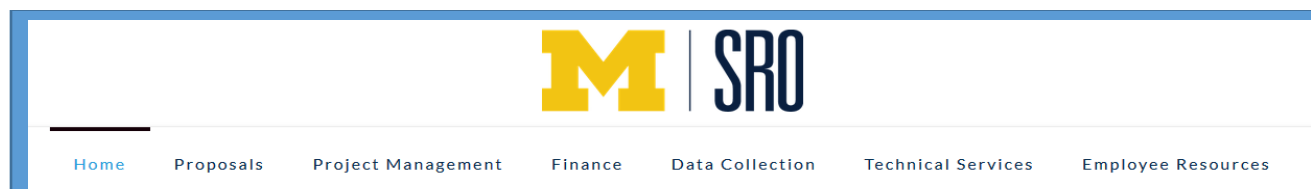# Happening in SRO

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.

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Upcoming Trainings

SAS Programming I: Essentials -- Nov. 9-11, 2016

Heather Schroeder will be teaching SAS Programming I for ISR. This course is for users who want to learn how to write SAS programs. It is the entry point to learning SAS programming and is a prerequisite to all other SAS courses. In this course, you will learn how to:

- navigate the SAS Studio programming environment
- navigate the SAS Enterprise Guide programming environment
- navigate the SAS windowing programming environment
- read various types of data into SAS data sets
- create SAS variables and subset data
- combine SAS data sets
- create and enhance listing and summary reports

Please let your supervisor know if you are interested in participating in this course!

Lunch and Learn

The Survey Process Forum will be presenting a new series of Brown Bag discussions intended to provide information about some of the methods, protocols, and technologies used throughout SRO. The format for these sessions will be 50-minute lunch-hour presentations in which questions and discussion are encouraged. There will be no formal tasks or assignments associated with participation. The first series will be presented by the Statistics and Methods Unit, and include the following topics:

1. **Dashboards and Reporting** (Wen Chang, Heather Schroeder) – October 4
   This session will demonstrate current advancements in dashboards and reporting. We will use study-specific examples to illustrate reporting metrics, visual presentation of data, and enhanced usability of the production monitoring tools.

2. **Introductory Statistics** (Heather Schroeder) – November 14
   This session will provide a very basic overview (refresher) of statistical measures and techniques (avoiding formulas as much as possible). We will provide explanations of means, medians, modes and standard deviations; the meaning of "statistical significance"; how to interpret a confidence interval; difference of means tests; and t-tests.

3. **Overview of Sampling** (Dan Zahs) – December 7
   This session will provide a basic explanation of probability and the theory behind probability sampling. We will provide examples of the most commonly used sample designs and sample frames, and briefly comment on the development of online panels.

The Statistics and Methods Unit will also be presenting sessions on Weighting and Propensity Models in early 2017.

Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development
TEEN BRAINS. TODAY'S SCIENCE. BRIGHTER FUTURE.

ABCD
(Karin Schneider)

SRO is now recruiting southeastern Michigan schools for the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (**ABCD**). Funded by the NIH, ABCD is a longitudinal study of about 10,000 children from ages 9-10 through early adulthood to assess factors that influence individual brain development trajectories and functional outcomes. UM Dept of Psychiatry is one of 19 research sites across the country.

Sampling statisticians from our Stat and Methods Unit identified all public and private schools with children aged 9-10 within the geographic catchment area for each of the 19 sites. This activity was under a separate contract and the initial selection of four replicates has been distributed to all research sites. SRO received an electronic data file listing all selected schools in the UM catchment area.

SRO will target the recruitment of **54 schools** from Michigan, who will consent to distribute recruitment letters to parents for participation in the ABCD study. Respondent contact information will be returned directly to the Michigan research team for additional activities, including screening for eligibility. (Parents return cards with their contact information directly to the PI's staff, or call or email the PI's staff.) We have assumed that the distribution of ~7,000 parent recruitment packets through participating schools will yield sufficient study subjects.

Overall SRO involvement period: 23 months (we started school recruitment in May 2016 with and will continue into the first quarter of 2018). School recruitment is spread across this entire period, and the health system clinic intake "rate" is approximately six subjects per week.

SRO involvement includes preparing research proposal packets, documenting district research requirements, and responding to questions from school and district officials about the study. The development of the general recruitment materials is centralized for all study sites. SRO is responsible for the printing and distribution to schools of all parent materials. Our team consists of Karin Schneider, Rick O'Neill and Mike Nugent (with school sampling by Dan Zahs).

The UM sample consists of 104 individual public, parochial, other private and charter schools. The sample is divided into four replicates. Through 2016, we are focusing on schools in the first two replicates, which have 52 schools. Thus far, 12 schools have agreed to participate.

The study has been getting local publicity recently. Our PI, Mary Heitzeg from the Department of Psychiatry, has been on WWJ and the Lucy Ann Lance show in Ann Arbor. A video with information about the study background and clinical procedures has been produced with an audience of parents and educators in mind. Here are links to some of these materials. That national study website is at: abcdstudy.org.

http://www.popsci.com/nih-will-track-10000-kids-brains-as-they-grow-up

http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2016/09/14/u-m-researches-looking-to-recruit-tweens-for-decade-long-study/

And here are links to download the video clips form Google Drive:

Long: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7PPxTBZdHLHZGNXSXRFNDZYYlU/view?usp=sharing

Short: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7PPxTBZdHLHdEppeGxHV0tDOU0/view?usp=sharing

Addressing Community Concerns
(Sharon Parker and Grant Benson)

Our interviewers are our first – and often last – point of contact with our respondents, and as such serve as ambassadors of SRC to respondents and to the communities they live in. Interviewers are integral to our success as an organization and their safety is of utmost importance. When it became clear earlier this year that our interviewers were facing an extraordinary level of hostility in the field, an ad hoc team Addressing Community Concerns was tasked with making sure SRO is doing everything in our power to keep them safe.

The Addressing Community Concerns group coordinated a number of activities, including:

- Meeting with local police officers to seek their input on what we can do to enhance security in the field; In addition to offering various suggestions, the University of Michigan Department of Public Safety authored and signed a letter endorsing our activities in the field.
- Reviewing field interviewer training on safety. Additional safety tips were added to the interviewer safety protocol, and the process for contacting police departments before starting work in an area was formalized. Guidelines on sample management in unsafe areas were also formalized for production managers.
- During conference calls with field staff, we sought out thoughts for improving safety. Suggestions included improving visibility of the U-M brand.
- Based on feedback from the field, we designed, printed, and mailed magnets for interviewers to place on their cars identifying them as working for the ISR and SRC. This was sent along with a sign to be placed inside the car windshield. The magnet is shown at the bottom of this page.
- A packet including the letter of support from the U-M Department of Safety Chief of Police Robert Neuman, a police department pre-contact letter, and general ISR information is being sent to police or sheriff departments in the areas where interviewers are screening households as identified in a national database of police departments.
  - The police department pre-contact letter is signed by Kathy LaDronka and lists her #800 for police departments to contact if they have questions or concerns.
- The pre-contact letter and letter of support were laminated back to back and sent to interviewers to show if they are stopped or questioned while working.
- A newsletter was sent to the interviewers and posted on their website that included a letter of support from the SRC Director Trivellore Raghunathan, and tips on working safely in the field and lab. It also contained reminders on services we provide like the Clinical Contact Portal which was recently upgraded to standardize the entry of respondent requests for clinical intervention and the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program available to interviewers.

A data base is being created to track the interviewer's contacts with police departments – which stations were visited and who they spoke with. We plan to help different interviewers and projects build on these contacts and relationships to promote positive interactions with the community.

Finally, HRS added housing unit and contact observations on safety concerns. They ask about signage and/or hostile or threatening interactions. Noting any of these triggers a team leader review before being able to continue working the line.

SRC conducts some of the most widely cited and influential studies in the world and we couldn't do it without our interviewers. Their safety has always been a primary concern but we hope these recent initiatives help to provide further support for their safety.

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SRO Participation in the 2016 International Blaise Users Conference
(Lisa Holland)

17th International Blaise Users Conference

Blaise is the data collection software that we use most frequently for our CAI surveys in SRO. In celebration of 30 years of Blaise, Statistics Netherlands will host the 17th International Blaise Users Conference (IBUC). The IBUC will be held in The Hague on October 4 - 6, 2016. SRO will be well-represented at this event, as several staff members will be in attendance and presenting their work in this area, along with some of our colleagues from HRS and PSID. Brief summaries of the work

Blaise 5 Data In/ Data Out, *Andrew Piskorowski*
The focus of this presentation is to demonstrate various methods used to move data in and out of the Blaise 5 databases. It highlights the way that we are combining custom tools with Manipula to improve the process of accessing the Blaise 5 data.

Capturing Survey Client-side Paradata, *Hueichun Peng and Jason Ostergren*
This presentation describes a process we have implemented to capture client-side paradata (CSP) using JavaScript. The CSP can capture movement within a page on the respondent's or interviewer's device like scrolling and mouse-clicks, tapping, orientation change, and pinch/zoom. The authors share their experiences and challenges related to this work.

Transforming Survey Paradata, *Lisa Wood and Andrew Piskorowski, Jennie Williams*
The native Blaise 5 paradata, the user agent string, and the University of Michigan's client-side paradata (CSP) are unstructured data and very cumbersome to "untangle". This paper shares data management techniques for making these data more useful for analysis and reporting. It includes information about parsing the unstructured data and aggregating the data at various levels (e.g., page-level, session-level, respondent-level). It also addresses the use of reporting tools such as OLAP cubes and SSRS (SQL Server Reporting Services).

Using Survey Paradata, *Gina Cheung, Andrew Piskorowski, Lisa Wood, Hueichun Peng*
As a complement to the work above, the authors come together to provide practical examples of how the survey paradata can be used to inform decision making throughout data collection. The authors present these examples in the context of native Blaise 5 paradata, and include topics like examining question timings and survey routing , improving questionnaire design, recovering lost survey data, and other issues related to quality control.

Blaise 5 Development at University of Michigan, *Youhong Liu*
This paper discusses the steps for converting data collection instruments from Blaise 4.8 survey into Blaise 5. The author presents her experiences on a panel study and a mixed-mode design project as she discusses instrument flexibility, user authentication, and user interfaces. She also discusses Blaise source programming, Blaise layout settings, and resource database development.

Data-out Experience and Challenges in Blaise 5, *Mohammad Mushtaq and April Beaule*
Our colleagues from PSID present their experience using data-out utilities as they began using the Blaise 5 web interface. They discuss issues of file format and the use of Blaise 4 extraction and reverse engineering method to transform files into a relational data structure.

Chitwan Valley Family Study Household Registry: Paper to Computer-Assisted Interview, *Karl Dinkelmann, Stephanie Chardoul, and Bishnu Adhikari*
This paper discusses the challenges and complexities of converting a multi-member multi-component longitudinal household registry paper instrument into a fully dynamic CAI application for the Chitwan Valley Family Study, a longitudinal data collection effort conducted by the Institute for Social & Environmental Research – Nepal (ISER-N).

Blaise 5 Development at University of Michigan, *Max Malhotra*
This paper looks at how Blaise 5 capabilities and features work with the creation of unique back-end APIs created to facilitate the implementation of self-administered questionnaires in Blaise 5. Among other design features, the author discusses dropdown menus, radio buttons, text boxes, and how various features are used in combination.

The call for AAPOR abstract submissions is open! The submission deadline is November 14, 2016, 11:59 p.m. EST.

*"The theme for AAPOR's 2017 Annual Conference, **Embracing Change and Diversity in Public Opinion and Social Science Research**, signals AAPOR's willingness to welcome both the challenges and opportunities presented by a rapidly changing public opinion and research methodology landscape and an increasingly diverse population. Given this theme, we encourage presentations that highlight new approaches, perspectives and voices to join perennially popular topics. Proposals on any topic across public opinion, survey and social science research will be considered."*

Proposals may be for panels, papers, methodological briefs, or posters. If you have an idea and would like to submit an abstract, please discuss your interest with your supervisor.

Our Work in the World
(Gregg Peterson)

The Surveys of Consumers (SCA) study, accounts for a large portion of all University of Michigan media mentions. In September, the SCA PI, Dr. Richard Curtin, is quoted in a U.S. News & World Report article about the election.

"...consumers are nearly equally split on whether either candidate would actually improve overall economic conditions or their own personal finances," Richard Curtin, chief economist at the University of Michigan's Surveys of Consumers research and polling outfit, said in a statement last month, indicating that the "increasing uncertainty" related to consumer confidence "probably reflects each candidate's focus on the negative economic outcomes if the other candidate is elected."

http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-09-13/presidential-election-biggest-threat-to-us-economy-for-most-americans

Tips & Tricks
(Kelly Chatain)

Dropbox Warning & Using CrashPlan for Desktop Backups

First, a strong WARNING from CMT against using Dropbox on your work and/or home computers. Recent changes in the Dropbox client application (www.dropbox.com, not SRO's dropbox) potentially give it broad access to your computer's files and resources, including SRO's networked shared drives. This access could go beyond the files you are syncing between your computer and Dropbox's storage. CMT considers this a significant security risk and asks that no ISR computers have the Dropbox client app installed. For more information, please contact Matt Toaz (mtoaz), Data Security Analyst.

CRASHPLAN

Second, did you know CMT offers a courtesy backup plan for your local C: drive? SRO's networked drives are backed up, but your local drive is not. CMT uses CrashPlan, a paid service ($4 per month, paid by the individual) that backs up everything in your user's profile incrementally throughout the day and stores it in MiStorage. To set up CrashPlan for your computer, please submit a request through Footprints. To be clear, any SRO-related project work should NOT be stored on your local drive.