



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 Key Updates.

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

SAVE THE DATE!

SRO All-Staff meeting to introduce our revised performance appraisal process

Tuesday, May 7

1:15 - 2:00 p.m.

(Zoom only; watch for invitation)

ISR Confidentiality Pledge Reminder

All ISR employees are required to complete an annual review of the Institute's Policy on Safeguarding Respondent Confidentiality and to sign the associated Confidentiality Pledge promising compliance with the Policy. This is a condition of your employment and affiliation with ISR. Please refer to the email from the ISR Office of the Director sent out on March 11, 2024. If you haven't already signed the Confidentiality Pledge, use to the following link.

The Confidentiality Policy and Pledge can be accessed here: <https://privacy.isr.umich.edu>

To complete the process over the web, you will need your U-M ID number.

GREEN TEAM UPDATES



SRO Green Team – NEW!
(Ann Vernier and Bree Walton)

What is a Green Team?

“A Green Team is an organized group of people (typically U-M staff) who implement sustainability initiatives, educate and engage others, share innovative ideas, and work with the Office of Campus Sustainability group to pilot ideas. A green team empowers committed staff to drive action and contribute to a sustainable campus culture.”

Visit the [OCS website](#) for more information.

As the members of the new SRO Green Team, Bree Walton and Ann Vernier plan to stock all SRO unit kitchenettes with reusable kitchenware (e.g. plates, bowls, mugs, utensils, and dish cleaning supplies) in the next couple of months. This will help reduce waste from disposable plastic ware, paper plates, cups, etc., and will contribute to a comfortable working environment. Of course, people are responsible for returning, washing and putting away kitchenware after each use.

We're hoping you will help!

If you have any reusable, microwaveable kitchenware at home that you are willing to share with your co-workers, please drop it off on Ann's counter in G306 by the end of April.

We have a NEW full-sized compost bin located in the 1st floor kitchenette. All unit kitchenettes have been stocked with compostable kitchen supplies. Please help yourself to these supplies, either for your personal use or to use at any SRO event.



Thank you for your continued sustainable efforts! We can't reduce SRO's carbon footprint without you. Email SRO-GreenTeam@umich.edu with any ideas, questions or concerns that you have.

CSDI Annual Workshop

Stephanie Chardoul, Rebecca Gatward, and Karin Schneider attended the CSDI (Comparative Survey Design and Implementation) Workshop in Germany during March 18-20. This year's meeting was hosted by SHARE-Berlin and included approximately 85 participants from organizations conducting cross-cultural survey research from around the world. Key topics included ensuring cultural validity of survey measures, how to create high-quality language translations, and the **global** challenge of recruiting and retaining in-person data collection staff. Stephanie presented on our Nepal young adult mixed-mode project, and everyone participated in a lively discussion of a major overhaul and update of the Cross-Cultural Survey Guidelines (ccsq.isr.umich.edu), which SRO will continue to host and maintain.



ESTUDIO DE ECONOMÍA FAMILIAR
DE PUERTO RICO

SRO Training comes to Puerto Rico — en Español! (Shonda Kruger-Ndiaye)



SRO has a long tradition of training interviewers to collect data in various languages. Many studies train interviewers to conduct interviews in Spanish, and some in Arabic. Typically, however, the SRO interviewers hired are bilingual and most of their training is conducted in English. Some SRO international projects train interviewers to conduct interviews in other languages but do so by “training the trainers” of our local collaborators, who then translate the materials and conduct the training of their interviewers in the target language(s).

The Puerto Rico Panel Study of Income Dynamics Pretest training in late January marked a first for SRO: SRO staff conducted General

Interviewing Techniques and Study Specific Training entirely in Spanish. According to July 2022 American Community Survey data, 75.6% of Puerto Ricans indicate that they speak English less than “very well.” For content as complicated as the SRC GIT and Panel Study of Income Dynamics questionnaire, it was critical that we train in the language our trainees understand best.

From GIT home study, through study-specific certification, the entire training was conducted by Camila Kendall (PDMG Project Manager) and Luis Suarez (DCO Production Coordinator) in Spanish. The training featured materials translated by a group of SRO staff and contractors, a Spanish version of SurveyTrak International, and a Blaise instrument fully translated in Spanish.

SRO is lucky to have many bilingual staff who complete their regular work in English but are fluent in additional languages. This training marked an opportunity for SRO to benefit from the strong Spanish language skills of our staff members and to bring SRO training to a group of Puerto Rican trainees, directly in our own words.



Adventures in the Field: A Day in the Life of a Traveler (Grant Benson and Sean Lance)

Sean Lance joined SRO in 2008, starting as an interviewer on the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). We are so fortunate that he has been an interviewer, school lead, school helper, and team leader throughout these last 16 years! Sean is one of the “Faces of SRO” in [Interviewers in Their Own Words](#) and is a traveler for the HRS 2022 data collection effort, which involves interviewing Panel respondents and screening and interviewing New Cohort respondents.

We asked Sean to describe a day in the life of a traveler. We ask a small, select group of interviewers to make themselves available to leave their homes for 10 days or more in a stretch and go to places unknown to screen, locate, collect contact information, confirm, and interview respondents. Being away from your home for an extended period of time invariably requires a great deal of preparation, including ensuring pets (and other family members) are taken care of, bills are paid, trash collected and making sure you have enough clean clothes with you. And that’s before you even get to the area of the country you are traveling to.

Below is Sean’s description of his process planning for an HRS travel trip.

Every day begins with some preparation.

All trips, depending on the sample, begin at home. Is this a screening trip or an interviewing trip? Is this going to be Panel or New Cohort? Will it be a combination of all of the above? Knowing all of this before you arrive in the area to be worked allows you to prepare with the appropriate materials and send them ahead of time if flying or brought in the rental car if driving.

Being a traveler is a lot like working home sample. The only difference is you are out every day for the entire day. Mornings are spent planning the route you will follow to maximize households that need attention. Then it all boils

down to just going out and knocking on doors. Interacting with new respondents you become quite adept at “selling” the study to people. Most of them don’t remember screening if they are new. Many of the panel respondents just hadn’t even realized it was time for the HRS again.

My favorite part of traveling and interviewing in-person is the sheer diverse variety of people and places I am exposed to. I can’t count the number of times I have been offered a cold drink on a hot day or a bite to eat after a long interview. Once or twice I’ve even been invited to a family gathering that evening or the next day! Of course, being a professional interviewer I am able to be grateful and decline politely without offense to anyone. It is reassuring to me to be exposed to the kindness and caring of most people. As an interviewer you are speaking with people who have allowed you into their private homes.

More often than you might imagine, being an interviewer brings a sense of fulfillment beyond collecting important data and interacting with people from all walks of life. I conducted an interview with a respondent whose electricity was not working in the middle of a heat wave. She was in a mobile home on the edge of a field in the middle of nowhere. The nearest “store” was a country gas station a mile down the road. She had no car and no employment. She (barely) survived on child support for her daughter. She was so surprised at the cash she received at the end of the interview that she cried while thanking me.

I’ve been in homes that I thought were abandoned when I arrived. Other homes were in the same neighborhoods as state politicians. As a field interviewer, I must be prepared and able to be comfortable in any environment.

While traveling, it is important to make time to maintain contact with my family. Every evening that I don’t have an interview scheduled, I will spend an hour of FaceTime with my son on our iPads and he can show me something he learned or created. After that I will talk with my wife about our respective day and anything we have coming up. Even though I am away from home about 45% of the time I can still be a constant presence in the life of my family.

No matter where I’ve gone and who I’ve talked to, I’ve come to understand how much we all have in common. The HRS helps show how much more we are alike as a country than we are different.

CCP Corner **(Elany Clark)**

2-1-1 is an often underutilized and misunderstood resource. 2-1-1 was designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 2000 as the 3-digit number for information and referrals to social services, and other assistance, and operates more than 200 local organizations around the country that link their communities to crucial services. These services include: access to mental health, immigrant services, caregiver services, and linkage to other basic and functional needs. 2-1-1 is available for anyone to use and is open 24/7. Visit their website to learn more at <https://www.211.org/>.



SRO Wellness News **(SRO Wellness Committee)**

Please reach out if you are interested in being part of the committee or if you have ideas to share. srowellcomm@umich.edu

[Active April 2024](#) Calendar from Action for Happiness.

APRIL FOOD TRUCK - Wednesday, April 10

Impasto Italian Inspired Wraps (Facebook: [Impasto Detroit Facebook](#) and website: [Impasto Italian Inspired Wraps](#)) is scheduled to be at Perry on Wednesday, April 10. The truck will be located in the parking lot near the Perry Atrium from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Cash and credit are accepted. All Perry and Thompson Building staff are welcome!

SAVE THE DATES	
April 10	Impasto Italian Inspired Wraps
May 8	CCs Soul Food
June 12	Simply Spanish
July 10	Pending
August 14	Motor City Pasty Company
September 11	Pending
October 9	Pending
November 13	Pending

APRIL IS FINANCIAL CAPABILITY MONTH - Wednesday, April 10

April is recognized as "National Financial Capability Month". The observance highlights the importance of having a basic understanding of how to handle money matters like paying bills, managing debt and saving money. [Financial well-being resources covering these topics and more are available on the MHealthy website.](#)

On April 10, MHealthy and the U-M Credit Union will be presenting the [virtual workshop “Save for Your Future”](#). This workshop will cover key habits that can lead to successful saving. Whether you are one year or 30 years from retirement, you’ll leave feeling better about your options moving forward! Topics include: Saving Automatically, Saving For The Unexpected, Saving For Major Milestones, Paying Down Debt Is Saving, and Saving At Any Age.

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Time: 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
Presenter: Mark Munzenberger, Financial Education Manager, U-M Credit Union
[Click Here to Register](#)

MHEALTHY IN-PERSON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CLASSES – Opens Monday, April 15

Registration opens April 15 for MHealthy’s spring/summer, in-person physical activity classes.
[Click Here to Register](#)

Attend classes at six campus locations: Ann Arbor Ice Cube, Wolverine Tower, North Campus Research Complex (NCRC), KMS building, University Health South Wellness Center and the Sports Performance Complex. Classes start May 13 and most are priced at \$65. [Scholarships](#) will also be available starting April 1.

FREecycle - SAVE THE DATE - Wednesday, May 15

Our next Freecycle event will be held on **Wednesday, May 15, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** in G150 AB Perry.

[Click Here to Add to Your Google Calendar](#)

What is Freecycle? Freecycle is about no-strings-attached gifts of physical items which would otherwise go into landfills. As we start thinking about spring cleaning and decluttering, Freecycle offers a way to get rid of or pick up some items which you or others can use. And most importantly - it is **FREE**.

We will have the room open for dropping off items on Wednesday, May 15 starting at 7:00 a.m.

NOTE: If you have a free item that is too big to bring in, take a picture and leave it with a contact name, email, and phone number.

Feel free to stop by at any time from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. to pick up any items you want!

At 2:00 p.m. we will be packing up the room and taking items to be donated.

THANK YOU

For joining us at our March activities from food trucks, cooking class, and book/movie swap.

