

The Sociological Methodologist

Newsletter of the Methodology Section, American Sociological Association
Fall 2005

Chair: Thomas A. DiPrete *Chair-Elect:* Ross M. Stolzenberg *Secretary/Treasurer:* Guang Guo
Council: Kenneth C. Land, Pamela Paxton, Aimee Dechter, Trond Petersen, Ross L. Matsueda, and Douglas Heckathorn
Newsletter Editor: Lawrence E. Raffalovich *Assistant Editor:* David P. Armstrong

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Methodology Section Crises

In mid-December, Methodology Section officers were notified by ASA that the section was in danger of being disbanded. For two consecutive years the section failed to conduct elections, terms for all officers had expired, and council had dwindled to two members. No annual reports, awards, or other required information had been submitted to ASA Office and the Committee on

Sections since 2003, in violation of section bylaws. During this time many members had called, written, and complained to ASA that they pay member dues and receive no benefit. As a result, many members had dropped the section.

Although elections were conducted in October, there was some misunderstanding about when the newly elected officers and council would take office. Historically, terms begin in August; however, all section offices and all but two council seats were vacant. The situation now appears to be resolved. Section officers and newly elected council members took office on January 1, and are in the process of producing and submitting required reports to ASA.

October Election Results

Chair: Thomas A. DiPrete, Columbia University

Chair-Elect: Ross M. ("Rafe") Stolzenberg, University of Chicago

Secretary-Treasurer: Guang Guo, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Council: Kenneth C. Land, Duke University
Pamela Paxton, Ohio State University
Aimee Dechter, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Trond Petersen, University of California-Berkeley

Upcoming Election Announcement

Council terms for Ross Matsueda and Douglas Heckathorn expire at the end of this year. Four candidates have agreed to run for these two seats: Linxin Hao, Johns Hopkins; David Weakliem, University of Connecticut; David Grusky,

Stanford; and Raymond Sin-Kwok Wong, University of California-Santa Barbara. Their biographies appear below.

Candidate Bios for Council Member Elections

Candidate

Name: Lingxin Hao

Present Position:

Professor of Sociology
Johns Hopkins University

Previous Professional Positions:

Associate Professor of Sociology
Johns Hopkins University
Assistant to Associate Professor of Sociology
University of Iowa

Education:

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Chicago, 1990
M.A. Sociology, Zhongshan University, China, 1985
B.A. English, South China Normal University, China, 1982

Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:

ASA Children and Youth Council member 2005-2008

Selected Publications:

Hao, Lingxin and Ross L. Matsueda. 2006. "Family Dynamics through Childhood: A Sibling Model of Behavior Problems." *Social Science Research* 35:
Hao, Lingxin. 2004. "Nested Heterogeneity and Difference in Differences." *Quality and Quantity* 38:185-203.
Hao, Lingxin and Yukio Kawano. 2001. "Immigrants' Welfare Use and Opportunity for Coethnic Contact." *Demography* 38:375-389.
Hao, Lingxin. 1997. "Using a Multinomial Logit Specification to Model Two Interdependent Processes with an Empirical Application." *Sociological Methods and Research* 26(1):80-117.

Hao, Lingxin and Mary C. Brinton. 1997. "Productive Activities and Support Systems of Single Mothers." *American Journal of Sociology* 102(5):1305-1344.

Professional Accomplishments and Activities:

Visiting Scholar, Russell Sage Foundation
2001-present: Editorial Board, *Journal of Marriage and Family*
2004-present: Editorial Board, *Demography*
2001-2003: Editorial Board, *Sociology of Education*
1998-2001: Consulting Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*

Funded Research:

Hao, Lingxin (PI). 2005-2006. "Intra-Generational Mobility and Social Inequality: Does Immigration Play a Role?" NSF.
Hao, Lingxin (PI). 1999-2005. "Welfare Reform and Young Adult Outcomes." NICHD.
Hao, Lingxin (PI). 1999-2002. "Public Assistance, Private Support, and the Adaptation of Immigrants." NSF.
Hao, Lingxin (PI). 1995-1998. "Support Systems and Child Development in Single-Mother Families." NICHD.
Hao, Lingxin (PI). 1995-1997. "Family Social Capital and Academic Achievement of Immigrant Children." NSF.

Candidate

Name: David Weakliem

Professional Positions:

Professor of Sociology and Interim Director of the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut, 2004-present
Associate Professor to Professor of Sociology, University of Connecticut, 1994-2004
Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, 1996-7

Education:

PhD, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1987
MS, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1983
BA, Harvard University, 1981

Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:

Deputy Editor, American Sociological Review, 1999-2003
 Editorial Board, American Sociological Review, 1997-99

Publications and Professional Accomplishments:

David Weakliem, Robert Andersen, and Anthony F. Heath. 2005. "By Popular Demand: the Effect of Public Opinion on Income Inequality." *Comparative Sociology* 4: 260-84.

David Weakliem. 2005. "Public Opinion, Political Attitudes, and Ideology." Pp. 227-46 in *A Handbook of Political Sociology*, edited by Thomas Janoski, Robert Alford, Alexander M. Hicks, and Mildred Schwartz. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Guest editor, Special Issue on Model Selection *Sociological Methods and Research* 33 (January 2004).

David Weakliem and Wayne Villemez. 2004. "Public Attitudes Towards the Census: Influences and Trends." *Social Science Quarterly* 85: 857-71.

David Weakliem. 1999. "A Critique of the Bayesian Information Criterion for Model Selection." *Sociological Methods and Research* 27: 359-97 [with comments and reply, pp. 436-43].

Candidate

Name: David B. Grusky

Present Professional Position:

Professor of Sociology and Director, Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality, Stanford University, 2004-present

Previous Professional Positions:

Professor of Sociology and Director, Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University, 1999-2004

Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor of Sociology, Stanford University, 1988-1999

Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago, 1986-88

Education:

Ph.D., The University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1987, Sociology
 M.S., The University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1983, Sociology
 B.A., Reed College, 1980, Sociology

Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:

Dissertation Award Committee, 2003-2005 (Chair) American Sociological Association Council, 2001-03
 Distinguished Scholarly Publication Committee, 1999-2001

Publications and Professional Accomplishments:

Poverty and Inequality (with Ravi Kanbur), forthcoming, Stanford, Stanford Univ. Press

The Declining Significance of Gender? (with Francine Blau and Mary Brinton), forthcoming, New York, Russell Sage Foundation

Occupational Ghettos (with Maria Charles), 2004, Stanford, Stanford Univ. Press (Winner, Max Weber Prize)

"The Case for a New Class Map" (with Kim Weeden), 2005, *American Journal of Sociology* 111(1): 141-212

"Describing Occupational Segregation in Sparse and Incomplete Arrays" (with Asaf Levanon), forthcoming, *Sociological Methods and Research*

Candidate

Name: Raymond Sin-Kwok Wong

Present Professional Position:

Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California-Santa Barbara

Previous Professional Positions:

From Assistant Professor to Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California-Santa Barbara since 1989

Education:

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1989
 M.A. Illinois State University, 1984

Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:

None.

Publications and Professional Accomplishments:

2004. "Chinese Business Firms and Business Entrepreneurs in Hong Kong." Pp. 34-65 in *De-essentializing Capitalism: Chinese Enterprise, Transnationalism, and Identity*, edited by Edmund Terence Gomez and Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao. London: RoutledgeCurzon.
2003. "To See or Not To See: Another Look at Research on Temporal Trends and Cross-National Differences in Educational Homogamy." *Taiwanese Journal of Sociology* 31:47-91.
2003. "Egalitarianism Versus Social Reproduction: Changes in Educational Stratification in Five Eastern European Countries." *Research in Sociology of Education*. Vol. 14. Edited by Bruce Fuller and Emily Hannum. London: Elsevier Science.
2002. "Occupational Attainment in Eastern Europe Under Socialism." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, Vol 19: 189-228. Edited by Kevin T. Leicht. London: Elsevier Science
2001. "Multidimensional Association Models: A Multilinear Approach." *Sociological Methods & Research* 30:197-240.

Other positions:

- Director, Social Science Survey Center, University of California-Santa Barbara, 2002-2004.
- Chair, Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (QMSS), University of California-Santa Barbara, 2001-2004.
- Editorial Board, Contemporary Sociology, 2000-2003.
- Consulting Editor, American Journal of Sociology, 1998-2000.

Call for Nominations for 2006 Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award

The Section is responsible for selecting the annual recipient of the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Memorial

Award given by the ASA. The award recognizes scholars who have made outstanding contributions to methodology in social sciences. Recent awardees include Adrian Raftery (2003), J. Scott Long (2002), Paul Allison (2001), Kenneth Bollen (2000), Robert Mare (1999), Kenneth Land (1997), Howard Schuman (1996), Peter H. Rossi (1995), and Nancy Brandon Tuma (1994).

This notice invites nominations for the award for 2006. Ken Land (kland@soc.duke.edu) has agreed to chair the award committee; its other members are Paul Allison (University of Pennsylvania) and Rob Mare (University of California-Los Angeles). Please send nominations to Professor Land at the following address:

Professor Kenneth A. Land
Duke University,
Department of Sociology,
268 Soc/Psy Bldg
Durham, NC 27708-0088
Phone: (919) 660-5615; (919) 660-5623
E-mail: kland@soc.duke.edu

The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2006. The winner will be announced at the upcoming August 2006 ASA Meetings

Program in Survey Research and Methodology

From Mario Callegaro, University of Nebraska,
Lincoln mca@unlserve.unl.edu

Survey research is a relatively new field, about 70 years old if we count its most immediate ancestors such as the election pollsters of 1936: George Gallup, Elmo Roper, and Archibald Crossley (Converse 1987). Even if a research method class is generally taught in the sociology curriculum, in the U.S. there weren't many masters programs specialized in survey research until recently. Up until 1996, if we exclude programs marketing research related, we could count three graduate programs: the Applied Social Research program, started in Michigan in 1981, the Survey Research program of the University of Connecticut, 1984, and the Joint program in Survey Methodology, University of Michigan and

Maryland, started in 1993 (Groves 1996). Nowadays there are many more programs in the U.S.¹ and in the world (Lyberg 2003).

In this article I will concentrate on the three very recent Doctoral programs established in the U.S.: the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM), the program in Survey Methodology (PSM), and the Survey Research and Methodology (SRAM) program. The JPSM master program was founded in 1993 through a grant from the National Science Foundation and the University of Maryland, College Park. The program is a partnership drawing faculty from the University of Maryland, the University of Michigan, and Westat, a private survey research firm. Classes are taught in both Michigan and Maryland. A video hook up allows the sharing of courses with the U.S. Bureau of Census, the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill. The doctoral program began in the fall of 2001 (Clark, Donnalley, and Tourangeau 2005). The program in Survey Methodology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, is the second player in the JPSM. The curriculum is similar to the one in Maryland. The Survey Research and Methodology program is based at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. The master program started in 1997. The doctoral program began in the fall of 2003. Both the JPSM and the SRAM program curricula are organized with a group of core classes and two main areas of concentration: statistical science and social science. Based on the strengths and the interests of the candidates, these two areas shape both the master and the doctoral programs in which the student chooses classes and specializes in the chosen area.

For the master students a summer internship is required during the first year. It is conducted in either federal agencies that are survey research related, such as the National Center for Health Statistics, in private companies such as Westat or Knowledge Networks, or in university survey research labs. The goal of the internship is to expose the student to the survey research environment in

order to familiarize them with the problems, issues, and working pace of the profession. The second goal is to make the internship a learning experience where the student can apply his/her knowledge to the practical problems of research. During the semester, master and doctoral students work on projects with their professors. The students are encouraged to present papers at professional meetings in order to confront the growing field of survey research, opinion polling, policy research, media research, and health research.

The survey industry in the U.S. is expanding. For example, the number of members of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) is growing year by year and attendance at its annual conference reached the peak of 1,000 people last year. One advantage of having a background in sociology is the exposure to the concepts of survey research methods and to the concepts of statistical analysis for the social sciences. For example, having studied the classic Babbie's textbooks of social research will give the sociology students the necessary knowledge required to take advanced classes in research methods, questionnaire design, and data collection methods. Having experienced statistical analysis with the General Social Survey data, for example, has the student sensitized to the problems of analyzing data coming from surveys and being faced with the issues of item nonresponse, response rates, mode of data collection, interviewer effects, and the like. Another advantage of having a background in sociology is being exposed to theories that will help the interpretation of the data. Data analysis without theory risks becoming merely a technicality. The theory also guides the data analysis process in telling the researcher what to look for. Concepts of social economic status, background variables, and independent variables are core issues in survey research.

In the National Survey of Seniors Majoring in Sociology conducted by the ASA², baccalaureate's in Sociology chose "develop evidence-based arguments" as their top skill (73% Strongly agree) gained by graduating in Sociology. At the second

¹ A list can be found at:

http://www.aapor.org/default.asp?page=survey_methods/graduate_degree_programs

² http://www.asanet.org/galleries/default-file/B&B_first_report_final.pdf

position they chose “evaluate different research methods” together with “identify ethical issues in research” (68% Strongly agree). Other skills such as “write a report understandable by non sociologist” and “form causal hypothesis” followed. All of these skills fit perfectly well in the survey research programs described above. One goal of the master and doctoral programs in survey research is to form professionals whose skills can merge together data collection strengths with data analysis and theoretical explanations. The organization and curricula of the programs described may be an answer to Moran’s (2005) call for providing “students with the proper foundation with which to conduct statistically competent and sociologically meaningful quantitative analysis” (p. 270).

References

- Clark, Cynthia Z. F., Gia F. Donnalley, and Roger Tourangeau. 2005. "The Joint program in survey methodology and its impact on the federal statistical agency workforce." Pp. 1503-8 in *Proceedings of the 2004 annual meeting of the American Statistical Association, section on Government Statistics* [CD-ROM]. Alexandria, VA: American Statistical Association.
- Converse, Jean M. 1987. *Survey Research in the United States. Roots & emergence 1890-1960*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Groves, Robert M. 1996. "Presidential address: The educational infrastructure of the survey research profession." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 60:477-90.
- Lyberg, Lars. 2003. "Training of survey statisticians in government statistical agencies." Pp. 2209-18 in *Proceedings of the 2002 annual meeting of the American Statistical Association, section on Survey Research Methods* [CD-ROM]. Alexandria, VA: American Statistical Association.
- Moran, Timothy Patrick. 2005. "The sociology of teaching graduate statistics." *Teaching Sociology* 33:263-84.

Websites:

Program in Survey Research and Methodology (SRAM): <http://sram.unl.edu/>

Joint program in Survey Research, University of Maryland (JPSM): <http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/jpsm/>

Program in Survey Research, University of Michigan (PSM): <http://www.isr.umich.edu/gradprogram/>

Conference Announcement: The American Sociological Association Methodology Section

The 11th annual conference of the American Sociological Association Methodology Section will be held at the University of Connecticut on April 14 and 15, 2006. The meeting will run from Friday morning until noon on Saturday, with a dinner for participants on Friday evening. There is no registration fee. Further information about the conference will be posted on the UConn Department of Sociology web site (<http://sociology.uconn.edu/>).

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact David Weakliem (David.Weakliem@Uconn.edu). Paper titles and abstracts are due on March 3, 2006, but earlier submissions or general expressions of intention to participate are welcome.

HOTELS AND TRANSPORTATION: Rooms will be available at the Nathan Hale Inn on campus for \$99.00 per night. For reservations, call the Nathan Hale Inn at 860-427-7888 and mention the ASA Methodology Conference.

Transportation: The nearest airport is Bradley (Hartford/Springfield) International Airport, which is about 45 minutes drive away. The Hartford or New London Amtrak stations are about a half hour's drive. Taxi service is available, and additional information on ground transportation will be posted on the conference web site.

David Weakliem
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University of Connecticut

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web page: <http://web.uconn.edu/weakliem/>

ASA Teaching Qualitative Research Methods: Call for Contributions

This is a call for contributions to the Fourth Edition of the ASA Teaching Qualitative Research Methods: Syllabi and Instructional Materials which we are editing. If you have a syllabus, course unit, assignment, film recommendation or other pedagogical practice for any of your courses in sociological based qualitative methods that you would be willing to share with the profession, please send it to us at vickie.vensen@csun.edu and/or mballard@csun.edu. Please include your contact information and attachments of your submission. Thank you for your help in this endeavor, Vickie Jensen and James David Ballard, California State University, Northridge.

Global Crime: Call for Papers

Global Crime is a peer-reviewed journal published by Routledge that presents high-caliber scholarship on serious and organized crime. Its coverage is not just on organized crime in the strict sense, but on a wide range of criminal activities, from corruption, illegal market transactions, state crime and terrorism. This focus is deliberately broad and multi-disciplinary, its first aim being to make the best scholarship available to specialists and non-specialists alike. It endorses no particular orthodoxy and draws on authors from a variety of disciplines, including history, sociology, economics, political science, anthropology and area studies.

The webpage of the journal is at:

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/17440572.asp>

During 2006, Federico Varese and Carlo Morselli will be co-editing a special issue on the application of social network analysis to the study of criminal groups. This issue seeks to advance applications of social network analysis in the study of crime, security, and related areas of research. We invite contributors to send both empirical and theoretical papers.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is March 1, 2006. We expect to receive the papers by October

1, 2006. The special issue will be published in 2007. Authors will receive 50 off-prints and a free copy of the issue.

Submit abstracts to Federico Varese at Federico.varese@law.ox.ac.uk

Job Opening

Oklahoma State University. The Department of Sociology at Oklahoma State

Oklahoma State University invites applications for one Assistant Professor tenure-track Position to begin fall 2006. A Ph.D. in Sociology is required. The department seeks an active scholar who will increase the strength of the department in quantitative research methods and statistics. Priority will be given to candidates with substantive interests in social psychology and/or social inequality. Salary is competitive and negotiable. We seek candidates with a strong potential for research and publication. The successful candidate will contribute to graduate training in quantitative methods and play a significant role in both the graduate and undergraduate programs. Oklahoma State University is a comprehensive research institution with an approximate enrollment of 30,500 students. The Department of Sociology offers the Doctorate, Masters, and Bachelors degrees. Standard teaching load is two courses per semester. In some instances the teaching load is reduced when additional duties are involved. Oklahoma State University is a land-grant university located in Stillwater. Stillwater is a growing university community in North-Central Oklahoma with a population of 50,000. The University's urban campus is located in Tulsa and offers opportunities for teaching and research on that campus. We are located approximately one hour north of Oklahoma City and one hour west of Tulsa. Review of applications will begin on January 15, 2006 and continue until the position is filled. Applicants should send vitae, letter of interest, samples of written work and three letters of reference to: Chair of Faculty Search Committee, Department of Sociology, 006 Classroom Building, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078. Oklahoma State University is an Equal

Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, which is committed to working to produce faculty and student communities that are characterized by diversity. Women, minorities, Vietnam-era veterans, disabled veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

New Book on Statistics and Methodology

Paul Vogt's *Dictionary of Statistics and Methodology: A Non-Technical Guide for the Social Sciences, 3rd edition*, has just been published by Sage Publications. Further information can be found at www.sagepub.com.

Section on Mathematical Sociology Award

Section on Mathematical Sociology: Outstanding Article Award: Matthew J. Salganik, Columbia University, and Douglas Heckathorn, Cornell University, "Sampling and Estimation in Hidden Populations Using Respondent-Driven Sampling," *Sociological Methodology*, Vol. 34, 2004.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Billie Gastic who recently earned a Ph.D. in the Sociology of Education from Stanford University and is now an Assistant Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in the College of Education of Temple University.

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Notes from the Editor

This fall edition of the *Sociological Methodologist* is over a month late. There was actually news to report, and I thought it worthwhile to postpone publication until the situation was resolved. As reported on page 1, section officers seem to have lost track of some important bureaucratic procedures. Fortunately, we appear to have recovered, although we don't yet know by how much (if any) membership has suffered. Clearly, we all need to be more vigilant. It's our section.

In response to my request for comments on the topic of methodological training of our students, we have a report from Mario Callegaro on programs in Survey Research Methodology. I had intended to reproduce (or provide a link to) excerpts from the July, 2005 issue of *Teaching Sociology* (Vol. 33, pp. 263-284) that initiated this discussion at our 2005 section business meeting. Unfortunately, journal content is not available on-line, and they refuse permission for electronic reproduction. I continue to solicit your thoughts on this general topic: What is it that we want our students to know about research methods in Sociology? What are our objectives in both quantitative and in qualitative methodology courses?

We are in the process of updating the Methodology Section web page. It is now located at The University at Albany, SUNY (<http://www.albany.edu/asam>). Please visit, and give us feedback. As always, I welcome section news, news about section members, and suggestions for format, content, and process. Several of you have suggested changing the publishing schedule, so that submissions would be solicited during academic down-time. Please let me know what you think. Would it make more sense to have Winter/Summer issues (e.g., January/June)?