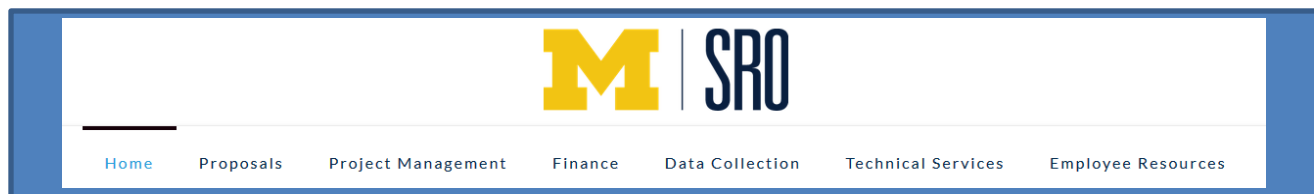


Happening in SRO

You can find this "Happening in SRO" and all similar newsletters on the new SRO Intranet Home Page, located at: <http://isr-wp.isr.umich.edu/srointranet/> under Recent News.



The tenth annual meeting of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO) was held on the Ann Arbor campus of the University of Michigan on March 3-5, 2016. The SRO hosted the meeting which included 61 participants from 38 research organizations.

Several UM/ISR/SRC faculty and staff participated in the meeting, giving presentations that covered a variety of topics relevant to Academic Survey Centers. Interviewer training, Telephone Consumer Protection Act, Institutional Review Boards, big data, big social data and its relationship to scientific surveys, as well as a round table session where participants could discuss key special topics of interest were all part of the meeting agenda. The keynote speaker was **Bob Groves**, Provost of Georgetown University. Groves, past director of the US Census Bureau and the University of Michigan Survey Research Center, and one of the catalysts founding and shaping AASRO, touched on a variety of topics in his talk. In his conversation-style talk, Groves spoke about survey research shaping the development of the social sciences, how his time at Census affected his perspective on survey centers, how smaller survey centers can position themselves to stay relevant in the current climate, big data and its effect on the research community, and about the National Academies panel he chairs which is looking at the blending of data sources for US Federal statistics. He concluded with a question and answer session with the participants. To read more about the meeting, please check out the ISR March News Notes which you can access -- <http://bit.ly/ISR-NewsNotes-Mar2016>. Also, if you like to learn more about AASRO, please visit the website – <https://www.aasro.org>







Things you might not know ...

The SRC-SRO data collection staff (interviewing corps) continues to grow. We hired more than 220 interviewers in the past six months. And we are still recruiting new interviewers throughout the next two months!

We currently have over 600 interviewers on staff and just under 500 active.

Work Group	All Staff Count	Active Staff Count
Field Staff (decentralized)	482	391
Lab Staff (centralized)	130	108
TOTAL	612	499

We anticipate hiring at least 50 more interviewers for the Lab and Field. If you know of anyone who might be interested in applying for a position, please have them visit <https://recruit.isr.umich.edu/>.



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Welcome!

Join the largest academically-based social science research organization in the country and be a part of history! The Survey Research Center (SRC), part of the world-renowned Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, has been a leader in the field since 1946. [Read more about what we do](#)

We are hiring interviewers around the country in the field as well as in our research lab in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Interested? Watch the videos below and learn more about a day in life of an interviewer!

[Day in the Life of a Field Interviewer \(Video\)](#)


[Day in the Life of a Phone Interviewer \(Video\)](#)


Last updated on March 28, 2016

Current Openings

How to Apply

After you have familiarized yourself with our organization and reviewed available positions and job descriptions, create an account and submit your application.

[Create Account/Submit Application](#)

You will be asked to:

- Complete a short questionnaire
- Fill out employment history
- Attach resume (optional)

*Browser recommendation: This website is best viewed using Microsoft Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox, and is not currently optimized for viewing on mobile devices.

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From the Archive (Kelly Chatain)

Anyone who has been a member of a voluntary committee knows that there are a number of variables that can affect the success and effectiveness of the group. The central research agenda of the Organizational Behavior and Human Relations Program, one of the first established in the SRC by Rensis Likert and Daniel Katz, was defining those variables and explaining organization effectiveness, primarily through comparing effective and ineffective organizational units.¹ Until 1955, the program had only conducted studies of organizations whose members were paid in some fashion. When the Oil Industry Information Committee (OIIC) came calling, it was an opportunity to look at a voluntary organization for the first time. The OIIC had 25,000 members in 1955 representing all areas of the industry, from refinery workers to gas station operators to company office workers and executives. The members were organized into 3000 local committees, and their activities ran the public relations gamut. Remember Oil Progress Week? Perhaps not. But the OIIC wanted to understand why some committees were highly active and some not, and what they could do to promote more successful operations of these groups.

The sampling team identified committees in proximity to 66 geographic sample points nation-wide, categorized them by activity level, and then chose a purposive sample to include an approximately equal number of active/inactive committees in large/small communities. Introductory letters were sent to 780 potential respondents and, after some clarifying eliminations, a final sample of 714 persons in 109 committees was selected.² There were two interview forms, one for the committee members and one for the chairman, and the interviewers had the relatively straightforward task of contacting respondents on their list and setting up appointments in a quiet location away from phones and other distractions.³

The research revealed five areas of significance to consider when establishing a voluntary committee. First, setting up in an area that has good resources, e.g. large populations of employees/people with related skills appropriate for a role on the committee, and cultivating those resources with specific roles in mind. Second, is the importance of forming bonds of association from within the group as quickly as possible, making members feel they are part of a group, e.g. by getting started on a shared task right away. Leadership was the third area, noted as being even more important for voluntary groups than traditional organizations. Skilled and sensitive leaders need to adjust their activity as the group evolves, moving from building tasks to providing motivation, and then relinquishing some power when the group matures. The fourth was the importance of a strong structure, the “props” such as titles and assignments, minutes and rosters. Finally, voluntary organizations rely more heavily on intrinsic motives of individuals, such as identification with the organization’s values, as opposed to extrinsic motives like getting compensated, promoted, or achieving a higher status. Keeping members involved and avoiding leadership patterns that create hostility or indifference is very important. Interestingly, men and women were found to be equally active as individuals but committees with at least one woman member were more active than those with all men.⁴

The Details:

“Participation in Voluntary Committees: A Nation-wide Study of Organization, Leadership, and Members’ Characteristics”

Directed by Seymour Leiberman and Leo Meltzer

685 Interviews, 96% response rate

Data collection in April and May 1955

Sponsored by the Oil Industry Information Committee

Excerpt from questionnaire

¹ Frantilla, Ann. *Social Science in the Public Interest: A Fiftieth-Year History of the Institute for Social Research*, Ann Arbor: Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, 1998

² “Participation in Voluntary Committees: A Nation-wide Study of Organization, Leadership, and Members’ Characteristics”, Final Report, SRO Archive, Project 231

³ “Instruction Booklet: A Study of Motivation and Participation in a Voluntary Organization”, SRO Archive, Project 231

⁴ “Participation in Voluntary Committees: A Nation-wide Study of Organization, Leadership, and Members’ Characteristics”, Final Report, SRO Archive, Project 231



Vintage Ad 1950 "Oil Progress Week" Oil Industry Information Committee

<http://envisioningtheamericandream.com/2013/12/04/heating-the-american-dream-2/>

CHART 7

Do these statements describe your
OIIC committee?

	Yes, definitely	To some extent	No	Don't know
A. I have a lot in common with the other members of the committee. . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Everyone carries his fair share of the load	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Most of the people do their OIIC jobs well	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Most of the people are connected with the same oil company I am connected with.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Everyone knows what his OIIC job is supposed to be	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. People have good ideas about new kinds of projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>