - 11:15 Expert review
- 11:15 - 11:30 Cognitive forms appraisal/Systematic Questionnaire Review
- 11:30 - 12:00 Workshop in cognitive forms appraisal/systematicquestionnaire review
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:15 Workshop in cognitive forms appraisal (continued)
- 1:15 - 1:45 Workshop in traditional pretesting + interviewer rating form
- 1:45 - 2:10 How to do respondent debriefing & vignettes
- 2:10 - 2:40 Workshop in respondent debriefing
- 2:40 - 3:00 How to do classical behaviour coding
- 3:00 - 3:15 Break
- 3:15 - 3:25 Workshop in behaviour coding
- 3:25 - 3:35 Sequence-based approaches
- 3:35 - 5:00 How to do cognitive interviewing
- 5:00 Adjourn

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2007

- 8:00 - 9:00 Check-in and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:20 How to do cognitive interviewing
- 9:20 - 10:20 Workshop in cognitive interviewing
- 10:20 - 10:35 Break
- 10:35 - 12:00 Workshop in cognitive interviewing
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:40 Cognitive interviewing (Analysis, sampling and recruitment)
- 1:40 - 2:00 3 step test interview and other issues in cognitive interviewing
- 2:00 - 2:15 How to do focus groups for question testing
- 2:15 - 2:25 How to do card sorts
- 2:25 - 2:45 Workshop using card sort in focus group
- 2:45 - 3:00 Split ballot experiments
- 3:00 - 3:15 Break
- 3:15 - 4:15 Overview of testing methods: combinations and options
- 4:15 - 4:45 Recommendations for multi-method testingprocedures
- 4:45 - 5:00 Course wrap up
- 5:00 Adjourn

COURSE MATERIALS

Registrants will be provided with a course pack containing course notes.

MEALS

JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and refreshments are included in the course fee.

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

FEES

The registration fee for staff at sponsoring agencies and affiliates is \$550, \$550 for full-time university students, and \$730 for other participants. Payment by credit card is required. Post registration payment may be done online using the registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. Payment is required by January 4, 2007.

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Confirmation of acceptance will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive an acceptance email. The email will include directions to the course. The automatic web registration number is not an acceptance letter. Payment by credit card is required. Post registration payment may be done online using the web generated registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. The registration deadline is January 4, 2007.

CANCELLATION

Please notify JPSM as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration. Cancellation requests should be done online. You will be fully reimbursed if you cancel by January 4, 2007. Cancellation January 5-10, 2007 will require a \$100 administrative fee, the remainder will be reimbursed. Cancellation on or after January 11, 2007 is subject to the full fee amount.

LOCATION

The course will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, One Bethesda Metro Center, at Wisconsin Avenue and Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda, Maryland. The hotel is in the heart of Maryland's high-tech corridor with convenient access to the Capital Beltway and the Metro subway system. The Hyatt is accessible via the Metro Red Line at the Bethesda Metro stop. For overnight room reservations, call the Hyatt Regency Bethesda at 301-657-1234. There is a parking garage located directly underneath the Hotel which offers both valet and self-parking. The garage is not owned or operated by the Hyatt Regency.

<http://bethesda.hyatt.com/property/areaguide/maps/index.jhtml>

MINORITY FELLOWSHIPS

The Joint Program in Survey Methodology strives to increase the number of survey professionals from groups traditionally under-represented in the field. As part of this effort, a limited number of competitive minority fellowships are available to African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native American Indians for the short course. Applicants should submit:

- (1) A 500-word essay describing their reasons for wanting to attend this short course and how their participation will enhance their chosen career path. The essay should indicate the applicant's race/ethnic background.
- (2) A recommendation written by a person knowledgeable about the applicant's aptitude and interest in survey methodology.
- (3) The course registration form.

If you are applying for a minority fellowship, please be certain to register early. Applications are due before December 14, 2006 JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by December 21, 2006. The fellowship covers the registration fee for the course, including the cost of materials to be distributed during the course and lunch.

JPSM CITATION PROGRAMS

The citation programs are built around the JPSM short courses. The JPSM Citation in

Introductory Survey Methodology is designed to provide the working professional and interested students with state-of-the-art knowledge about current principles and practices for conducting complex surveys combined with practical skills of day-to-day utility. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Economic Measurement is designed for professional staff requiring a grounding in the principles and practices of economic measurement. Completion of the citation programs involves taking a semester-length JPSM credit-bearing course and eight JPSM short courses, of which four are specified core courses. For information on the Certificate and Citation Programs visit the website at <http://www.jpsm.org> or call 301-314-7911.

INQUIRIES

Questions for this course should be directed to the JPSM Short Course, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 426 Thompson Street, Room 4050, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2321, Phone: (800) 937-9320,
Fax: (734) 764-8263, Email: jpsmshort@isr.umich.edu .

JPSM HOME PAGE: <http://www.jpsm.org> Click on "Short Courses".

COURSE LISTS, REGISTRATION, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION:

<http://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/>

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council.

Announcements

INTRODUCTION TO SURVEY ESTIMATION

A two-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology

FEBRUARY 26-27, 2007

Presented at the Inn and Conference Center, Adelphi, MD

DAVID MORGANSTEIN

Senior Statistician and Vice President at Westat

RICHARD L. VALLIANT

Senior Research Scientist, Survey Research Center, University of Michigan

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This short course provides an introductory exposure to producing estimates of population parameters from sample surveys. It will examine the uncertainty of estimates resulting from sampling, through presentation of how sampling errors of survey statistics vary as a function of sample design and weighting procedures.

The course discusses procedures for estimating descriptive statistics like means, percentages, population totals, quantiles as well as model parameters from sample surveys. It also examines statistical procedures used in comparing subgroups on attributes measured in the survey.

The course presents inferential issues that arise in moving from sample-based statistics to describing the target population of the survey. It also describes how to compute the sampling errors of survey estimates and how to make inferences from them to the population. It describes current practices in weight adjustments and in the presentation and description of estimates made

from sample surveys.

Practical exercises during the short course reinforce the lecture materials and handouts.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Researchers and analysts who need to produce statistical estimates based upon data collected via complex sample survey designs and who need to make inferences about those estimates. The types of estimates to be discussed include: totals, means, percentages, quantiles and model parameters. The elements of complex designs to be examined include: unequal weights, clustered, stratified and multi-stage designs.

Attendees will benefit the most after the session if they have access on their job to software that computes sampling errors for estimates from complex survey data. Such software will be needed to implement the course concepts in their work.

THE INSTRUCTORS

David Morganstein is a Senior Statistician and Vice President at Westat where he is the Director of its Statistical Group. He has over 30 years of experience in sample design and variance estimation. He is one of the developers of WesVar a program for computing sampling errors, and a faculty member of the Joint Program for Survey Methods.

He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and recipient of its Founders Award.

Richard Valliant is Senior Research Scientist in the Survey Research Center, University of Michigan. He received his Ph.D. in Biostatistics at Johns Hopkins University in 1983 and has over 30 years of experience in sample design and estimation using data from complex surveys. He is currently an Associate Editor of Survey Methodology and the Journal of Official Statistics and has been an associate editor of the Journal of the American Statistical Association. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and a faculty member of the University of Maryland. He is a co-author of the text, Finite Population Sampling and Inference: A Prediction Approach.

CALCULATOR

Attendees should bring calculators to use in numerical exercises.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2007

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00- 9:00 | Check-in and Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00-10:30 | Introduction and Overview Why Sample Estimates Differ from Population Values Sources of Error Types of Sample Designs |
| 10:30-10:45 | Break |
| 10:45-12:30 | Types of Descriptive Statistics Review of Methods of Estimation Properties of Estimators Steps in weighting Variances of Estimates |
| 12:30-1:30 | Lunch |
| 1:30-3:00 | Confidence Intervals Degrees of freedom of Variance Estimators Transformations Impact of Sample Design on Sampling Errors |
| 3:00-3:15 | Break |

3:15-4:30 The Design Effect (Deff) and How to Estimate It
Intraclass Correlation
Deff from Variation in Weights
Comparing Sub-group Estimates
4:30 Adjourn

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007

8:00- 9:00 Check-in and Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:30 Methods of Estimating Sampling Errors
Exact Methods
Linearization
Replication
10:30-10:45 Break
10:45-12:30 Estimating Model Parameters
Linear Regression
Logistic Regression
12:30- 1:30 Lunch
1:30- 3:00 Software for Estimating Sampling Errors
3:00- 3:15 Break
3:15- 4:30 Imputation for Missing Items
Exercises, Questions and Summary
4:30 Adjourn

COURSE MATERIALS

Registrants will be provided with a course pack containing course notes.

MEALS

JPSM group continental breakfasts, lunches and refreshments are included in the course fee.

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

FEES

The registration fee for staff at sponsoring agencies and affiliates is \$550, \$550 for full-time university students, and \$730 for other participants. Payment by credit card is required. Post registration payment may be done online using the registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. Payment is required by February 12, 2007.

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required. Confirmation of acceptance will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive an acceptance email. The email will include directions to the course. The automatic web registration number is not an acceptance letter. Payment by credit card is required. Post registration payment may be done online using the web generated registration number or by calling (800) 937-9320. The registration deadline is February 12, 2007.

CANCELLATION

Please notify JPSM as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration. Cancellation requests should be done online. You will be fully reimbursed if you cancel by February 12, 2007. Cancellation February 13-18, 2007 will require a \$100 administrative fee, the remainder will be reimbursed. Cancellation on or after February 19, 2007 is subject to the full fee amount.

LOCATION

The course will be held at the University of Maryland Inn and Conference Center, College Adelphi, Maryland. It is located on University Boulevard at Adelphi Road, Route 193, adjacent to the College Park campus of the University. Convenient parking in the UMUC garage is included in the registration fee. For hotel room reservations, call the Conference Center at (800) 727-8622.

MINORITY FELLOWSHIPS

The Joint Program in Survey Methodology strives to increase the number of survey professionals from groups traditionally under-represented in the field. As part of this effort, a limited number of competitive minority fellowships are available to African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native American Indians for the short course. Applicants should submit:

- (1) A 500-word essay describing their reasons for wanting to attend this short course and how their participation will enhance their chosen career path. The essay should indicate the applicant's race/ethnic background.
- (2) A recommendation written by a person knowledgeable about the applicant's aptitude and interest in survey methodology.
- (3) The course registration form.

If you are applying for a minority fellowship, please be certain to register early. Applications are due before January 29, 2007. JPSM will evaluate the applications and inform the successful applicants by February 5, 2007. The fellowship covers the registration fee for the course, including the cost of materials to be distributed during the course and lunch.

JPSM CITATION PROGRAMS

The citation programs are built around the JPSM short courses. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Survey Methodology is designed to provide the working professional and interested students with state-of-the-art knowledge about current principles and practices for conducting complex surveys combined with practical skills of day-to-day utility. The JPSM Citation in Introductory Economic Measurement is designed for professional staff requiring a grounding in the principles and practices of economic measurement. Completion of the citation programs involves taking a semester-length JPSM credit-bearing course and eight JPSM short courses, of which four are specified core courses. For information on the Certificate and Citation Programs visit the website at <http://www.jpsm.org> or call 301-314-7911.

INQUIRIES

Questions for this course should be directed to the JPSM Short Course, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 426 Thompson Street, Room 4050, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2321, Phone: (800) 937-9320, Fax: (734) 764-8263, Email: jpsmshort@isr.umich.edu .

COURSE LISTS, REGISTRATION, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/index.html>

SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST:

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/sponsorlist.cfm>

JPSM HOME PAGE: <http://www.jpsm.org> Click on "Short Courses"

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