



Happening in SRO

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Spring Conference Season – 2017

Each year in April and May, many SRO staff members are out of the office to attend conferences relevant to survey research data collection that take place at this time of year. This year, we have staff heading to New Orleans in May to attend the International Field Directors and Technologies Conference and AAPOR.



The International Field Directors and Technologies Conference provides a forum for government, academic institutions and not-for-profit agencies to communicate about current innovations, work in progress or recently completed work. This conference features invited speakers, presentations, round-table discussion, and presents a combination of sessions related to field work and sessions that focus on data collection technologies. This year's invited speakers are, Mollyann Brodie, discussing, “*Why Now is the Time to Address the Lack of Diversity and Inclusion in Survey Research*,” and Yaw Anokwa and Hélène Martin, who will present “*A Community-Driven Future for Open Data Kit (ODK)*.”

SRO Staff will be Presenting the Following:

Managing Field Data Collection, Kathy LaDronka and Theresa Camelo

Monitoring Progress: The Effectiveness of a Progress Indicator in a Lengthy Mental Health Survey, Ryan Yoder and Heather Schroeder

Device Switching: What We Learned from Web Survey Logins, Lisa Wood

The Next Frontier for Interviewers: New Approaches for Gathering Respondent or Environmental Data, Esther Ullman

Health and Retirement Study 2016: Implementing a Venous Blood Collection, Ian Ogden

Touchifying Computer Assisted Blaise Screening Applications, Karl Dinkelmann

Respondent Engagement and Recruitment, Andrew Piskorowski, Andrew Hupp, and Leah Roberts

Book It: Self-Scheduling Interviews in the Panel Study of Income Dynamics Suite, Maryam Buageila and Kelly Chatain

How to Translate Sticky Notes into Technical Specifications, Holly Ackerman

Identifying the Best Contact Protocol to Maximize Participation and Control Costs in a Large Mixed-mode Longitudinal Study, Margaret Hudson and Nancy Gebler

Implementing a Third-Party Email Delivery and Management Service, Andrew Hupp, Leah Roberts and Andrew Piskorowski

Implementation of the 2016 Health and Retirement Study's Respondent Concerns System, Jennifer Kelley and Jennifer Arrieta

In addition to the presenters, Lisa deRamos, Leah Roberts, David Bolt, Derek Dubuque, and Andrea Sims will be attending the conference for the first time.

The annual conference of AAPOR will also take place in New Orleans. The American Association for Public Opinion Research is a professional association of public opinion and survey research professionals. AAPOR members include those interested in election polling, market research, statistics, research methodology, health related data collection and education. This year's conference theme is **"Embracing Change and Diversity in Public Opinion and Social Science Research."**



Representing SRO at AAPOR are:

Using Paradata to Measure Respondent Engagement,

Margaret L. Hudson, Andrew Hupp, Heather M. Schroeder, Andrew D. Piskorowski

Impute, Model, Select - A Model Driven PPS Sampling Method using Imputed Commercial Data,
Paul Burton

Toward a Better Understanding of Interviewer Effects in a Nationally Representative Survey in Tunisia,
Julie de Jong, Zeina Mneimneh, Mansoor Moaddel

Panel on Maintaining Data Quality for International CAPI Surveys -- Collecting Rich Paradata to Monitor Data Collection Quality in Challenging Contexts, Beth-Ellen Pennell, Zeina Mneimneh, Yu-chieh (Jay) Lin, Gina-Qian Cheung



Here in Ann Arbor in May, the Graham Institute will be hosting the Sustainability and Social Science Research Symposium. This conference is intended to allow social science researchers focusing on sustainability the opportunity to present their work, and the conference includes work on methodological approaches in sustainability research. Papers will cover a range of topics such as energy, collaboration design, policy, green citizenship, social justice, behavior, education, research methodology, and economics.

Andrew Hupp, Heather Schroeder, and Andrew Piskorowski co-authored two papers, "Use of Email Paradata in a Survey of Sustainability Culture," and "Promoting Participation in Web Surveys," which Andrew Hupp and Andrew Piskorowski will present, respectively.

On April 23-26, Rolfe Carlson and Grace Tison attended the spring meeting of the National Council of University Research Administrators In Madison, Wisconsin. NCURA is committed to advancing the field of research administration through education and professional development programs, the sharing of knowledge and experience, and by fostering a professional, collegial, and respected community.



For more than twenty years the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics have sponsored the annual Federal CASIC (FedCASIC) Workshops. This conference includes information about all forms of computer assisted survey information collection (CASIC). On April 11-12, members of our Admin team, Grant Benson, Gina Cheung, and Gregg Peterson represented SRO at this conference at the US Census Bureau Headquarters in Suitland, MD. Gregg and Grant were both participants on panels related to management of data collection and the survey life cycle.

The Population Association of America is a non-profit, scientific, professional organization that promotes research on population issues. Piotr Dworak joined other SRC colleagues at this conference in Chicago on April 27–29. He presented a paper titled “Validation of Blood-Based Assays from Field-Collected Venous Blood in a Population-Based Study of Aging: Examination of the Health and Retirement Study” which he co-authored with Jessica Faul, Ian Ogden, Jung Ki Kim, Bharat Thyagarajan, Eileen Crimmins, and David Weir.



If you are interested in learning more about any of these conferences, please contact any of the participants – they will be happy to share their experiences. You can also talk to your supervisor or any member of the Survey Process Forum for more information.

Update on the Interviewer Safety Initiatives **(Heidi Guyer, Theresa Camelo, Rolfe Carlson, Sarah Crane, Sara Freeland, Nicole Kirgis, Patty Maher, Sharon Parker, Gregg Peterson, Grant Benson)**

The SRO Safety Committee was formed in 2016 in response to negative incidents occurring to our field staff and the perception of increased risk when working in certain areas across the U.S. To facilitate and support greater safety for our field interviewers, the committee piloted a number of initiatives, including:

- Advance outreach to police departments by mail;
- A single point of contact for police department questions (Kathy LaDronka);
- Newsletter updates to the field;
- Car magnets designed and distributed to all field staff to identify interviewer as being on official UM business;
- Select projects also provided logoed apparel that field interviewers could use.

We distributed a survey to the active field interviewing staff who had been with us for at least a year in order to assess the relative effectiveness of these initiatives, and to determine if there were other activities that we could implement. Our key findings are summarized below.

Police Packets

A large proportion of interviewers generally did not report finding that the police packets were helpful, though none reported that they were harmful. Forty-six percent reported that the packets were helpful both for working with police officers and for working with respondents. Several interviewers stated that having the packets mailed in advance resulted in the police departments being able to respond to calls made by respondents or neighborhood watch committees to let them know that the interviewer was engaged in legitimate research. The packets also helped to allay respondent concerns, as it was evidence that we had made an effort to check in with the authorities before going door to door.

However, among the 54 percent of interviewers who said that the packets were had no impact, some indicated that this was in part due to the packets either not reaching the correct department or never filtering down to the officer on duty.

The Safety Committee had endorsed the continuation of the police packet process, but has also proposed a number of enhancements to the packets and the process. These include:

1. Improving our feedback loop to the Production Managers (PMs) and interviewers. We would work to establish a database established that would let PMs know where packets were sent for specific zip codes.
2. Having a process for getting feedback to Ann Arbor from interviewers in the field on an updated list of police department.
3. Providing interviewers with an extra set of the police packets so that they could drop them off if we had not mailed the packets in advance to the correct PD.
4. Further enhancing the PD packets with additional materials describing our interviewer vetting process, confidentiality procedures, and a study-specific note letting police departments know when we expect to begin working in an area.

Magnetic Car Signs

Overall, interviewers either found the car magnets helpful (46%) or having no impact (40%). A small percent of interviewers did find that the magnets could potentially be unhelpful (14%), primarily because they could reduce the willingness of respondents to answer the door or, in one case, because the magnet flew off the car while the interviewer was driving around.

Based on the feedback, the Safety Committee has recommended that we would continue to provide both the magnetic car signs and the regular cardboard signs for use inside the car, with instructions that the interviewer could use either as most appropriate.

Logoed Clothing

The response to the logoed clothing was very positive, with no interviewers indicating that the apparel was harmful. Fully 61 percent of interviewers reported the clothing being helpful, with 39 percent saying it had no impact. Interestingly, interviewers who selected either the jacket or the sweater were more likely (66-67%) to report it being helpful than interviewers who selected the polo shirt or vest (43% and 57%, respectively). Given these responses, the Safety Committee is recommending that we expand the program to include all field interviewers who work on a project with a significant in-person component. We are working to determine if we are able to fund such an expansion of the pilot program.

Other Suggestions

We received a lot of suggestions for improvements, with a total of 105 comments made. Several interviewers remarked that they appreciated that the provision of cell phones was now standard, and many also asked for UM logoed clothing, which we are now officially following up on.

The single most frequent mention was use of a buddy system (N=10), followed by a request for whistles (N=4) and flashlights (N=3). Several interviewers mentioned alerting their team leaders or others of their daily travel plans, including noting by text when they were entering a segment and leaving a segment. A variant on this request included a suggestion that location services be enabled on cell phones with the possibility of having 911 on speed dial or perhaps having an emergency app that would connect to either emergency services or UM. While interviewers are currently receiving whistles with their GIT packet, it is perhaps unclear to interviewers that they can request replacement whistles if needed. We will ensure that they are made aware of this option. In addition, we also agreed that we would investigate if we could include flashlights as part of the GIT packets. Finally, the Safety Committee agreed that we would investigate the possibility of installing an emergency app on the smart phones.

Archive (Kelly Chatain)

Southeast Asian Refugee Study

At the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, the first wave of Southeast Asian refugees arrived in the United States. They were predominantly Vietnamese, educated, professional, English-speaking, and arrived in relative safety. Just a few years later, as a result of increasing conflict in the region, another wave of refugees began to arrive. They were called 'the boat people' because of their initial use of large ships to transport them to nearby countries, but then smaller and smaller boats as they were increasingly turned away by officials, still hoping for a place to land. These refugees were from a wider ethnic region, were less educated, rarely spoke English, and endured horrific conditions in order to get here. Some estimate that 50% of those who set forth from Southeast Asia in a boat perished. By 1981, approximately 500,000 refugees had been settled in the U.S. The newly formed Office of Refugee Resettlement (1975), part of the Department for Health and Human Services, funded an SRC study directed by Nathan Caplan to learn about progress towards economic self-sufficiency within these refugee communities¹.

¹ Caplan, N. (1989). *The boat people and achievement in America: a study of family life, hard work, and cultural values*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.



Refugees fleeing Vietnam (Photo: <http://origins.osu.edu/article/question-refugees-past-and-present>)²

Sampling proved difficult. Administrative data sources were analyzed to locate where refugees were concentrated and which groups they represented, but when the limits of a list were reached, the team shifted to an area probability approach. The final five sites, Seattle, Orange County, CA, Houston, Chicago, and Boston, were chosen based on the large number of refugees and the diversity of services provided and refugee demographics. All five sites had one important thing in common, however. They were all in the midst of the worst recession America had experienced post World War II, which lasted from July 1981 to November 1982³. The populations studied were Vietnamese, Chinese (Sino-Vietnamese), and lower Lao refugees who had arrived after October 1978.

Respondents were paid \$5.00 for the interview (\$14.00 in 2017⁴) which lasted approximately two hours. Seventy-five bi- and tri-lingual interviewers were hired and they were required to do some real mental gymnastics. Questionnaires printed the English on the right and the translated version on the left, but interviewers were instructed to record all responses on the English version, including writing open-ended responses in the respondent's native language. Interviewers then translated the answers after the interview.⁵ Another trick was clarifying how to code the complicated household composition and secondary migrations of the occupants because there were nuclear families, extended relations, and un-related people living in the home⁶. A total of 1384 interviews were conducted. One person per household was interviewed, but was asked to provide information on other members of the household, so 4160 adults and 2615 children are represented in the data.

The main factor influencing economic self-sufficiency was how many people within a household were employed, followed by the level of English spoken upon arrival. The multi-wage earning households that did better included single people unrelated to the nuclear family living in the household. Educational level and individual job advancement had much less influence. When the initial executive summary was written in 1985, it remained to be seen whether job advancement or combining more incomes would have a larger effect on increasing economic well-being⁷. However, it was noted that the progress towards economic self-sufficiency was steady and moving more quickly than originally expected, one indication of which was the large drop in the unemployment rate over just a couple of years (see table below).

² Gatrell, Peter, "The Question of Refugees: Past and Present", vol.10, issue 7 – April 2017, Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective, Ohio State University and Miami University, accessed on May 8, 2017 <http://origins.osu.edu/article/question-refugees-past-and-present>

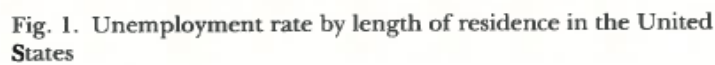
³ Accessed on May 3, 2017 <http://www.pewresearch.org/2010/12/14/reagans-recession/>

⁴ CPI Inflation Calculator, Bureau of Labor Statistics Accessed on May 3, 2017 <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>

⁵ QxQs, Southeast Asian Refugee Study, Project 471561, SRO Archive

⁶ Project Staff to Coding Memo, May 9, 1983, Southeast Asian Refugee Study, Project 471561, SRO Archive

⁷ Caplan, N. (1985). *Southeast Asian refugee self-sufficiency study: executive summary*. [Washington, D.C.]: The Office of Refugee Resettlement. Accessed with U-M ID on May 8, 2017 <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.l0055059489>



Wednesday, November 22, 2017

UM Holidays
Season Days
SRO Closure Date