



Happening in SRO

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

If you have items for the newsletter or if you would like to highlight an event, please let Ann Vernier or your unit director know.

Save the Date – SRO All Staff Meeting

The next SRO All-Staff meeting will be held in 1430 ISR in the afternoon of Thursday, March 21.

Our Work in the World

(Stephanie Chardoul)

The Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development project (or ABCD – please see Karin Schneider’s article in the October 2016 edition of *Happening in SRO* for a full description of the project and SRO’s involvement) has received a lot of popular media attention – here is one more! This *New York Times* article has a link to a recent segment aired on *60 Minutes*. It reports on the earliest findings from the first round of fMRIs of a subset of the ABCD kids. Both the article and the television segment share some really interesting results, especially on the effect of “screen time” on young children:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/10/health/screen-time-kids-psychology.html>

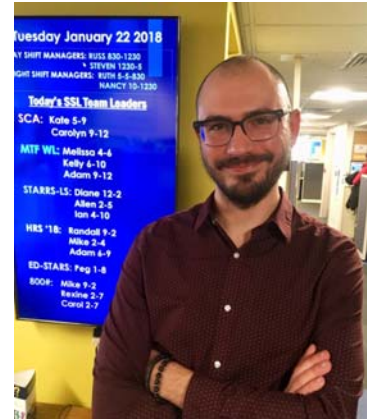
New Regular Staff Joining SRO this Past Quarter

Data Collection Operations (DCO)

Debbie Seale began working on September 10 as the new Assistant Manager in the SSL, overseeing shift management. Deborah has experience supervising in a call center environment, where she provided guidance, training, and operational direction and successfully implemented performance improvement. Deborah has survey data collection experience in her most recent role as a Quality Performance Specialist at Michigan Blue Cross Complete. There, she was responsible for data collection and analysis. Deborah’s diverse professional background includes supervisory experience, extensive project management, budgeting, reporting, and grant writing. She has an MSW in Administration, Policy, and Planning for Children and Families from Rutgers University and a BA in Political Science and Sociology/Anthropology from Denison University.



Steven Sonoras became a Survey Specialist Associate in SSL on December 3. Steven previously worked as a Survey Technician and Team Leader in the SSL for seven years, conducting interviews, coaching interviewers, doing sample review, and QC. Currently, Steven's work focuses on the Surveys of Consumers and SSL shift management. Steven has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Eastern Michigan University and is a freelance journalist.



Project Design and Management Group (PDMG)



Camila Kendall started working as a Survey Specialist Associate in the PDMG on December 3. Previously, Camila worked in the SSL for over five years. As a bilingual Survey Technician, she has conducted interviews and facilitated other respondent communication with our Spanish speaking respondents, and she has assisted in many interviewer trainings. Camila has a BA in Psychology and Spanish from the U-M. She is working on a MBA at Walsh College. She is currently working on the PSID suite of projects.

Kallan Larsen is a new SMP grad student in the PDMG. Kallan's initial assignments are split 50-50 on two projects: (1) working with Andrew H on Fred Conrad's study - Video Communication Technologies in Survey Data Collection and (2) working with Shonda, Maryam et al. on some PSID special initiatives (e.g. spam blocker, video animation).

As you know, SRO, in conjunction with SMP, sponsors a SMP grad student every other year. The student works in SRO half time during the 4 semesters of the SMP program as well as in a full-time internship during the summer between first and second year. Upon graduation, the student will move into a full-time position



Technical Services Group (TSG)



Madison Goforth joined TSG as a data manager. Previously, Maddie was at the USGS Great Lakes Science Center working on data archiving and management initiatives. She recently graduated from the University of Michigan School of Information with a MS in Information Science, specializing in preservation of information. Maddie also holds a BS in Informatics from U of M. Maddie enjoys reading, crafting, visiting museums, and traveling.

Stephanie Windisch is a data manager in the Technical Services Group. She has a bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Michigan. Previously, she worked at ICPSR for 12 years as a curator and Data Processing Supervisor, and during the last 8 years played a key role in cleaning, editing, and preparing public- and restricted-use data for the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG). Stephanie enjoys reading, photography, cooking, golf, and hiking in the mountains.



John Gawlas was hired as a Help Desk Coordinator Intermediate in December. In his previous position at Automatic Timing & Control, King Engineering Division, John answered technical support questions over the phone with field staff and end users which made him the perfect choice for his new position here. John first started with SRO as a temporary employee working on the MTF project configuring Windows laptops and Android mobile devices for deployment. That work continues and he now helps process end of project equipment returns. He will also help support the PSID 2019 training in February and provide help desk phone support to the interviewers.

Nancy Knows – New Conference Room

(Nancy Bylica)

There is a new conference room available for us to use in the Perry building. It is room 2365, and is located directly above the small TSG conference room 1365. There are 6 chairs in this room

If you need a small conference room and there are no other rooms available, please ask Evalyn Yann to reserve it for you. Her e-mail address is: evanna@umich.edu and her phone number is: 615-0015.

This conference room is kept locked and a master key or any INK staff member's office key is required to open it. Nancy Bylica, Ricardo Rodriguez and Evelyn Vogel all have master keys.

High Intensity Drinking (HID)

(Eva Leissou)

The High Intensity Drinking (HID) project will collect new longitudinal data to examine occasion-specific predictors and consequences of binge and high-intensity drinking during the time of life when alcohol use tends to be the greatest (ages 19-22). Two thousand 12th graders in the Monitoring the Future Base Year study (MTF), who finish the baseline survey at age 18, will be invited to provide new data on drinking behavior each year at ages 19 to 22.

Each year, participants will be asked to complete an annual assessment, a 30-minute developmental survey, administered via web. Following the developmental assessment, participants will be asked to complete a 7-minute web survey each day for 14 consecutive days. The surveys will be programmed in Illume and for sample management we will use WebSMS. Prior to each survey, participants will receive email notifications, and they will receive text reminders throughout the study protocol. The final step will be non-response telephone calls which will be done by our colleagues on the MTF project team. This project is exploring the use of electronic payment methods for respondent incentives. We are currently in preproduction and will start the first annual assessment interview in May.

The PI is Megan Patrick at the University of Minnesota.

Archives

(Kelly Chatain)

In 1963, the Peace Corps asked the Survey Research Center to help provide some insight into why almost 50% of applicants who made it through the application and screening process and received an invitation to join ultimately declined to do so. The Peace Corps was only a couple of years old. It was first publicly proposed in Ann Arbor on the steps of the Michigan Union in an unplanned campaign speech given at 2 a.m. by John F. Kennedy in 1960 (you can listen to the very cool audio on the [Peace Corps website](#)). An executive order signed in March 1961 made the program official. By mid-1963, 55,000 people had applied and 6,000 volunteers were working on projects in 47 countries. Given the extent of time and effort put in by both the applicants (lengthy application questionnaires and tests) and the Peace Corps (soliciting references and screening), a 50% decline rate was not insignificant.



The research was guided by four questions:

1. Were the reasons given for declining the “real” reasons as confirmed in the interview?
2. Were reasons unique to each applicant or was there a recurring pattern of changes in attitude, life circumstances, etc.?
3. Could the Peace Corps do anything about it or were the reasons beyond their control?
4. If they could do something about it, what suggestions could be gleaned from interviews for policy or program changes?¹

There was a month-long pilot in June 1963 to ascertain whether or not a larger study was feasible or of value to the Peace Corps. Interestingly, the main challenge was locating the initial sample of 41 people who had declined the Peace Corps. They were “young and extremely mobile”, many of the last known addresses were rooming houses or dorms, and some time had elapsed since they had declined. Of the 19

¹ Bowers, David G., and Stanley E. Seashore. 1963. "A Study of Peace Corps Declinations: Report of Phase 1", Project 312, SRO Archive

that were located and able to be interviewed, there were no refusals and 100% consent to tape record the entire interview. In the second, main phase of the study the project staff made some adjustments. They chose a sample comprised of half who had accepted invitations and half who had declined and they were all recent applications. The FTF interview was more structured and a supplemental SAQ was added for each respondent. This SAQ was also designed to be a tool the Peace Corps could mail out themselves to applicants after the SRC study concluded. Out of the 333 sample that were contacted, 300 completed interviews.²³

Generally speaking, those who declined were subject to more constraints like career-track jobs or financial obligations, making the cost and risk of leaving current situations greater. They received a higher proportion of negative counsel from family and friends. They typically received invitations about a month later than those who accepted and 70% of all applicants experienced a major change in personal circumstance between the application and invitation. The researchers concluded that about 1/3 of those who declined could probably be converted by making improvements to the Peace Corps program, such as timing of communications and providing more information about the projects and placements, and perhaps providing guidance on how to prepare for leaving the country for two years.

Composting at ISR - Schedule a Zero Waste Program for Your Next Event

Each day there are dozens of events on campus which create an enormous amount of waste. The Zero Waste Program targets this waste by reducing packaging, avoiding single-serve items, and providing compostable ware and compost service to all staff and students on the U-M Ann Arbor Campus. A zero waste event works to reduce, recycle and compost as much as possible with the goal to divert waste from the landfill.

How They Can Support You:

<http://sustainability.umich.edu/zero-waste>

The Zero Waste Program provides FREE technical assistance and resources to departments and groups to reduce compostable waste being landfilled. They will provide free compostable plates, cups, and utensils, as well as compost collection boxes, liners and signage. Regardless of whether your event is in one of the buildings with existing compost service, they can provide compost service the day of the event. Just give them a week's notice!

Contact Them As Soon As Possible:

To start planning for composting at your event send an email message to: zerowaste@umich.edu

Where to Pick Up your Zero Waste Materials:

109 E Madison St Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[http://sustainability.umich.edu/media/files/Directions%20to%20OCS%20Office\(2\).pdf](http://sustainability.umich.edu/media/files/Directions%20to%20OCS%20Office(2).pdf)

It will be very important to not contaminate the compost bins.

² Bowers, David G., and Stanley E. Seashore. 1963. "A Study of peace corps declinations: Report on methods." Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research.

³ Bowers, David G., and Stanley E. Seashore. 1963. "A Study of Peace Corps Declinations: Report of Phase 2", Project 312, SRO Archive.

COMPOSTABLE ITEMS: compostable cups, plates, utensils, food waste, napkins/paper towels, coffee grounds and filters



NON-COMPOSTABLE ITEMS: It is important to not contaminate the the bin with non-compostable materials!!

