2011 Section Election Results

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

Our new Chair-Elect is Melissa Hardy of Penn State University.

Our new Secretary-Treasurer is Richard Williams of Notre Dame.

Our new Council Members are Hannah Brueckner of Yale University and Yang Yang of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

2011 Section Awards

The Award Committee of the Methodology Section, consisting of Katherine Faust, Diane Felmlee, Leo Goodman, Guillermina Jasso (chair), and Charles Ragin, is pleased to announce the following winners of Methodology Section Awards for 2011:

The Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award to Ross M. Stolzenberg, Department of Sociology, the University of Chicago.
The Leo A. Goodman Award to Damon Centola, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Clifford C. Clogg Award to Weihua An, Department of Sociology, Harvard University.

From the Chair

by Tim Futing Liao
tfliao@illinois.edu

This is the last report from me as Chair of the Section. I’m pleased to report that I’ve been fortunate to chair this healthy section: We now have a stable and permanent website at the ASA (http://www2.asanet.org/sectionmethod/index.html) for distributing information and archiving section procedures, and our section’s membership stands at 393 as of June 1, a healthy 31% above the 300 threshold for session allotment considerations and 10 members more than the same time last year. The figure will no doubt go above 400 by ASA time, as it did last year. This newsletter is the last one edited by Jeff Timberlake who has been its editor since summer 2009. Please join me in thanking Jeff for the consistent and nice job he’s done! At the end of this year’s ASA in Las Vegas, Guillermina Jasso of NYU will begin her two years’ term as Chair. Our section will be in good and able hands!

Having recently returned from the American Sociological Association Spring Methodology Conference in Europe, I will focus the following space on this truly unique conference of our section. I would like to congratulate Jeroen Vermunt, Andries van der Ark, John Gelissen, and Ruud Luijkx, all of Tilburg University, the Netherlands, for a smashing success!

While listening to the presentations at the conference while taking notes, I jotted down eight firsts—or eight records broken by this meeting. To begin from the obvious, this is the first time our winter/spring conference ever held outside the United States. All the 14 conferences that the section organized, which I summarized in the newsletter last summer, were held in America. With the council’s support, I contacted Jeroen last fall about the possibility of having our conference in Europe. It is amazing that within seven months’ time they organized such a successful event at Tilburg University. The picture below shows the onsite registration desk, complete with a sign for ASA!

Registration desk, Tilburg University

Photo: Tim Liao

It is the first time that our conference has had truly international representations. We had participants from 17 countries, with the Netherlands and Germany being the top-two sending countries. While most participants were from European nations, including one from Russia, a few others like me traveled from further afield. They represented institutions such as University of Hawaii, University of Hong Kong, and University of Waterloo (Canada).

This meeting is also the first time that our conference has been multidisciplinary. Participants’
disciplines are much harder to measure because I could only “estimate” using participants’ affiliations and their abstracts listed in the program, which feels like a thinner version of our summer ASA program. Other than sociologists, there were psychologists, statisticians, labor economists, demographers, consultants, education researchers, and epidemiologists.

In the past, at least for the eight times I attended our conference before this year, we had only one session at a time. This year, there were three simultaneous sessions going on for two days, another first in the section’s history. In addition, on the day before the two-day conference, there were several workshops targeted at graduate students and junior researchers, something we had never done in the past.

As far as I remember, we’d always had just one keynote speech at our winter/spring conference. This time, there were two. One was given by Tom Snijders, a sociological methodologist from University of Oxford and the other, delivered by Klaas Sijtsma, a psychometrician from Tilburg University. This has also been the first time (to the best of my knowledge, gathered from those eight I attended that described a tradition) that the keynote(s) were not delivered over or after dinner but in an auditorium.

Even though the conference took place on a university campus, like 11 of the past 14 times, the conference dinner was organized off site in a downtown restaurant called “De Harmonie” where a delicious three-course buffet meal was served, kicked off with beer and wine and completed with dessert that included a variety of cheese (see photo below). That may partially explain another first—the first time the winter/spring conference has charged a registration fee (of €100). Europe is by no means an inexpensive place to organize events. The registration fees helped make ascertain the smooth and satisfactory running of the event.

Finally, this is the first time the number of participants has broken the 100 mark (not counting those who participated only in the pre-conference workshops). There were graduate students as well as senior professors and researchers. The conference provided an unparalleled venue for exchanging exciting ideas, getting feedback on current projects, sharing research directions, and simply networking. I would like to thank the organizers once again for such a great conference!

Speaking of conferences, at the ASA proper this summer, we will have three section-sponsored sessions, organized by our incoming chair Willie Jasso (see elsewhere in the newsletter for the listing of papers). The section day this year will be on the last day of the conference, August 23. On that day, we will have the three sessions, our council and business meeting, and the Duncan Lecture, to be delivered by Bob Hauser (see his abstract elsewhere.
in the newsletter). Thanks to Willie, we have an exciting slate of papers on the three panels. The section reception, however, will be in the evening before, when we will recognize the section award winners. See you in Las Vegas!

**Master’s Program in Narrative Research**

by Corinne Squire  
[C.Squire@uel.ac.uk](mailto:C.Squire@uel.ac.uk)

The MA, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Associate Certificate programmes in Narrative Research at CNR are unique interdisciplinary programmes, drawing on social sciences and the humanities to provide graduate-level education in narrative theories and methods. The programmes give students experience in the application of narrative concepts and analysis to particular fields. The MA guides them through the planning and performance of a piece of advanced and original narrative research. In addition, the programmes develop more general skills of review, criticism, and team and individual research, all within the context of narrative research.

CNR offers the following Masters-level module, onsite and by distance learning, in 2011-12

**Narrative Research**

Starting September 2011 onsite and by distance learning. This module provides students with an overview of the range of narrative research methodologies. Beginning with an exploration of the meaning of narrative, the module outlines Labovian methods, biographical methods and context-oriented methods. It then considers three key fields of narrative research: oral, personal narratives; written narratives (including autobiographies and letters); and visual narratives. Through a range of theoretical perspectives, we shall be attempting to address a number of questions; for instance: How do people come to see themselves as distinct subjects about whom a story can be told? What role do memory, ideology, sense of audience, etc. play in people's accounts of their lives? How do class, ethnicity, gender and other social characteristics shape the stories people tell? What do we look for when we analyze accounts of people's lives?

For further information, please email [m.andrews@uel.ac.uk](mailto:m.andrews@uel.ac.uk) and see [http://www.uel.ac.uk/cnr/manarrative.htm](http://www.uel.ac.uk/cnr/manarrative.htm) and [http://www.uel.ac.uk/dl/programmes/module_info/cert_narr_res.htm](http://www.uel.ac.uk/dl/programmes/module_info/cert_narr_res.htm). Alternatively, for the DL route, contact [c.squire@uel.ac.uk](mailto:c.squire@uel.ac.uk) or the Distance Learning Advice Team on: [distance.learning@uel.ac.uk](mailto:distance.learning@uel.ac.uk) / tel: +44 (0)20 8223 2564.

**Narrative Force**

Starting February 2012 by distance learning. Narrative research is growing in popularity within academic social science, cultural studies and applied social policy areas and is increasingly significant in fields such as health studies, computer studies (particularly in the development and theorization of narrative-based games), and biographically-based art work. Narrative Force focuses on elements of narrative research relating to Foucauldian and Deleuzian analysis and covers topics such as

- Foucault: narrative modalities of power
- Deleuze and Guattari: narratives as force
- Narrative desire
- Time and narrative
- Spatial narratives
- Narratives and the political
- Narrative research as embodied knowledge

The module will give you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills in relation to your research interests and will feature online seminars and tutorials where you will work closely with your colleagues and tutors.

For further information, please see [http://www.uel.ac.uk/dl/programmes/module_info/cert_narr_res.htm](http://www.uel.ac.uk/dl/programmes/module_info/cert_narr_res.htm) and contact Maria Tamboukou, module tutor, for academic details: [M.Tamboukou@uel.ac.uk](mailto:M.Tamboukou@uel.ac.uk). Alternatively, contact the Distance Learning Advice Team on: [distance.learning@uel.ac.uk](mailto:distance.learning@uel.ac.uk) / tel: +44 (0)20 8223 2564.
Request from Sherubtse College

by Alan Smith
sherubtsebookdonations@gmail.com

The Sociology Department of Sherubtse College in Kanglung, Bhutan (www.sherubtse.edu.bt) is requesting your kind assistance. The department is now concluding its second year offering sociology courses. Because we do not yet have a sociology library we are asking for book donations from the global community of sociologists. Our need for literature is vital in that Bhutan is undergoing profound and rapid social change and we believe that the discipline of sociology—and your book donations—can significantly contribute to its betterment.

Both contemporary and time-tested classics will be greatly appreciated with single-subject books more useful than textbooks. We especially need books that focus on social theory, qualitative research methods, social statistics, the sociology of development, political economy, globalization, environmental sociology, rural sociology, social change, sociology of the family, sociology of religion, the sociology of health and medicine, technology and social forecasting and social demography. Questions can be directed to sherubtsebookdonations@gmail.com. Please send your donations by October 15, 2011 to our North American collection point at:

Sherubtse College Bhutan Book Donations
c/o Mr. Pema Gyeltshen
KPTL Express Corp
45-45 47th St.
New York, NY 11377

Methodology Events at ASA

| Title. Regular Session. Qualitative Methodology I: Innovations in Qualitative Inquiry |
| Date and time. Saturday, August 20, 2:30 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. |
| Organizer. Kathy Charmaz (Sonoma State University) |

| Title. Regular Session. Quantitative Methodology |
| Date and time. Monday, August 22, 8:30 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. |
| Organizer. Jennie E. Brand (University of California-Los Angeles) |
| Discussant. Yu Xie (University of Michigan) |

Title. Regular Session. Qualitative Methodology I:
Innovations in Qualitative Inquiry

Date and time. Saturday, August 20, 2:30 p.m. to 4:10 p.m.
Organizer. Kathy Charmaz (Sonoma State University)

Bias in Fixed Effect Estimation under Random Effect Condition and the Problem of Effect Heterogeneity
Hyun Sik Kim (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Felix Elwert (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The Identification Problem in Detailed Wage Decompositions: Revisited
Chang Hwan Kim (University of Kansas)

Panel Conditioning in a Longitudinal Study of Chilean Adolescents’ Substance Use: Evidence from an Experiment
Florencia Torche (New York University), John Robert Warren (University of Minnesota), and Andrew Halpern-Manners (University of Minnesota)
Title. Regular Session. Qualitative Methodology II: Challenges and Lessons in Qualitative Research

Date and time. Monday, August 22, 2:30 p.m. to 4:10 p.m.

Organizer. Kathy Charmaz (Sonoma State University)

Presider. Kathy Charmaz (Sonoma State University)

Facebook, Google, and Researcher-Participant Interaction: New Media and Challenges in Qualitative Research
Jennifer A. Reich (University of Denver)

Social Scientists’ Online Presence and Impact on Research: Lessons from fieldwork with the Michigan Militia
Amy B. Cooter (University of Michigan)

How Did I Get Here? The Social Process of Accessing Field Sites
Christopher S. Bondy (DePauw University)

A Grounded Theory Exploration of Community-Based Social Capital Meanings and Motives
Cynthia Ganote (Saint Mary’s College of California)

“Mostly Safe Here”: Management of Identity and Sexuality Threat in Interviews with Female Inmates
Amanda Ward (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Title. Section on Methodology Invited Session. Otis Dudley Duncan Memorial Lecture

Date and time. Monday, August 22, 4:30 p.m. to 6:10 p.m.

Organizer. Tim Futing Liao (University of Illinois)

Causation, Science, and Policy
Robert M. Hauser (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Causal analysis is over-valued in sociology, and perhaps in the social sciences generally. The fixation on causality is not necessarily useful, either for the advancement of science or for the practical and policy applications of what we know. This is not to devalue advances in the analysis of observational data. We have become so deeply, perhaps even ritualistically engaged in the pursuit of “pure” causality that we have come to ignore the equally important role of theory—as Malinvaud puts it, our ideas about how things work—and the value of constructing full-fledged explanations of social processes. For the sake of causality, we have given up multi-factor, multi-equation models in favor of mono-causal, single-equation models. A fixation on causality is not merely an obstacle to progress in the social sciences. It also stands in the way of practical and policy applications of social science.

Title. Section on Methodology Reception

Date and time. Monday, August 22, 6:30 p.m. to 8:10 a.m.

Title. Section on Methodology Paper Session. Topics in Data Collection

Date and time. Tuesday, August 23, 8:30 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

Organizer. Guillermina Jasso (New York University)

Are Interactional Behaviors Exhibited When the Self-Reported Health Question is Asked Associated with Health Status?
Dana Garbarski (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Nora Cate Schaeffer (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and Jennifer Dykema (University of Wisconsin-Survey Center)

Exploring the Correlates of Parental Consent for Child Survey Participation: An Intergenerational Longitudinal Study
Jeanette M. Hussemann (University of Minnesota), Jeylan T. Mortimer (University of Minnesota), and Lei Zhang (University of Minnesota)

Reliability of Self-Reports of Income in Survey Data: Results from the Health and Retirement Study
Duane F. Alwin (Pennsylvania State University), Kristina Lillian Zeiser (Penn State University), and Don Gensimore (Penn State University)

The Cultural Construction of “Well-Being”
Caroline P. Gray (National Center for Health Statistics) and Valerie L. Chepp (University of Maryland)

Wiki surveys: Open, adaptive, and quantifiable social data collection
Matthew J. Salganik (Princeton University) and Karen Levy (Princeton University)
Controlling for Future Treatments to Reduce Hidden Bias: Promise and Problems
Felix Elwert (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Fabian T. Pfeffer (University of Michigan)

Estimable Functions in Age-Period-Cohort Models
Robert M. O'Brien (University of Oregon)

Loglinear Causal Analysis of Cross-Classified Categorical Data
Kazuo Yamaguchi (University of Chicago)

Social Models and Validation Challenges
David L. Sallach (University of Chicago)

The Value of Luminosity Data as A Proxy for Economic Statistics
Xi Chen (Yale University)

Visualizing Social Science Sequences: Relative Frequency Sequence Plots and Multiple Transition Curves
Anette Eva Fasang (Yale University) and Tim Futing Liao (University of Illinois)

Analyzing Inequality Trends
Lingxin Hao (Johns Hopkins University)

Centralized Sanctioning and Legitimacy in the Provision of Public Goods: Evidence from a “Lab-in-the-Field” Experiment
Delia Baldassarri (Princeton University) and Guy Grossman (Columbia University)

Inequality Generating Processes and Measurement of the Matthew Effect
Mikael Bask (Uppsala University) and Miia Bask (Karlstad University)

Maintaining Ties from Coast to Coast: Selective Mixing Between Universities on Facebook
Emma S. Spiro (University of California, Irvine), Zack W. Almquist (University of California, Irvine), and Carter T. Butts (University of California-Irvine)

Mothers’ Pensions Revisited: A Critique and Partial Replication of a Social Science Classic
Sheera Joy Olasky (New York University) and David F. Greenberg (New York University)

New Statistical Procedures for Goodness-of-Fit Testing of Expectation States Models
M. Hamit Fisek (Bogazici University)

Status Difference in Online Gift Exchange: How Competition and Spread of Status Value Shape Reciprocity
Patrick Park (Cornell University)

Only Fifteen Minutes? The Social Immobility of Fame in English-Language Newspapers
Arnout van de Rijt (State University of New York-Stony Brook), Charles Ward (Stony Brook University), Steven Skiena (Stony Brook University), and Eran Shor (State University of New York-Stony Brook)
From the Editor

This is my last newsletter. It’s been a real pleasure putting these together, meeting new people (via e-mail, anyway), and learning more about the Section. Thanks to Rafe Stolzenberg for asking me to serve, Tim Liao for his patience and organization, and Jen Carter for her HTML skills.

I wish my successor all the best, whoever he or she may be. To make his or her job easier, please send any and all manner of contributions, including short articles, opinion pieces, book and article announcements, retirements, job changes, and other newsworthy events, at first to Willie Jasso at guillermina.jasso@nyu.edu until she selects my replacement.

Take care all,

Jeff