

**Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS)
American Statistical Association (ASA)**

Business Meeting, Wednesday, August 10, 2005

The Survey Research Methods Section Business Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10, 2005, by Sarah Nusser, SRMS Chair, during the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. There were over 100 members present in addition to the following officers:

Sarah Nusser, Chair, 2005
Roger Tourangeau, Chair-Elect, 2005
Bill Kalsbeek, Chair-Elect, 2006
Sharon Lohr, Past Chair, 2005
Virginia (Ginny) Lesser, Treasurer, 2005-2006
Stuart Scott, Publication Officer, 2005-2006
Anthony (Tony) An, Web Editor
Steve Cohen, COS Representative, 2004-2006
Elizabeth Stasny, COS Representative, 2003-2005
Michael Larsen, COS Representative Elect, 2006-2008
Rachel Harter, Program Chair, 2005
Dave Judkins, Program Chair, 2006
Wendy Alvey, Brochure
Mary Mulry, Fellow Nominations Chair

Not present:

Rachel Caspar, Continuing Education Officer, 2005-2006
Elaine Zanutto, Secretary, 2004-2005
Brian Meekins, Newsletter Editor

1. Overview of Section Activities (Sarah Nusser)

The SRMS has 1260 members. Fifteen percent (15%) of the SRMS members are students. The current officers were introduced and received much applause.

Three activities were described. The section is a co-sponsor and has provided student support for the Telephone Survey Methodology II conference, which will take place in Miami in January of 2006. Clyde Tucker reported on conference preparations. Hotel reservations are open. Registration opens in September. The price of \$495 includes continental breakfasts and lunches. There will be 80 contributed papers and 26 monograph papers. Four short courses will be offered on Wednesday, January 11th. See the website (<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/tsmii/2006/>) for more information.

SRMS is a co-sponsor of ICES III, the 3rd international conference on establishment surveys to be held in June of 2007. Steve Cohen reported to the section and displayed a colorful poster. Proposals for invited paper sessions are due in September. Contributed

papers will sign up in the spring of 2006. Three short courses are needed for the conference. Contact Steve with suggestions. See the website (<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007/>) for more information.

SRMS members have been involved in formulating ISO standards for market surveys through CASRO (<http://www.casro.org/>). Paul Biemer, Michael Cohen and Bob Groves are involved, among others. The draft document was amended with comments received in the spring, and a revised version was approved as the final draft. The final draft document will be posted for comment on the members-only portion of ASA's website.

2. Introduction of New Officers (Sarah Nusser)

New officers were introduced and greeted with much applause. Thanks were given to all who ran for positions (elections within the ASA must be contested).

Bill Kalsbeek, Chair Elect for 2006
Michael Larsen, COS Representative, 2006-2008
Secretary, Marilyn Seastrom, 2006-2007
Program Chair, Steve Heeringa, 2007

3. Committee on ASA Fellows (Mary Mulry)

Three SRMS members were elected as ASA Fellows. Mary Mulry read their names: Susan Devlin, Iris Shimizu, and Susan Schechter. Mary Mulry then described the SRMS committee that monitors the process for electing ASA Fellows. There are six committee members: Mary Mulry, Clyde Tucker, Paul Biemer, Don Dillman, Lynne Stokes, and Chris Skinner. The committee looks at the list of proposed fellows to look for SRMS member representation and encourages suggestions of SRMS members to nominate for Fellows status.

4. Student Awards (Rachel Harter and Ginny Lesser)

Rachel Harter reported on the student paper competition held together with the Government Statistics Section (GSS) and the Social Statistics Section (SSS). There were five winners, some of whom were present at the meeting. The winners were applauded very enthusiastically. The students presented in Session 393:

http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2005/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=activity_details&sessionid=200376

Design Effects in the Analysis of Longitudinal Survey Data — Marcel de Toledo Vieira, University of Southampton
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Model-based Estimation in Network Sampling Using Samples Obtained by Subsampling — Mike Kwanisai, NORC at the University of Chicago
--

Research on Errors Associated with Period Reporters in Retail Trade Estimates — Kelly Dixon, U.S. Census Bureau
--

Bayesian Models To Adjust for Response Bias in Survey Data: An Example in Estimating Rape and Domestic Violence from the NCVS —

[Qingzhao Yu](#), The Ohio State University; [Elizabeth A. Stasny](#), The Ohio State University

[Imputation of Missing Hourly Pay Data Using Data Augmentation in the Case of Nonignorable Item-nonresponse](#) —
[Gabriele Durrant](#), University of Southampton

Ginny Lesser reported on the travel award winners. There were twelve award winners, many of whom were present at the meeting. Ginny thanked the committee: Sharon Lohr, Elizabeth Stasny, and Rachel Caspar.

5. JSM 2005 Program (Rachel Harter)

Rachel Harter reported on the 2005 program. SRMS has 8 invited sessions, 12 topic contributed sessions, 1 invited poster session, 22 contributed paper sessions for which SRMS was the primary sponsor (SRMS was co-sponsor on additional sessions), 2 short courses, and 4 round table lunches. Seven round table lunches were organized by Dave Judkins, but only 4 had sufficient subscription to be held. Continuing Education courses included Steve Thompson's course on Adaptive Sampling and Don Rubin and Trivellore Raghunathan's course on Multiple Imputation. Rachel thanked Dave for his efforts and wished him well for 2006.

6. JSM 2006 Program (David Judkins)

Dave Judkins reported that SRMS will have five invited session at the 2006 JSM in Seattle and will be competing for 3 more. Steve Heeringa, program chair for 2007, will organize the round table sessions for 2006. The ASA has a slot in the program for a memorial session. If anybody would like to organize a memorial session for William (Bill) Kruskal, they are encouraged to do so and to contact Dave.

7. Continuing Education Update

Rachel Caspar was not at the meeting. Sarah Nusser reported on the continuing education courses at the 2005 JSM.

David Chapman, the prior Continuing Education officer, added the following comments. Steve Thompson's course on Adaptive Sampling was held on Saturday and had 28 attendees. Don Rubin and Trivellore Raghunathan's course on Multiple Imputation was held on Sunday and had 70 attendees. The break even enrollment in terms of cost is 15-20 people, so both courses will make money for the section.

Darryl Creed commented that students on travel vouchers from the section who had wanted to register for Rubin and Raghunathan's course were not listed on the registration sheet. Sarah Nusser responded that the executive committee had heard about this, but not until after the course had happened. The names of the attendees were submitted, but there appears to have been a communication problem with the ASA central office. Efforts to avoid this problem next year will be made.

8. Treasurer's Report (Ginny Lesser)

Ginny reported that the SRMS has \$83,900 in its account as of the 2005 JSM. About \$20,000 in expenses are anticipated, including support of the two conferences (see #1) and travel awards (see #4). Ginny assured the travel award winners that they will be reimbursed for the expenses, as soon as the proper procedure for reimbursement is determined. But don't worry, the section does have the funds.

9. Publications Update (Stuart Scott, Tony An)

Stuart Scott reported that there is space in *Amstat News* for an article each issue on a topic relevant to the SRMS. He asked for suggestions/contributions. Stuart thanked Tony An (SRMS webmaster) and Brian Meekins (SRMS newsletter editor) for their hardwork.

Bill Kalsbeek asked for a show of hands from those present at the meeting of those who use the SRMS on-line proceedings: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/Proceedings/> A significant majority of those present in the room responded that they use the proceedings. Of course, this was a convenience sample and could be biased on this question.

Tony An answered questions about time-line and missing papers. Currently, proceedings can be posted only after two years due to copyright restrictions. If the ASA switches to including a CD with every registration, then the two-year wait might be eliminated. Sometimes there are errors (despite significant efforts of many people). Please let Tony know of any errors, omissions, etc., and he will try to have problems fixed.

Bill Kalsbeek added that other suggestions to improve the web site and the proceedings also can be sent to Tony.

David Binder asked if there is a cumulative index. The answer is yes, there is a cumulative index for the on-line proceedings. Bob Fay suggested using Google Scholar.

10. Council of Sections Report (Elizabeth Stasny and Steve Cohen)

Elizabeth Stasny reported that the Council of Sections met on Sunday and five topics should be reported to the SRMS.

- a. Sallie Keller McNulty, the next ASA president, has formed three task forces: science policy, defense and security, and collaborations. The collaborations task force will look at collaborations within ASA (sections, chapters, committees, etc.) and beyond ASA. For example, there is a ASA survey review committee that few SRMS members know about. Ginny Lesser will be on the committee next year.
- b. Allocation of invited sessions: some invited sessions are competitively allocated to sections. Since meetings are held in convention centers, there

are more invited paper sessions. How should they be allocated? Current rules require gradual adjustment of allocations. One could ask about changing the rules, but that has not occurred. Standards for allocation could be based on section membership, section member attendance at JSM, and section activity at JSM.

- c. Sections are asked to think about mentoring programs and how they could be used to encourage students to stay in ASA and stay involved in sections.
- d. Are round tables worth it? They are expensive and not well attended by SRMS members. Other sections that have more industry connections (e.g., Biopharmaceutical) have more success. We do not have to organize round table lunches. Food in convention centers is not cheap. Should there be coffee round tables? Water only round tables? When should they be held? Should we propose fewer? These are questions to consider. A suggestion was made to have different types of round tables and let them compete for attendance.
- e. Should JSM be reconfigured? ASA's queries last year indicated that there is a broad range of preferences on Sunday and Thursday sessions, and thus they have chosen not to change the structure. Phil Kott suggested limiting contributed topic sessions to not more than 5 presentations per session.

11. Other Business

David Binder briefly advertised Statistics Canada's fall conference at the end of October.

Tom Belin briefly advertised the Conference on Health Policy Research, October 28-30, 2005, in Boston. September 6th is the abstract deadline. Health survey topics, NCHS topics, and AHRQ topics will be included in the program.

Howard Hogan is the IASS representative. He needs an article for their newsletter on an interesting government survey or agency (other than census).

Cynthia Clark advertised the April of 2006 Conference on Quality and Methodology in Official Statistics, sponsored by EuroStat, to be held in Cardiff, Wales.

A request was made by the SPAIG committee for reports from statisticians who have spent sabbatical time in government and/or industry.

Sharon Lohr thanked Sarah Nusser for her hard work. This statement of thanks was greeted with great applause.

Meeting adjourned by Sarah Nusser at 6:40 p.m.

Michael D. Larsen, reporting