
ICPSR BULLETIN

Spring 2005

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ICPSR BULLETIN

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The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), located at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, is the world's largest repository of computer-readable social science data. For over 40 years, the Consortium has served the social science community by acquiring, processing, and distributing data collections on a broad range of topics. Researchers at the Consortium's member institutions may obtain any of these data collections at no charge; researchers at nonmember institutions may also use the data, after paying an access fee. To find out more about ICPSR's holdings or about a specific data collection, visit the ICPSR Web site at www.icpsr.umich.edu.

The ICPSR Bulletin is published to inform interested scholars, including Official Representatives at the member campuses and ICPSR Council members, about topics and events relevant to ICPSR and its data collections. For subscription information, please contact the Editor.

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Editor: Ruth Shamraj
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The Creation and Development of the Russian Sociological Data Archive¹

Larisa Kosova

Russian Sociological Data Archive

The creation of a Russian sociological data archive that would be accessible and useful to a wide variety of users became a vital concern for scientists, students, the media, and research organizations alike some time ago. Life in a democratic, open society strongly demands free access to reliable information — information that provides answers to the most pressing questions of social life, and allows the researcher to understand and make comprehensible to the general public the most important processes of social transformation.

Project Beginnings

The Russian Sociological Data Archive (RSDA) project was launched in September 2000 with the financial support of the Ford Foundation. The goal of the pilot project was to develop the content, as well as the organizational and financial guidelines for the national archive of sociological data. The following leading research organizations joined the project and deposited the results of their research into the archive: All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VCIOM); Institute of Sociology, Russian

Academy of Sciences (IS RAS); Public Opinion Foundation; Institute for Multidisciplinary Social Studies; Russian Public Opinion and Market Research (ROMIR); and Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering (IEIE SO RAS). The project was inaugurated in 2001 and successfully completed in March 2002. Its goals had been achieved and important directions and possibilities for further development had become apparent. At that time, there were about 60 research studies in the archive, the information-retrieval system SOFIST had been launched, Internet access to the archival collection had been made available to users, and principles of cooperation with depositors had been worked out.

Growth of Users and Depositors

The ongoing support of the Ford Foundation allowed RSDA to continue its successful development. At the present time, the archival collection is nine times larger than it was during the pilot phase: the archive holds more than 500 research studies. In addition, the number of depositors has increased. New participants



Dr. Larisa Kosova is Program Director at the Russian Sociological Data Archive in Moscow, Russia. Dr. Kosova attained her higher education diploma at the State University of Aerospace Technologies and her Candidate's degree (equivalent to a doctorate) in 1988 in Applied Mathematics and Information Science at the All-Russian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (VINITI) (Moscow).

“The archive has entered 2005 as a rapidly-evolving program with a unique collection of sociological data and a widening circle of users.”

joining the original six founders include the Carnegie Moscow Center, the Institute for Socio-Economic Studies of Population, the Institute for Marketing and Social Research GFK-Rus', the Center for Humanitarian and Political Research — “Strategy,” the Institute of Philosophy at the Russian Academy of Sciences, and COMCON-2.

Great progress had been made in our relationships with archive users. In 2003, when the development of criteria for optimal user interaction had only begun, 67 agreements for data transfer were signed. In contrast, 21 data transfer agreements were signed within a one month period in 2005 (January 11–February 15). Credit for this achievement goes to the junior faculty from regional universities. Apart from Moscow higher educational institutions, many other organizations accessed RSDA for data in 2004: Altai State University, Baikal State University of Economics and Law, the Buryat State Pedagogical Institute, Volgograd State University, European University at St. Petersburg, Irkutsk State University, Kazan State Technical University, Nizhegorod State University, Novochoerkassk Polytechnic University, Perm State University, Russian State Pedagogical University (Ekaterinburg), Rostov State University, Saratov State University, Tomsk State University, the Ukrainian College of Arts and Sciences, Ulyanovsk State University, South Russian University of Economics and Services. The archive's materials are used for teaching and research. About half of the inquiries

come from students, who request data for various purposes — from term papers to dissertations.

Goals for the Future

The archive has entered 2005 as a rapidly-evolving program with a unique collection of sociological data and a widening circle of users. We face several important tasks that will impact not only the standards for research, but also the research environment itself.

RSDA aims to become the center for depositing research studies for grant recipients from a variety of charitable foundations. Depositing data into an archive increases the accountability of researchers because the results of their work become public and can be monitored by the scientific community. In addition, preparing data for deposit requires expertise and compliance with international standards, which, in time, is certain to influence the quality of sociological research.

It is our vision that data from RSDA will increasingly provide the empirical basis for curricula in university social science disciplines. We hope that both students and professors will not only know about the existence of the archive, but will also use it regularly to prepare coursework materials, student and scholarly papers, as well as conference presentations. Some steps have already been taken in this direction: sound partnerships have been formed with the Higher School of Economics (Moscow), and at universities in Novosibirsk and Omsk.

RSDA also plans to more actively inform the international scientific community about its activities. To that end, we continue to translate survey questionnaires into English in order to make the archive's collection more accessible to foreign researchers.

And finally, before us lies the task of standardizing the rules for preserving and describing information. RSDA is working to become part of the European and international network of archives, and to be compatible with them on all levels, conceptually and technologically. ■

Notes

¹ Translated by Bella Sherman

The RSDA Hit Parade

By the spring of 2002, the Russian Sociological Data Archive began to distribute its studies more widely. The top ranking in the RSDA "hit parade" of most frequently requested studies is held by "Monitoring of Social and Economic Changes" (See Figure 1). This periodic survey follows the dynamics of social sentiment; how the Russian population assesses present-day conditions; perspectives on changes; the level of trust in institutions of power; political parties and politicians; the protest potential of a variety of social groups; and many other issues. The survey is conducted every two months on a sample of the rural and urban populations of Russia. The survey draws from a representative all-Russian sample of 2,100 individuals (16 years old and over), plus 300 individuals in a

supplemental Moscow sample. The sample is constructed from a multi-stage stratified schema. The survey was designed by a team of investigators under the direction of Professor. T. Zaslavskaya of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The survey "Economic and Social Strategies of the Middle Class" occupies second place on the chart of most requested studies. The research results have recently been deposited in the RSDA and have already generated a great deal of interest. The survey was conducted on two samples: the basic sample, representative of Russia as a whole, and a sample that guarantees better representation of Russian regional centers. Five thousand households in 12 regions of Russia were surveyed in the study, conducted by the Carnegie Moscow Center and led by T. Maleva. The main goal of the survey is to determine what characteristics define and describe the middle class in present day Russia. A research monograph has been published on the basis of the survey. The monograph examines methodological and systematic approaches toward defining the middle class and generalizations of results from the analysis of economic and social activities of the middle class. The publication assesses middle class behavior in the labor markets, strategies in the sphere of earning income, financial practices, behavior in the sphere of production, political activity, and lifestyle and other practices that differentiate the middle classes from other social groups.

For more than two decades, ICPSR has collaborated with numerous social scientists from the former Soviet Union, specifically Russia, and participated in data exchanges to advance scholarship on the two nations. Arduous efforts to institutionalize a formal structure to promote data sharing across all of Russia culminated in 2001 with the establishment of the Russian Sociological Data Archive (RSDA), based in Moscow. An inaugural celebration for the new archive was held in December of 2001. The two chief archivists for RSDA, Ludmila Kahkulina and Larisa Kosova, extended an invitation to Acting ICPSR Director Erik Austin to attend the event and speak on the topic of data archives and their role in promoting rigorous social science. An exchange visit to ICPSR by Kahkulina and Kosova took place in May of 2004.

“Top ranking in the chart is held by “Monitoring of Social and Economic Changes.” This periodic survey follows the dynamics of social sentiment; how the Russian population assesses present-day conditions; perspectives on changes; the level of trust in institutions of power; political parties and politicians; the protest potential of a variety of social groups; and many other issues.”

Third place in the frequency of use belongs to the International Social Survey Program (ISSP) modules. The international program was started in 1985; Russia joined in 1991. It now involves over 30 countries including Australia, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Germany, Israel, Italy, Canada, New Zealand, United States, Japan, and others. Every year the survey is carried out using a single methodology and common instruments accepted by all the participant countries of the project. Survey topics are identified at the ISSP working meetings, with each module repeated every 5–6 years. Modules include “Social Inequality,” “The Role of the Government,” “Religion,” “Ecology,” and “The Family and Changes in Gender Roles.” For more details concerning the modules and the countries taking part in the project, please visit sofist.socopol.ru/issp.asp?en=0.

Fourth place on the chart is taken by the monitoring program “Dynamics of Russian Public Opinion in the Period of Transformation.” This program is carried out by the Institute of Multidisciplinary Social Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ICSR RAS). The survey is conducted on a representative sample of 22 regions of the Russian Federation; the number of respondents ranges from 1,800 to 2,200. With each stage of monitoring, the wealth of data about the values, political priorities, social status, and material conditions of the Russian population increases. The survey allows researchers to analyze the psychological disposition of the population, the current situation in

the country, and perspectives on the socioeconomic development of Russia.

Fifth in line is the survey “Woman of New Russia,” conducted by ICSR RAS, which highlights the following issues: women’s rights in Russia, problems with discrimination, the work of organizations that defend women’s rights, what types of work women do, and their salary levels. The survey also considers the issues of women’s involvement in politics and social life, women’s everyday life, and their goals, values, and concerns.

Sixth place goes to the “Consumer Sentiment Index”(CSI) — a new economic index specially designed for Russia on the basis of its American counterpart. The Russian CSI is designed using a unique method and is based on public opinion surveys conducted every two months using a three-stage stratified sample of respondents over 16 years old. The surveys are conducted in the homes of respondents in the form of personal interviews. The CSI is calculated based on the respondents’ answers to questions dealing with the fluctuation of the material situation of the family, expectations of change in the family situation, perspectives on the development of the national economy, and the situation in the consumer market. Respondents are also queried about their savings behavior.

The seventh position on the chart is held by electoral research — a vast block of pre-electoral surveys conducted on the eve of elections during 1995–1996 and 1999–2000.

All the surveys were conducted with representative Russian samples; respondents numbered over 1,500 in each measurement. The data allows researchers to assess the dynamics of voter intentions and political preferences, the role and influence of the mass media, and the involvement of the populace in politics.

The thematic survey “Contemporary Russian Society, Transition Period” occupies eighth place on the most requested list. Conducted by the Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Science (IS RAS) in 1998, it is based on an all-Russian random territorial sample of 26 regions of Russia and surveys 2,000 respondents. The research assesses the opinions of the population about key problems in contemporary society, respondents’ perspectives on life, and their beliefs and values. The study also poses questions about corruption, the particularities of the Russian political system, ecological problems, and so on.

The ninth and tenth places in the hit parade are taken by two thematic studies of ICSR RAS, “New Russia: Ten Years of Reform Through

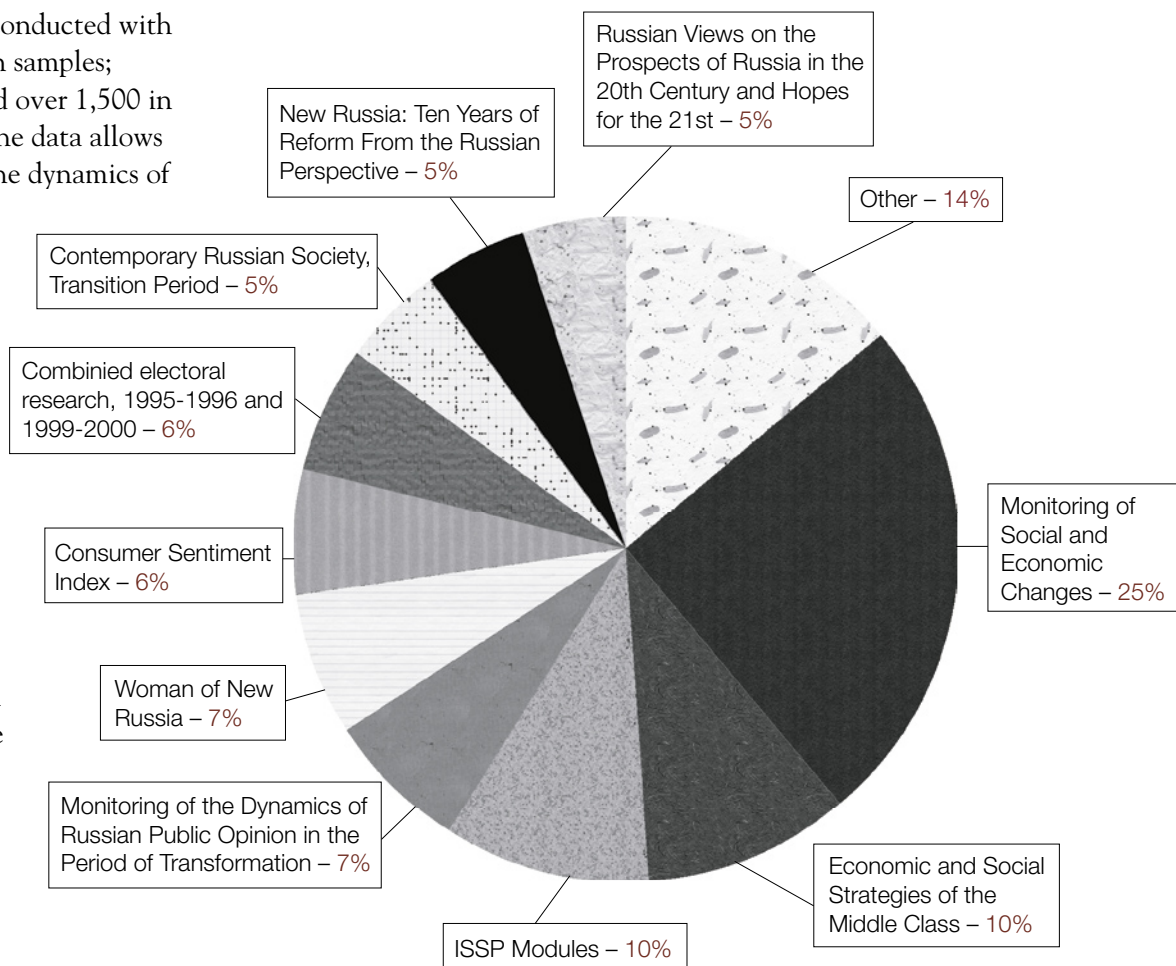


Figure 1: Most frequently requested studies in the Russian Sociological Data Archive.

Russian Eyes” and “Russian Views on the Prospects of Russia in the 20th century and Hopes for the 21st Century.” The research reveals what Russians think about the decade of Russian reforms, which reforms are viewed positively and which negatively, and what they see as the characteristic features of the new period. Respondents also answer questions about what shapes national pride and what fate awaits Russia in the 21st century.

For more details concerning these studies and the wording of the questionnaires, please visit sofist.socopol.ru/issp.asp?en=0. ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Official Representative Meeting To Be Held in October

The 2005 Biennial Meeting of ICPSR Official Representatives (ORs) will be held October 19–22, 2005, on the University of Michigan Campus in Ann Arbor, MI. Orientation for new ORs will take place October 19, from 1–5 p.m.

The meeting will feature a symposium on “Underrepresented Groups: Data, Research, and Policy Issues,” with internationally renowned speakers. Proposed panel sessions include the following:

- ICPSR Web site and MyData
- Promoting ICPSR on Your Campus
- Using Data in the Classroom
- Qualitative Data
- Online Analysis at ICPSR
- National Election Study
- Spatial Analysis/GIS
- Data Harmonization and Comparative Data
- American Community Survey

Please plan to join us for what promises to be an informative and stimulating meeting. More information on the program, travel, accommodations, and registration will be available soon.

SAMHDA To Be Awarded Sole Source SAMHSA Contract

The Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced its intention to award a sole source contract to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA) at ICPSR.

This renewal will provide five years of funding for SAMHDA, and a key aspect of the proposal is that it is being awarded on a sole source basis to ICPSR. For a sole source contract, the government must conclude that ICPSR is the only source of the services and expertise that is required by the project. The new award will continue the core functions of the archive:

- To provide immediate and reliable access to substance abuse and mental health research data from a centralized location
- To provide the data in a variety of formats, including online analysis
- To ensure that the identity of respondents in data collections held by the archive are protected, including conducting disclosure analyses
- To provide user support
- To provide training and dissemination about the project through various mechanisms including workshops and presentations at professional conferences

New work conducted under the award will also include (1) the development of tutorials for using the online data analysis system, downloading and reading in files, and other functions of the Web site, and (2) developing and distributing special use files.

Official Representative Sabbatical

ICPSR is pleased to announce that Donald Davison, Professor of Political Science at Rollins College, is the recipient of the 2005 OR Sabbatical. Dr. Davison will be visiting ICPSR during June 2005 to work on instructional data projects.

The focus of Dr. Davison’s work in Ann Arbor will be to update his instructional module **Continuity and Change in American National Elections, 1952–1996** (ICPSR 3727) with 2000 and 2004 data. He also intends to develop additional exercises that examine substantive theories about voting behavior in the United States, which will also serve as tutorials on data manipulation and statistical analysis using Stata. In addition, he plans to work on a second data module for instruction and research that will merge three primary sources on crime and punishment in the U.S.

DSDR Project Director Hired

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Felicia LeClere will join ICPSR and the Michigan Population Studies Center as an Associate Research Scientist and Director of the Data Sharing for Demographic Research project (DSDR). She brings a strong record of research accomplishments coupled with extensive experience in data collection, data processing, and project management. Dr. LeClere will lead the project part time during the summer and will begin a full-time appointment on September 1, 2005. Dr. Felicia LeClere is currently Associate Research Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, where she also directs the Laboratory for Social Research. She received her Ph.D. in 1990 from Pennsylvania State University in the fields of demography and rural sociology. Prior to Notre Dame, Dr. LeClere held appointments at the National Center for Health Statistics and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She has received numerous awards for her achievements, has a strong record in obtaining grants, and has published extensively in her field.

IASSIST May 2005 Conference To Be Held in Edinburgh, Scotland

The International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology (IASSIST) will hold its annual conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, on May 24–27, 2005, in collaboration with the International Federation of Data Organisations (IFDO). The theme

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for the 2005 Conference, “Evidence and Enlightenment,” highlights the need for empirical data in a society that wishes to know itself and the role that IASSIST members play in ensuring that researchers have continuing access to the data necessary for furthering scholarship and understanding.

Applications to MCRDC Sought From ICPSR Members

To benefit its members, ICPSR has purchased a “seat” in the Michigan Census Research Data Center (MCRDC), and researchers from ICPSR member institutions may apply to use the seat without paying MCRDC laboratory fees. The MCRDC enables qualified researchers with approved projects to conduct research using unpublished data from the Census Bureau’s economic and demographic programs. All MCRDC research is conducted within its secure laboratory facility located in the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Researchers are invited to submit proposals to use the MCRDC. Proposals are accepted throughout the year. All research in MCRDC must have a Census Bureau purpose. Please refer to the MCRDC Web site (www.isr.umich.edu/src/mcrdc/props.html) and the Census Bureau’s Center for Economic Studies (CES) Web site (www.ces.census.gov/ces.php/home) for information about the proposal process and about available datasets. Researchers with projects in the MCRDC must have special sworn status with the Census Bureau. The MCRDC assists researchers in obtaining this status.

To apply to use the ICPSR-supported seat, researchers should submit a copy of their MCRDC research proposal, together with a brief letter requesting use of the ICPSR seat, to Erik Austin, ICPSR Acting Director and Director of Collection Development, at least one week before submission of a proposal to the MCRDC. Note that ICPSR’s role in the application process is only to verify ICPSR membership and does not involve proposal review. More detailed information about the MCRDC as well as tips on writing successful proposals can be found on the MCRDC Web site.

To contact staff at the MCRDC, send e-mail to mcrdc@umich.edu. For more information about ICPSR support for research at the MDRDC, contact Erik Austin at erik@icpsr.umich.edu.

New ICPSR Publications Available

Annual Report. ICPSR's 2003–2004 Annual Report showcases the historic architecture of the Perry Building and offers glimpses of ICPSR staff within the work environment. Director Myron Gutmann assesses the accomplishments of 2003–2004 and what they mean for ICPSR's future. In his report, Council Chair Mark Hayward applauds the dedication, vision, innovation, and achievements of ICPSR staff. Subsequent pages include summary statistics on data processing and distribution, Summer Training Program information, the end-of-year financial summary, membership information, and a list of ICPSR's most frequently downloaded studies.

ICPSR Brochure. The ICPSR brochure provides an overview of ICPSR, the Special Topic Archives, Membership, and Educational Resources. This brochure is a portfolio packet that contains companion brochures dealing with key topics: Archiving Data at ICPSR, Careers at ICPSR, and Membership in ICPSR.

Guide to Social Science Data Preparation and Archiving, Third Edition. The month of March brought about the long-awaited Third Edition of ICPSR's *Guide*. This edition focuses on Best Practice Throughout the Data Life Cycle and is the product of a collaboration among ICPSR and several of its projects, specifically:

- Child Care and Early Education *Research Connections*, sponsored by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau

- Data Resources Program, sponsored by the United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice

- Data Sharing for Demographic Research Project, sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Demographic and Behavioral Sciences

- Human Subject Protection and Disclosure Risk Analysis Project, sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

- National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, sponsored by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics

All of the above documents are available in print (contact Sue Hodge at 734-647-2200) and electronic (www.icpsr.umich.edu/org/publications/index.html) versions.

ICPSR Welcomes New Members

ICPSR is pleased to announce that several new institutions have joined the Consortium since September 1, 2004. We extend a sincere welcome to the following new members:

- Montana State University
- University of Ghent (Belgium)
- Austrian National Membership
- SIDOS (joined Swiss National membership)
- Singapore Management University
- University of Minnesota at Morris
- West Chester University (rejoined Philadelphia Federation)

Data Science Journal Article Reviews Archival Practices

Myron Gutmann and Darrell Donakowski of ICPSR, and their colleagues from the United Kingdom Data Archive, Kevin Schurer and Hilary Beedham, coauthored an article published in the December 2004 issue of *Data Science Journal*. *Data Science Journal* is a peer-reviewed electronic journal that publishes papers on the management of data and databases in science and technology. It is published by the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) of the International Council for Science. The paper, "The Selection, Appraisal, and Retention of Digital Social Science Data," was originally presented by Myron Gutmann and Kevin Schurer at a December 2003 workshop held at the Biblioteca Nacional in Lisbon, Portugal.

The article reviews the processes used by ICPSR and the UK Data Archive to illustrate how data are selected for archiving, how they are appraised, and what steps are required to retain the usefulness of the data for future use. It also discusses new initiatives aimed at encouraging the long-term preservation of digital resources.

For more information, visit the *Data Science Journal* Web site: www.datasciencejournal.org/.

2005 ICPSR SUMMER PROGRAM

in QUANTITATIVE METHODS of SOCIAL RESEARCH

First Session

June 27–July 22, 2005

Workshops

Bayesian Methods
Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis I
Mathematical Models: Game Theory
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Quantitative Analysis of Crime
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Quantitative Historical Analysis
Regression Analysis I: An Introduction
Regression Analysis II: Linear Models
Regression Analysis III: Advanced Methods

Lectures

Introduction to Computing
Mathematics for Social Scientists I
Mathematics for Social Scientists II
Statistical Computing Using R/S
Advanced Topics in Social Research

Second Session

July 25–August 19, 2005

Workshops

Advanced Maximum Likelihood Estimation
Categorical Analysis
Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis II
“LISREL” Models: General Structural Equations
Longitudinal Analysis
Mathematical Models: Advanced Game Theory
Mathematical Models: Rational Choice
Regression Analysis II: Linear Models
Scaling & Dimensional Analysis
Simultaneous Equation Models
Time Series Analysis

Lectures

Complex Systems Models
Introduction to Computing
Matrix Algebra
Advanced Topics in Social Research

Three- to Five-Day Workshops

Data Sharing & Dissemination (June 1–3)
Aging & Health in Latin America (June 6–10)
Developmental Trajectories (June 13–14)
Hierarchical Linear Models: Introduction (June 13–17)
Multilevel Models Using SAS (June 13–17)
Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES)
(June 15–17)
Introduction to CrimeStat 3.0 (June 20–22)
Latent Growth Curve Analysis (June 20–24)
Categorical Analysis (June 27–July 1)
Hierarchical Linear Models II: Special Topics (July 6–8)
Project on Human Development in Chicago
Neighborhoods (PHDCN) (July 11–15)
Network Analysis: Theory & Methods (July 18–22)
Designing (Field) Experiments (July 20–22)
Structural Equation Models (SEMs) (July 25–29)
Network Analysis: Introduction to Methodology (Aug. 1–5)
Census Data: American Community Survey (Aug. 8–10)
Spatial Data Analysis (Aug. 15–19)

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Archivist Janet K. Vavra Retires

Janet K. Vavra, a University of Michigan archivist with a specialization in electronic records, retired from ICPSR on February 28. Janet earned a B.A. from the University of Nebraska and an M.A. from the University of Hawaii in Political Science and began working at ICPSR in 1968. She directed ICPSR's Technical Services and User Support branch and in recent years turned her focus to archival preservation and data security. Janet remains an active member of the Society of American Archivists and throughout her career published several articles on archival topics, including "Confronting Obsolescence: An Archival Lifestyle," in *Moving Theory Into Practice: Digital Imaging for Libraries and Archives*

(Research Libraries Group, 2000), and "Preservation: Maintaining Information for the Future," in *Of Significance...A Topical Journal of the Association of Public Data Users: Preservation of Public Data* (2000).

A central member of the ICPSR staff, Janet was a key contact and mentor for data users at ICPSR's member institutions around the world, assisting countless individuals with research projects and dissertations. As Ann Gray, a former ICPSR Official Representative from Cornell University, remarked, "A hallmark of Janet's work was her emphasis on quality. When we got data from Janet and ICPSR, we knew it would be right!" Acting ICPSR Director Erik Austin adds, "Janet Vavra was a huge contributor to the social sciences over the last three-plus decades. Her (mostly) behind-the-

scenes work enabled researchers and students to continue their scholarly pursuits despite a dizzying pace of technological change. She helped guide us through the transitions from punch cards to magnetic tapes, to diskettes and cartridge tapes, and finally to file downloading off the Web. Thousands of scientists benefited from Janet's dedication and innovative approach without even knowing how critical her contributions were. Yet hundreds of us do know how important Janet was in making these technological transitions smooth and successful. We salute her for her career, and will miss her."

The ICPSR staff and Council wish Janet the very best in retirement and thank her for her outstanding contributions to the social science research community.

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