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Message from the Section Chair

Kennon R. Copeland



During the first half of 2019, the SRMS council has moved forward on several fronts intended to serve and benefit the section, and I greatly appreciate their efforts. While not wishing to short-change the efforts of any of the council, I highlight below some specific areas of interest to the section.

Due to the efforts of Asaph Young Chun (Program Chair) and Yang Cheng (Program Chair-elect), as well as to many of you, SRMS has put together another very strong program for the 2019 Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver, with 13 Invited sessions, 18 Topic Contributed sessions, 7 Contributed sessions, 4 Speed sessions, 2 Poster sessions, and 5 Roundtable discussions.

Thanks also to volunteer judges for poster and speed sessions and to session chairs. I think the meeting in Denver should be a real success for SRMS.

James Wagner (Education Chair) has organized an Oct 10 webinar and is working toward a second webinar. In addition, James has collaborated with Education Chairs for other sections to improve coordination and advertisement of webinars across the sections.

Steven Pedlow (Communications Officer) has kept the Section and ASA in general informed about SRMS activities and accomplishments through articles in Amstat News. Pushpal Mukophadhyay (Website Editor) uploaded 47 papers from the 2012 Hard to Reach Conference to the SRMS Proceedings page. Jamie Ridenhour and Julia Soulakova (Council or Sections Representatives) will be leading the section through its periodic charter review.

The section carried out its annual SRMS Student Travel Awards competition, receiving nine applications, from which three were given awards. In conjunction with GSS and SSS, SRMS also conducted its annual Student Paper competition, in which 32 submissions were received and five selected to present in a topic-contributed session at JSM. Thanks to the volunteers reviewing the submissions for both competitions.

In January, SRMS will be welcoming the new Officers who were elected this spring: Tony An (Chair-elect); Brady West (Program Chair-elect); and Gina Walejko (Secretary). The council looks forward to working with them in 2020. A huge thanks to all who ran for election, which is a critical part of our organization and requires members who are willing to offer their time.

As this will be my final column for the bi-annual SRMS Newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the entire SRMS council for their efforts this year, and in particular those who will finish their roles on the council at the end of 2019 – Karol Krotki, Asaph Young Chun, and Safaa Amer. Thank you very much for your service to the Section.

We hope to see you at the SRMS Business Meeting and Mixer on Wednesday July 31, 6-8 p.m. (Hyatt Regency – Centennial Ballroom A). There will be news of SRMS, award announcements, refreshments (cash bar and some free appetizers), and opportunities for socializing and networking.

I hope to see you at JSM 2019 and to have you involved in SRMS activities throughout the remainder of 2019 and beyond!

Report from the Treasurer

Darcy Steeg Morris



It has been a break-even year for SRMS finances. Some highlights of this past year (June 2018 – May 2019) include:

- Income:
 - Membership dues (~\$4600),
 - Seed funding return for BigSurv18 conference (\$6000) – BigSurv18 profit share is pending,
 - AAPOR sponsorship of 2018 JSM Business Meeting/Mixer (\$1000), and
 - Interest on our bank balance (~\$1200).
- Expenses:
 - JSM 2019 Student Travel Awards (~\$2500) and Student Paper Awards (~\$1600),
 - JSM 2018 Business Meeting/Mixer (~\$4500), and
 - *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology* subscription for members (~\$4200).

Altogether, we are roughly break-even for this time period. This is a good state of the treasury! Back in 2013 we were tasked with spending down our balance when SRMS received a combined \$40k profit share from sponsoring the 2012 H2R and 2012 ICES IV conferences. (Strategic) losses over the past 5 years have landed SRMS in the sweet spot of an account balance (\$40,700 as of June 14, 2019) between two to three times annual expenses (~\$20k in 2018 and ~\$15k in 2017). Finances in the past year keep SRMS on target to maintain this appropriate account balance.

Over the past 10 years, the biggest profit generators have been profit shares from conferences, registration fees (e.g. from webinars), and membership dues. The largest expenses have been awards (JSM travel, paper and poster awards), the JSM business meeting/mixer, and contributions to other organizations (e.g. seed funding of conferences of interest to section members). In the past 5 years of spending down our balance, the largest expenses have remained the same; however, the largest sources of income have been contributions from other organizations/sponsorships, interest on our bank balance, and membership dues. The SRMS Executive Committee is currently working to offer more webinars and continues to invest in conferences in an effort to maintain these important sources of income. We are always looking for sponsorship and educational opportunities to benefit our members!

SRMS is about 1,300 members strong, with member dues at \$8 – remember that \$3 of your dues goes towards your subscription to the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*. Thanks to all SRMS members for paying your dues!

Report from the Publications Officer

Steven Pedlow

One benefit for all members of the SRMS is that the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology* (<https://academic.oup.com/jssam>) is provided to all Section members. This is a quarterly journal targeted to our Section as part of dues of \$8/year!

Our section provides free access to the Proceedings for the entire history of the Survey Research Methods Section (1978-2018), as well as the Proceedings from the Social Statistics Section (from which our section separated in 1978) from 1958-1977; and from all five International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES) meetings (1993-2016). Please note that some of these years are prior to the electronic proceedings available through ASA (2009-today); the section has scanned all earlier papers as a service to survey researchers. To access the proceedings page, you can simply click on “Proceedings” on the top of our section’s new homepage, or proceed directly to <http://www.asarms.org/Proceedings/index.html>.

The section is on Twitter with the handle @srmsasa (<https://twitter.com/srmsasa>). Follow us, and send us your news to share with the SRMS membership and survey researchers everywhere.

If you will be at JSM, please plan to attend the SRMS Business Meeting and Mixer on Wednesday, July 31 from 6-8 PM in Centennial Ballroom A at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center. Come to learn about the section and/or find out the latest SRMS news, including our newest award-winners. There will be refreshments (cash bar and some free appetizers), as well as opportunities for socializing and networking.

JSM 2019 SRMS Student Travel Awards

Darcy Steeg Morris

Each year SRMS gives awards to students to cover part of the costs of attending JSM. This year there were three recipients of this competitive award. Each applicant for this award submitted a short essay, a letter of recommendation from a faculty member, and college transcripts. A panel appointed by the SRMS Executive Committee selected the awardees based on the submitted materials. The 2019 panel consisted of Steven Pedlow (SRMS Publications Officer), Pushpal Mukhopadhyay, and myself.

The recipients of the JSM 2019 SRMS Student Travel Awards are:

- Zhaoce Liu, Southern Methodist University, Department of Statistical Science;
- Ali Rafei, University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research; and
- Xiaofei Zhang, Iowa State University, Center for Survey Statistics & Methodology.

These students received \$825 each, which includes \$800 for JSM travel expenses and \$25 for student membership in ASA (student membership in SRMS is free). Congratulations to the three recipients and thanks to all students who applied!

We look forward to awarding student travel funding for the 2020 JSM in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (August 1 - August 6, 2020). Applications for the JSM 2020 SRMS Student Travel Awards will be posted in October 2019 and are due in December 2019.

JSM 2019 SRMS Student Paper Awards

Darcy Steeg Morris

The JSM Student Paper Awards are a joint effort of the Government Statistics Section (GSS), the Social Statistics Section (SSS), and the Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS). Students submit papers and the five that are judged the best are given the opportunity to present them at a special contributed paper session at JSM as well as receive \$1,000 each. This year the recipients will be presenting in **Session 335 on Tuesday, July 30, 10:30 AM – 12:20 PM.**

The 2019 awardees are shown in **bold** below. The papers were judged by an awards committee consisting of the Program Chair-Elect of each of the three sections. These are Michael Yang

(NORC) for GSS, Antje Kirchner (RTI and University of Nebraska – Lincoln) for SSS, and Yang Cheng (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) for SRMS.

We congratulate the awardees and commend all the entrants for their high quality work. Special thanks to the awards committee for making this program a success.

SRMS/SSS/GSS Student Paper Competition — Topic Contributed Papers

Social Statistics Section, Survey Research Methods Section, Government Statistics Section

Organizer(s): Jeffrey Gonzalez, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chair(s): Amanda Rae Ellis, Eastern Kentucky University

- 10:35 AM [Polling Bias from Undecided Voters in Recent US Presidential Elections](#) – **Joshua Bon, Queensland University of Technology**; Timothy Ballard, University of Queensland; Bernard Baffour, Australian National University
- 10:55 AM [Complementing the Power of Deep Learning with Statistical Model Fusion: Probabilistic Forecasting of Influenza in Dallas County, Texas, USA](#) – **Marwah Soliman, University of Texas At Dallas**; Yulia Gel, University of Texas at Dallas; Vyacheslav Lyubchich, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
- 11:15 AM [Predicting Interviewer Effects using Paradata](#) – **Sharan Sharma, University of Michigan**; Michael Elliott, University of Michigan
- 11:35 AM [Reinforced Designs for Observational Studies of Treatment Effects: Multiple Instruments Plus Control Groups as Evidence Factors](#) – **Bikram Karmakar, University of Pennsylvania**; Dylan Small, University of Pennsylvania; Paul Rosenbaum, University of Pennsylvania
- 11:55 AM [Accounting for Survey Design in Bayesian Disaggregation of Survey-based Areal Estimates of Proportions](#) – **Marco Benedetti, University of Michigan**; Veronica J. Berrocal, University of Michigan
- 12:15 PM Floor Discussion

JSM 2019 Update

Asaph Young Chun



I am delighted to report that the Survey Research Methods Section (SMRS) will have one of the most rigorous programs at the 2019 Joint Statistical Meetings. The JSM program of SRMS will feature a fine mix of sessions (co)sponsored by SRMS: 13 invited sessions; 18 topic-contributed sessions, seven contributed sessions, and three speed sessions. We also will have several roundtables that discuss recent methodological innovations.

I have organized an SRMS mission-enabling program that advances survey science, promotes evidence-based policymaking, and expands knowledge and real-world applications by the rigorous use of survey research methods. You will find several methodological papers discussing innovations under development. I have kept the promise I stated when running for the SRMS election in 2017.

The invited sessions of SRMS will attempt to provide solutions to the recent challenges of linked data, big data, and non-probability samples, while addressing the classical methodological issues of total survey errors, small area estimation, and multiple imputation. The topic-contributed sessions will be featuring sessions that highlight: 1) data integration, including the effective use of administrative records, big data, and non-probability samples; 2) the increasing use of responsive and adaptive design (RAD) in surveys; 3) methods to optimize data dissemination while preserving confidentiality; and 4) practical issues involving data science, cryptocurrency surveys, or propensity score methods. In addition, you are invited to participate in interactive speed sessions that will discuss a number of diverse methodological issues in survey research, such as sampling, data quality, nonresponse, integrating data from multiple sources, small area estimation, and methodological advancements.

You can tell we have a fair number of sessions competing to get your attention and requiring your advance planning! Therefore I would like to encourage you to prioritize the sessions you wish to attend by looking over the SRMS program below. Check the 2019 JSM [online program](#) for up-to-date times and locations for your handy planning. Take advantage of the "My Program" feature that you may create online to tailor to your own interests.

Have a safe trip to Denver, Colorado, a beautiful glimpse of the Rocky Mountains!

Sunday, July 28

Invited

- *Challenges and Breakthroughs in Analyzing Big Survey Data* (2:00 – 3:50 pm)
- *Multinational, Multiregional, and Multicultural Surveys (3MC): A Burgeoning Sub-Discipline in Survey Research Methods* (2:00 – 3:50 pm)

Speed

Survey Methods, Transportation Studies, Socioeconomics, and General Statistical Methods (oral presentations 2:00 – 3:50 pm; poster presentations 5:05—5:50 pm)

Contributed

Nonprobability Sample and Probability Sample Matters Under What Context? (2:00 – 3:50 pm)

Topic-Contributed

- *Cryptocurrency Surveys: Challenges and Results from Central Banks* (4:00—5:50 pm)
- *Improving Data Collection: Challenges in Survey Practice* (4:00—5:50 pm)

Monday, July 29

Invited

- *The Multiple Adaptations of Multiple Imputation* (8:30—10:20 am)
- *Administrative Income Data, Survey Data, and Inequality* (8:30—10:20 am)
- *Developing Multi-Purpose Imputed or Synthetic Data for Official Statistics* (10:30 am—12:20 pm)
- *Evolving Survey Inference in the Big Data Era: Challenges and Opportunities* (2:00—3:50 pm)

Speed

Improving Survey Data Quality with Multiple Data Sources, Administrative Data, and Nonresponse Bias Control (oral presentations 10:30 am – 12:20 pm; poster presentations 2:00—2:45 pm)

Contributed

Modeling Applications for Backcoding, Nowcasting, and Forecasting (8:30—10:20 am)

Topic-Contributed

- *Statistical Data Editing Modernization* (8:30—10:20 am)
- *Big Survey Meets Big Data: Integrating Administrative Data into the American Community Survey* (10:30 am – 12:20 pm)
- *Inference with Nonprobability Sample Through Data Integration* (10:30 am – 12:20 pm)
- *Linked Data to Advance Evidence Building in Public Policy* (Panel) (2:00—3:50 pm)

Tuesday, July 30

Invited

Achieving Adequate Representation When Surveying Rare Populations (2:00—3:50 pm)

Speed

Big Data, Small-Area Estimation, and Methodological Innovations Under Development (oral presentations 8:30—10:20 am; poster presentations 10:30—11:15 am)

Topic-Contributed

- *Probabilistic Record Linkage and Inference with Merged Data* (8:30—10:20 am)
- *Assessing the Quality of Integrated Data* (8:30—10:20 am)
- *Providing Access to Useful Data While Preserving Confidentiality* (8:30—10:20 am)
- *Adaptive Survey Design: Recent Advances and New Potential* (10:30 am—12:20 pm)
- *SRMS/SSS/GSS Student Paper Competition* (10:30 am—12:20 pm)
- *Connecting Parallel Universes* (2:00—3:50 pm)
- *Scientific and Public Affairs Advisory Committee Poster Competition* (2:00—3:50 pm)

Contributed

- *Nonresponse Errors and Fixes* (2:00—3:50 pm)
- *SRMS-Submitted Posters* (2:00—3:50 pm)

Wednesday, July 31

Invited

- *Missing Data Issues in Public Health Studies and Survey Sampling in the Era of Data Science* (8:30—10:20 am)
- *State-of-the-Art Inferential Approaches for Nonprobability Samples* (8:30—10:20 am)
- *Data Fabrication and Falsification: Protecting the Credibility and Impacts of Surveys* (Panel) (10:30 am—12:20 pm)
- *Total Survey Errors in the Combination of Probability and Nonprobability Samples* (2:00—3:50 pm)
- *A Historical Perspective on the Application of Sampling Theory and Methods* (Panel) (2:00—3:50 pm)

Topic-Contributed

- *Differential Privacy Research and Applications at the US Census Bureau* (8:30—10:20 am)
- *Propensity Score Methods to Conduct Observational Studies Using Complex Survey Data* (10:30 am—12:20 pm)
- *Small-Area Estimation with Relaxed Modeling Assumptions* (10:30 am—12:20 pm)
- *Time Series in Government and National Statistics* (2:00—3:50 pm)

Contributed

- *Survey Sampling and Variance Estimation: Recent Innovations* (8:30—10:20 am)
- *Sampling, Variance Estimation, and Advancements with Auxiliary Data* (2:00—3:50 pm)

Thursday, August 1

Invited

Small-Area Estimation: Producing Estimates for Small Areas from Sampled Data (10:30 am—12:20 pm)

Topic-Contributed

Address-Based Frame Enhancement: Recent Experience and Developments (8:30—10:20 am)

Contributed

Statistical Modeling: Benefits and Drawbacks (8:30—10:20 am)

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and appreciate speakers, discussants, and organizers who have contributed to advancing the SRMS program in the 2019 JSM.

Last, I urge you to attend the Topic-Contributed session where five outstanding students will be presenting their papers that have been privileged to receive the honorable awards of the SRMS/SSS/GSS Student Paper Joint Competition (Tuesday at 10:30 am, 7/30). Students are our future, aren't they?

2019 SRMS Fellows

Congratulations to SRMS members Babette Brumback (University of Florida), Craig Hill (RTI International), and Jonathan Schildcrout (Vanderbilt University) for being named as 2019 ASA Fellows! The full list of all 59 new Fellows is available [here](#).

There is now a joint WSS/SRMS Fellows Committee: Jill DeMatteis (WSS chair), Polly Phipps, Jennifer Parker, Van Parsons, Cynthia Clark, and Jill Dever. Please contact any committee member if you wish to nominate an SRMS colleague for Fellow.

SRMS-Sponsored Webinar: Multilevel Regression and Poststratification

James Wagner

Yajuan Si, a Research Assistant Professor in the Survey Methodology Program at the University of Michigan, will be offering a webinar on multilevel regression and poststratification (MRP) October 10, 2019 from 1-3pm. MRP is a method originally applied to political polls, but it has become increasingly popular with applications to demography, epidemiology, and many other areas. Adapted from hierarchical models, MRP is an approach to modeling survey or other nonrepresentative sample data that has the potential to adjust for complex design features and nonresponse bias while performing small area estimation. The seminar covers the statistical concepts and practical issues in implementing MRP with real-life application examples.

Registration is open at the following link: <https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Education/Web-Based-Lectures.aspx>. The cost is \$60 for SRMS members (\$75 for non-SRMS ASA members), and registration closes at 12 pm EST on Tuesday, October 8th.

Your SRMS Officers

Chair: Kennon Copeland

Chair-Elect: Morgan Earp

Past-Chair: Karol Krotki

Treasurer: Darcy Steeg Morris

Secretary: Safaa Amer

2019 JSM Program Chair: Asaph Young Chun

2019 JSM Program Chair-Elect: Yang Cheng

Publications Officer: Steven Pedlow

Education Officer: James Wagner

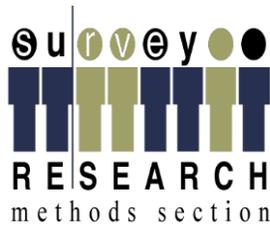
Section Representatives: Julia Soulakova, Jamie Ridenhour

Newsletter Editors: Dan Liao and Elizabeth Petraglia

ASA Staff Liasion: Rick Peterson

More information can be found at

<http://ww2.amstat.org/sections/officers.cfm?txtComm=SSRMS>.



SRMS Mission Statement

SRMS has over 1,300 members, of which over 100 are based outside of North America. The SRMS mission is to promote the improvement of survey practice and the understanding of survey methods by encouraging both theoretical and applied research on survey-related topics, and by disseminating information on survey methods.

Areas of interest for the Section include all that employ survey methodology as a focus or as a prime tool of investigation. Of special interest are:

- ❖ Theoretical foundations of sampling;
- ❖ Sample design and estimation;
- ❖ Nonsampling errors and data collection methods;
- ❖ Analysis and presentation of survey data;
- ❖ Education of the public and students on the importance of scientific survey research;
- ❖ Publication and dissemination of survey research findings; and
- ❖ Ethics related to survey conduct and standards for survey practice.

Not a member yet? Here is how you can join:

- If you are not an ASA member, go to the membership page of the ASA and fill the application at www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=becomeamember Then sign up for the SRMS section as part of your membership.
- If you are already an ASA member, just call customer service at 1-888-231-3473 to add SRMS membership.

The SRMS has produced material and resources that are available on our website including:

- ❖ The “What is a Survey?” series for non-specialists, free of charge
- ❖ The SRMSNET Mailing List
- ❖ List of other related associations
- ❖ Survey Analysis Software (under *Links and Resources*)
- ❖ Universities and Laboratories
- ❖ ...and much more.

For more information, including links to specific officers, check out the SRMS website at: <https://community.amstat.org/surveyresearchmethodssection/home> or there is also a link from the ASA website at www.amstat.org.