

# *The Sociological Methodologist*

Newsletter of the Methodology Section, American Sociological Association  
Summer/Fall 2010

*Chair:* Tim Futing Liao, University of Illinois

*Past Chair:* Ross M. Stolzenberg

*Secretary/Treasurer:* John Allen Logan

*Council:* Katherine Faust, Diane H. Felmlee, Jeremy Freese, Ross L. Matsueda

*Newsletter Editor:* Jeffrey M. Timberlake

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## 2010 Section Election Results

The Methodology Section has a new Chair-Elect and two new Council Members.

Our new Chair-Elect is **Guillermina Jasso** of New York University.

Our new Council Members are **Stephen Morgan** of Cornell University and **Charles Ragin** of the University of Arizona.

## From the Chair

by Tim Futing Liao  
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It's summer again, and my thoughts naturally turned to the ASAs. This year our convention will be in Atlanta, with all Methodology Section activities on the third day, Monday August 16. Diane Felmlee organized two section sessions for us: the first one will start at 8:30 a.m., and the second, at 4:30 p.m. (see her summary of these sessions later in the newsletter). Our council meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed an hour later by the business meeting.

At 2:30 p.m. on our section day will be the Otis Dudley Duncan Memorial Lecture, titled "the Resurrection of Duncanism" and to be delivered by Judea Pearl of UCLA. As many of you know, Pearl is a leading figure in research on causality. It will have been the first time that a keynote speaker for the Duncan Lecture directly feeds off of Duncan's legacy.

This past April, we had our 14<sup>th</sup> Methodology Section Winter/Spring Conference on the campus of the University of Illinois in Urbana (see Willie Jasso's report on the conference later in the newsletter). Having just finished organizing the conference, I discussed with Willie our great

methods conference tradition, and agreed that we should commit this piece of section history to our collective memory before it fades from our individual ones. With help from her, Mark Becker, and other previous organizers, I put together the table below.

**American Sociological Association  
Methodology Section  
Winter/Spring Methodology Conferences**

No.	Time	Location	Venue	Organizer*
1 <sup>st</sup>	February 1996	Charleston, SC	Mills House Hotel	Chris Winship
2 <sup>nd</sup>	September 1996	State College, PA	Scanticon Conference Center Hotel, Penn State University	Mark Becker & Michael Sobel
3 <sup>rd</sup>	April 1998	Chicago, IL	Hyatt Regency Hotel	Ross Stolzenberg
4 <sup>th</sup>	March 1999	Durham, NC	Washington Duke Inn, Duke University	Tom DiPrete
5 <sup>th</sup>	March 2000	Los Angeles, CA	Westin Bonaventure Hotel	Guillermina Jasso
6 <sup>th</sup>	May 2001	Minneapolis, MN	Carlson School of Management & Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota	Scott Eliason
7 <sup>th</sup>	March 2002	Princeton, NJ	Woodrow Wilson School of International & Public Affairs, Princeton University	Bruce Western
8 <sup>th</sup>	May 2003	Seattle, WA	Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, University of Washington	Mark Handcock
9 <sup>th</sup>	April 2004	Ann Arbor, MI	Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan	Yu Xie
10 <sup>th</sup>	April 2005	Chapel Hill, NC	Odum Institute, University of North Carolina	Guang Guo & Ken Land
11 <sup>th</sup>	April 2006	Storrs, CT	Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut	David Weakliem
12 <sup>th</sup>	March 2007	New Haven, CT	Faculty Club, Yale University	Uli Mayer
13 <sup>th</sup>	February 2008	Durham, NC	Social Science Research Institute, Duke University	James Moody
14 <sup>th</sup>	April 2010	Urbana, IL	Illini Union, University of Illinois	Tim Liao
15 <sup>th</sup>				

\* From the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> ASAM conference at least, the chief organizer in a given year was also a "junior" or "apprentice" co-organizer in the previous year.

As you can see, we have had 14 winter/spring conferences altogether. With the exceptions of the first, the third, and the fifth, all the conferences took place on a university campus. As far as locations go, the East Coast dominates with eight times hosting the conference, followed by the Midwest (four times), and the West Coast (twice).

While I am not sure if I hold the record, of the 14 conferences, I attended eight, and I enjoyed every one I attended. There are probably others out there who actually hold the record of having attended more than eight.

One final note: I intentionally left the 15<sup>th</sup> conference information blank in the table, waiting for someone to come forward to claim that spot as an organizer. The winter/spring methodology conference is a great tradition; may it live a long and happy life!

**Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Methodology Section  
Winter/Spring Conference**

by Guillermina Jasso  
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Continuing the tradition begun in 1996 in Charleston, South Carolina, the Methodology Section of the American Sociological Association held its fourteenth Winter/Spring Meeting at the University of Illinois in Urbana, on April 2, 2010.

The meeting, organized by Section Chair Tim Liao, brought together social scientists from as far away as Hong Kong to the historic Illini Union to present and discuss fourteen papers. The papers considered a rich variety of topics across the methodological spectrum, ranging from new methods for life course and longitudinal research and inequality to new attacks on network and peer effects and on perennial problems of data bases, inference, and interpretation. A special highlight was the keynote address on quantile thinking by Roger Koenker, William B. McKinley Professor of Economics and Professor of Statistics at the University of Illinois.



Keynote speaker Roger Koenker

Photo: Aggie Noh

The notion that a winter/spring meeting, midway between the annual meetings of the ASA, would provide a valuable opportunity for the discipline's specialists in methodology to exchange ideas about breaking developments is now well established. Tim Liao took upon himself the huge task of planning the meeting. The ingredients of a successful meeting are well-known—a collection of

interesting minds and interesting papers, a format and a setting conducive to deep discussion, plus a little luck. But bringing together the ingredients is not easy. It is a tribute to Tim Liao's careful planning of every aspect of the meeting that participants later reflected how glad they were to have attended and to watch the frontier move.

As generations of scholars and scientists have known, the setting is not to be overlooked. The Illini Union was a terrific choice for the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting. A Big Ten university inn, with comfortable lodging at moderate prices and excellent food, it is nestled among the cornfields which played so important a part in the development of statistical and experimental methods.

Tim Liao did not have a faculty apprentice who would then be the lead organizer for the meeting the following year, as was the custom for several years. But he did have a terrific graduate student apprentice—Aggie Noh—and we can look forward to her being the lead organizer of a Winter/Spring meeting some years down the road.

## Open Topic Methodology Sessions at the ASA

by Diane H. Felmlee  
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*Title:* Section on Methodology Paper Session: Models and Methods for Variances

*Date, time, and location:* Monday, August 16, 8:30 a.m. to 10:10 a.m., Atlanta Marriott Marquis

*Organizer:* Diane H. Felmlee (University of California-Davis)

*Presider:* Anette Eva Fasang (Yale University)

*Discussant:* Ross M. Stolzenberg (University of Chicago)

These papers use methods that involve extensions of recent methodological innovations in the

examination of inequality and change over time. Methods used include the following: (1) Variance Function Regression, which simultaneously models both the mean and variance of an outcome variable as functions of covariates; (2) Hierarchical Age-Period-Cohort Regression, and (3) decomposition of covariance. These methods are applied to several substantive problems, such as health disparities, gender inequality, change over time in prejudicial attitudes, and economic insecurity.

*Intersecting Variance Function Regression and Hierarchical Age-Period-Cohort Analysis, with Applications to the Study of Self-Reported Health*

Hui Zheng (Duke University), Kenneth C. Land (Duke University)

*A Covariance Measure of Economic Dependency and Gender Inequality*

Leslie McCall (Northwestern University)

*Tracking the Pathways of Social Change*

Rima Wilkes (University of British Columbia)

*Studying Insecurity with a Longitudinal Variance Model*

Bruce Western (Harvard University)

*Title:* Section on Methodology Paper Session: Innovative Quantitative Methods

*Date, time, and location:* Monday, August 16, 4:30 p.m. to 6:10 p.m., Atlanta Marriott Marquis

*Organizer:* Diane H. Felmlee (University of California-Davis)

*Presider:* Eric Grodsky (University of Minnesota)

These papers introduce several new methodological techniques. They include (1) statistical simulations for counterfactual situations on the macro level, (2) a method for sample selection correction using multiple imputation for non-response, (3) two network-based approaches for sampling hidden populations, and (4) Bayesian techniques applied to social networks.

*A Macrocounterfactual Analysis of Group Differences: Gender Wage Gap in Japan*

Kazuo Yamaguchi (University of Chicago)

*Sample Selection Bias in the Pathways to Adult Health Inequalities*

Robert G. White (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Network Inference using Respondent-Driven Sampling: Evaluating Measures of Affiliation and Transitivity*

Michael W. Spiller (Cornell University), Cyprian Wejnert

*The Game of Contacts: Estimating The Visibility of Social Groups*

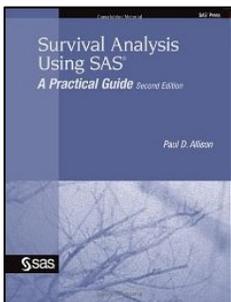
Matthew J. Salganik (Princeton University), Maeve B. Mello (School of Public Health, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation), Alexandre Abdo (University of São Paulo), Neilane Bertoni (School of Public Health, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation), Francisco Bastos (School of Public Health, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation)

*Bayesian Meta-Analysis of Social Network Data via Conditional Uniform Graph Quantiles*

Carter T. Butts (University of California, Irvine)

## Publications

*Survival Analysis Using SAS: A Practical Guide (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*, by Paul D. Allison (SAS Publishing, 2010)



I'm happy to announce that the second edition of my book *Survival Analysis Using SAS: A Practical Guide* has just been published by the SAS Institute. Copies can be ordered at <http://tinyurl.com/33ps6zh>.

When the first edition was published in 1995, my goal was to provide an accessible, data-based introduction to methods of survival analysis, one that focused on methods available in SAS and that also used SAS for the examples. The success of that book confirmed my belief that statistical methods are most effectively taught by showing researchers how to implement them with familiar software using real data. Of course, the downside of a software-based statistics text is that the software often changes more rapidly than the statistical methodology. In the

15 years that the book has been in print, there have been so many changes in the features and syntax of SAS procedures for survival analysis that a new edition was long overdue. So it's a great relief that I no longer have to warn potential readers about out-of-date SAS code.

Although the basic structure and content of the book remain the same, there are numerous small changes and several large changes. One global change is that all the figures use ODS graphics. Here are some other major changes and additions:

*Chapter 3: Estimating and Comparing Survival Curves with PROC LIFETEST*

This chapter documents some major enhancements to the STRATA statement, which now offers several alternative tests for comparing survivor functions. It also allows for pairwise comparisons and for adjustment of p-values for multiple comparisons. In the first edition, I demonstrated the use of a macro called SMOOTH, which I had written to produce smoothed graphs of hazard function. That macro is no longer necessary, however, because the PLOTS option (combined with ODS graphics) can now produce smoothed hazard functions using a variety of methods.

*Chapter 4: Estimating Parametric Regression Models with PROC LIFEREG*

This chapter now includes a section on the PROBLOT command, which offers graphical methods to evaluate the fit of each model. The last section introduces the new BAYES statement which, as the name suggests, makes it possible to do a Bayesian analysis of any of the parametric models using MCMC methods.

*Chapter 5: Estimating Cox Regression Models with PROC LIFEREG*

The big change here is the use of the counting process syntax as an alternative method for handling time-dependent covariates. When I wrote the first edition, the counting process syntax had just been introduced, and I did not fully appreciate its usefulness for handling predictor variables that vary over time. Another new topic is the use of the ASSESS statement to evaluate the proportional hazards assumption. Also new is a section on customized hazard ratios, which are especially useful for interpreting interactions. Finally, there is a section that describes the BAYES statement for estimating Cox models and piecewise exponential models.

*Chapter 6: Competing Risks*

This chapter now contains a section on cumulative incidence functions, a popular alternative approach to competing risks.

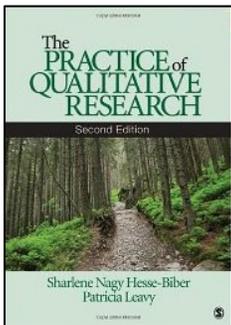
*Chapter 7: Analysis of Tied or Discrete Data with the LOGISTIC procedure*

The first edition also used the PROBIT and GENMOD procedures to do discrete time analysis. But PROC LOGISTIC has been enhanced to the point where the other procedures are no longer needed for this application

*Chapter 8: Heterogeneity, Repeated Events, and Other Topics*

For repeated events and other kinds of clustered data, the WLW macro that I described in the first edition has been superseded by the built-in option COVSANDWICH. In this chapter I also describe the use of the new GLIMMIX procedure to estimate random-effects models for discrete time data.

*The Practice of Qualitative Research (2nd Edition)*, by Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber and Patricia Leavy (Sage Publications, 2010)



This engaging student-centered text presents invaluable insights into the practice of qualitative and mixed methods research. In this thoroughly updated edition, authors Sharlene Hesse-Biber and Patricia Leavy offer a mix of theoretical approaches for qualitative methods practice that

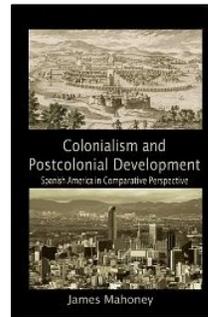
ranges from the interpretive tradition to critical perspectives.

New to this edition:

- New chapters on the case study approach and how to write up qualitative research
- Enhanced coverage of ethics woven throughout each chapter
- Exemplary research studies designed to engage students in hands-on research practice
- Tips for guiding students through the research process

- New sections on concept mapping, cross-cultural and international focus groups, computer-assisted technologies for analyzing qualitative and mixed methods data, and arts-based research projects

*Colonialism and Postcolonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective*, by James Mahoney (Cambridge University Press, 2010)



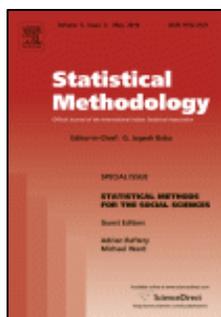
In this comparative-historical analysis of Spanish America, James Mahoney offers a new theory of colonialism and postcolonial development. The book explores why certain kinds of societies are subject to certain kinds of colonialism and why these forms of colonialism give

rise to countries with differing levels of economic prosperity and social well-being.

Mahoney contends that differences in the extent of colonialism are best explained by the potentially evolving fit between the institutions of the colonizing nation and those of the colonized society. Moreover, he shows how institutions forged under colonialism bring countries to relative levels of development that may prove remarkably enduring in the postcolonial period. The argument is sure to stir discussion and debate, both among experts on Spanish America who believe that development is not tightly bound by the colonial past, and among scholars of colonialism who suggest that the institutional identity of the colonizing nation is of little consequence.

*SPECIAL ISSUE ON STATISTICAL METHODS FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES Honoring the 10th Anniversary of the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences at the University of Washington*, edited by Adrian E. Raftery and Michael D. Ward (Elsevier, 2010)

Honoring the 10th Anniversary of the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences at the University of Washington, founded in 1999 to galvanize



research and teaching on the interface between statistics and the social sciences, *Statistical Methodology* is publishing a *Special Issue on Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences*. The special issue is guest edited by Adrian E. Raftery and Michael Ward and features

articles on multivariate categorical data, continuous outcomes, missing data, and social networks, by, among others, Stephen Fienberg, Robert Franzese, Jr., Andrew Gelman, Adam Glynn, Bryan Jones, Brendan Murphy, Adrian Raftery, Donald Rubin, Tamas Rudas and Jon Wakefield. For more information please visit <http://tinyurl.com/2czmc7r>.

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## From the Editor

Please send me any and all manner of contributions, including short articles, opinion pieces, book and article announcements, retirements, job changes, and other newsworthy events.

So keep those cards and letters coming to [jeffrey.timberlake@uc.edu](mailto:jeffrey.timberlake@uc.edu). Thanks much,

Jeff