

## Section on Survey Research Methods Roundtable Luncheons for JSM 2004

**Leader:** David A. Binder

**Title:** Enhancing Collaboration Between Social Science Researchers and Statisticians

**Abstract:** What are the barriers to involving statisticians in the social sciences, in economics and in other research disciplines? Are there important "cultural" differences that are a hindrance to cross-disciplinary communications? Do statisticians use language that is meaningless or that has a different meaning to other researchers? Are the norms used by peer reviewers from various disciplines well understood by statisticians when they are consulted? One area where the issue of collaboration with statisticians often arises is in the analysis of survey data. Such data are now being used increasingly by many disciplines, but the subtleties associated with appropriate ways to analyse such data may not be well understood or easy to explain. Most accepted procedures used in the social sciences (often available in commercial software) are based on assuming that the data model incorporates all the relevant information about the mechanisms for selecting respondents. Do social science researchers understand this sufficiently well? What is the role of statisticians here, if any? These are some questions that we will be exploring.

Analysis  
Survey Data  
Survey Design  
Econometrics  
Health Policy Research  
Longitudinal Studies

**Leader:** Mick P. Couper

**Title:** Web survey design and implementation

**Abstract:** Web surveys are becoming increasingly common as an alternative or supplement to telephone and mail surveys. Web surveys introduce their own set of issues for survey methodologists and statisticians. This session will be a forum for sharing recent experiences and insights about this increasingly important arena.

Web survey  
Internet survey

**Leader:** Rupa Datta

**Title:** Respondent Retention in Longitudinal Surveys

**Abstract:** In March, 2004, representatives of many major American longitudinal surveys and longitudinal survey sponsors will convene for a one-day Conference on Respondent Retention in Longitudinal Surveys sponsored by the Technical Review Committee of the National Longitudinal Surveys of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The Conference is structured as a dialogue that helps to assess the current survey environment and to exchange accumulated knowledge about respondent retention in longitudinal surveys. One set of discussions will address determinants of attrition, including the personal characteristics of attriters, how prior round participation contributes to attrition, and the role of data collection mode in

exacerbating or stemming attrition. A second set of discussions will focus on how surveys respond to attrition, including payment of incentives, structuring the interview to avoid attrition, and adopting fielding strategies that minimize attrition. The roundtable session will be an opportunity to review key ideas and evidence presented during the March conference, and to extend those ideas with respect to the analysis of survey data in the context of continued challenges to retention in panel surveys.

attrition  
response rates  
longitudinal survey  
panel survey

**Leader:** Julia Ingrid Lane

**Title:** Integrated Survey and Administrative data

**Abstract:** The focus of this discussion will be on discussing the various challenges and rewards derived from integrating survey and administrative data, with lessons learned from a variety of experiences in different countries. Topics will include (but are not limited to)

- addressing policy challenges
- developing a useable database infrastructure
- developing products and a user constituency
- identifying demand
- interpreting data to create usable information
- using geography as an integration element
- addressing confidentiality challenges

Although the main discussion will be focused on the lessons learned from the development of integrated employer-employee datasets, there will also be a discussion of the integration of other data - notably health services research and geographic fs17 research - and the similarities and differences in the challenges that are faced.

integrated data  
employer-employee data  
confidentiality

**Leader:** Warren J Mitofsky

**Title:** PROJECTING THE 2004 ELECTIONS: WHAT'S CHANGED

**Abstract:** In 2000, projections of the presidential race by the television networks went astray. After congressional hearings, scrutiny by the media and academics and technical review by expert statisticians changes were planned, but were not successfully used by the networks on election night, 2002. Now that we are in the midst of a new presidential election year what will be different when we elect a president on November 2, 2004? There have been changes in methods and approach that will be discussed.

election projections  
presidential election

television networks  
2004 election

**Leader:** Eleanor Singer

**Title:** IRBs, Surveys, and the Protection of Human Subjects

**Abstract:** This roundtable will discuss recent recommendations for IRB review of surveys made by a National Academy of Sciences panel. It will also discuss problems participants have encountered with IRB's, and consider successful strategies for dealing with them.

The Chair will review recommendations issued by the Panel on Institutional Review Boards, Surveys, and Social Science Research in 2003. To enliven the discussion, roundtable participants are urged to send in problems they have encountered.

IRBs  
Human subjects  
Federal Regulations

**Leader:** George S. Werking

**Title:** Employment - Which Number to Pick?

**Abstract:** Monthly employment change is always a highly scrutinized number by policymakers, the financial markets, and forecasters, but these numbers take on a significant added interest during turning points in the economy. Each month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes two measures of monthly employment change: one measure from the Current Population Survey (CPS) which is a 60,000-unit household survey and the other from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey which is a 400,000-unit establishment survey. While monthly figures can differ in size and direction, historically the longer-term trends track well. However, the most recent recovery period (November 2001 forward) has shown significantly different trends for the two surveys and has led to numerous articles being written on the apparent discrepancy. This discussion will focus on the scope and methodology differences between CPS and CES, and what we know about the discrepancy in employment growth.

Employment change  
Economic cycle