

ICPSR

BULLETIN

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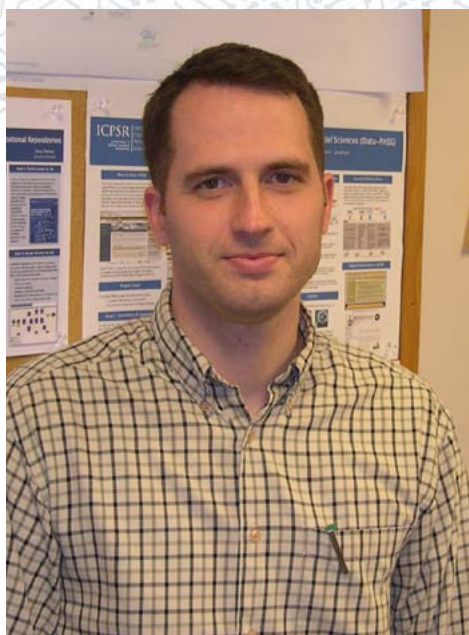
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Jared Lyle named ICPSR's new Director of Curation Services

By Dan Meisler

ICPSR Editor

Lyle has worked in many stages of the data life cycle, including acquisitions and processing, during his nine years at ICPSR



Jared Lyle has been named ICPSR's new Director of Curation Services, tasked with developing and maintaining a comprehensive approach to data management and digital preservation policy.

Lyle has been with ICPSR since 2004, serving most recently as a research associate managing data acquisitions for the consortium. He also coordinates the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS), a partnership of social science repositories that archives, catalogs and preserves at-risk data collections.

"Jared has been one of ICPSR's most trusted and innovating project managers, and his international reputation has grown from his work on Data-PASS and our projects with institutional repositories," said ICPSR Director George Alter. "It is a pleasure to welcome Jared to his new position, which will oversee the full data life cycle."

"I've been fortunate to have worked with different areas of the organization, touching all phases of data curation and the data life cycle," Lyle said. "I'm excited to bring those experiences to this new position."

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Along with his duties in acquisitions, in his time at ICPSR, Lyle has processed and archived data; managed research projects addressing digital preservation and data sharing; helped create ICPSR's policies and documentation on improving users' experiences; and supported ICPSR's compliance with Trustworthy Repositories Audit and Certification (TRAC).

This July, Lyle helped lead the ICPSR Summer Program's first workshop on data curation, titled "Applied Data Science: Managing Data for Reuse," along with Jake Carlson of Purdue University, Kathleen Fear of the University of Michigan, and ICPSR Assistant Director Mary Vardigan.

Many of Lyle's recent presentations at professional conferences have focused on institutional repositories, and collaborative approaches to data curation.

He said one of his goals for data curation services at ICPSR is to make it easier for users to share data, by making the archiving process more seamless and transparent, and by "reducing points of friction."

He also plans to grapple with the long-standing question of how to move considerations of digital curation to earlier stages in the data life cycle.

"Another goal is improving awareness of ICPSR through outreach and continuing interaction with our users," Lyle said.

Lyle holds a Master of Science in Information degree from the University of Michigan, with a specialization in Archives and Records Management, and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Brigham Young University.

Lyle succeeds Nancy McGovern, who served as ICPSR's Digital Preservation Officer until February 2012, when she took a position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A Visit From Shanghai



In September, ICPSR welcomed a delegation from Fudan University in Shanghai for a visit to the Perry Building. From left, pictured are Yin Shenqin, Fudan University librarian; Zhang Jilong, Deputy Director, Fudan University Library; George Alter, ICPSR Director; and Zhu Qin, Associate Professor, School of Social Development and Public Policy, Fudan University.

Depositor profile: University of Texas sociologist Mark Regnerus

His study caused some controversy, but he had no doubts about depositing data with ICPSR

Mark Regnerus' research on parents who have had same-sex relationships has sparked controversy, to say the least. First published in July 2012 in the journal [Social Science Research](#), the University of Texas sociologist's findings seemed to contradict some conventional wisdom on whether there are differences in outcomes for children in different types of family situations. An [article](#) in the online magazine Slate explained the findings, and in November, Regnerus [responded](#) to some critics of his study.

But when it came to preserving the data from his New Family Structures Study, Regnerus said there wasn't much debate. He deposited his data with ICPSR, and they are scheduled to be publicly released soon.

Regnerus answered a few questions about why he chose ICPSR.

Considering the controversy around your data, why did you decide to make it public?

That's how science ought to work, right? ... More in-depth analyses may qualify those findings, shed more light on them, etc. In fact, precisely because it became controversial, to release the data is important. I wish I could say the same for other privately funded data-collection projects that have been analyzed and well-publicized in this particular domain of study. It's the right thing to do.

Why did you choose ICPSR for archiving your data?

Three reasons: first, ICPSR's fine reputation. Second, because archiving it at ICPSR may yield more interest in it. And third, because I did not wish to become the gatekeeper for the data. That should not be my role.

What is your hope for secondary analysis of these data (i.e., are there certain directions of inquiry you feel have particular potential)?

In general, I think the NFSS is remarkably versatile on lots of research questions pertinent to the study of young adults in contemporary America. With respect to the question about parental same-sex relationships in particular, there are a variety of avenues of inquiry remaining to be conducted, including age distinctions and longevity of household stays (with parents' same-sex partners), as well as more sophisticated statistical analyses. People are welcome to it.

Is there anything about the survey design that makes these data harder or easier to archive?

There are weight variables that analysts should be aware of and use properly, and the two distinct household rosters/calendars (from birth to age 18, and from age 18 to present) make for very many



dichotomous variables. Other than that, nothing unusual comes to mind.

To what extent were you thinking about data sharing when you designed the study, and did those considerations shape the study design at all?

I intended to make the data public from the commencement of the project. That is in part why I worked hard at making it a versatile dataset, with questions about lots of different topics.

Regnerus' New Family Structures Study is currently being processed and will be available from ICPSR's archive before the end of 2012.

New ICPSR project will improve metadata for two major national studies

Metadata for the GSS and ANES will be brought up to DDI standards

By Dan Meisler, ICPSR Editor

Researchers will have access to improved metadata and new tools to search through and analyze the General Social Survey and the American National Election Studies under a new joint initiative launched by ICPSR, the independent research organization NORC at the University of Chicago, and several partners.

Supported by a collaborative research grant from the National Science Foundation, ICPSR, together with the American National Election Studies program in the Center for Political Studies at UM's Institute for Social Research and NORC, will carry out the two-year "Metadata Portal for the Social Sciences" project. Technical support will be provided by Metadata Technology North America and Integrated Data Management Services

The first phase of the project will involve bringing the metadata for the existing GSS and ANES datasets up to the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) standard using XML. For a sample of the surveys, the project will also capture enhanced metadata on questionnaire flow and variable transformations.



The second part of the project will create a metadata

portal on the Web to demonstrate some of the prototype tools that can be built with the new structured metadata -- for example, survey catalogs and documentation

libraries, question and classification banks, dynamic codebooks customized to user specifications, and tools for harmonization

and comparison. These innovations will be broadly applicable to all survey data.



Thirdly, the project will develop new metadata-driven workflows and best practices to capture metadata early in the data production process so that it can be reused across the research lifecycle.

"We are thrilled to be able to work toward improving the GSS and ANES metadata to create tools that both experts and novices can use to better understand these foundational studies of American society," said Principal Investigator George Alter, Director of ICPSR. "We hope these advances can serve as models for future research as well."

Tom W. Smith, GSS Principal Investigator, said: "NORC is pleased to link its capacity with that of ICPSR to provide the social science community with new and innovative products to facilitate the use of the GSS and ANES."



Thomson Reuters launches the Data Citation Index

Thomson Reuters has launched its Data Citation Index, a resource within its Web Of Knowledge service to facilitate the discovery, use, and attribution of scientific research data.

ICPSR and other data archives are partners in the project, which provides links between peer-reviewed publications and the datasets they use. The goals include making data more discoverable and giving proper credit to data producers.



As part of the launch, Thomson Reuters has released a [video](#) and [Web page](#) outlining the service.

Sloan Foundation project focuses on data citation standards

By Dan Meisler, ICPSR Editor

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at U-M's Institute for Social Research are joining forces to encourage open access to research data and closer links between publications and the data on which they are based.

A grant from the foundation will allow ICPSR to work with editors of peer-reviewed social science journals, leaders of data repositories and research funding agencies to foster new standards in research transparency, data citation and sustainable funding models for open access to data.

"Professional associations, journals, data repositories and funding agencies must work together to make the entire scientific venture more transparent and to encourage broader access to research data," said ICPSR Director George Alter. "The first step is to give scientists who produce important research data the recognition they deserve."

A primary aim of the project is to promote the effective, consistent

and standardized citation of research data. In the past, journals have been inconsistent in citing data, often providing incomplete information about how and by whom data were created. Clear standards of citation will ensure that research data are recognized as significant contributions, and that data producers are given proper credit.

Such standards also will enhance the transparency of scientific research. To reproduce the findings reported in journal articles, data need to be available along with all of the information necessary for replication. Some disciplines already have implemented such transparency requirements, but the project will encourage journals to adopt common guidelines and procedures.

In light of more stringent demands for data sharing among public and private research funding agencies, the Sloan/ICPSR project also will encourage collaboration across scientific domains on sustainable funding models for data repositories. For example, the National Science

Foundation now requires a data management plan for all funded research projects, including specifics on how data will be stored and shared. Bringing leaders of data archives and representatives from research funding agencies together to discuss ways to support this and similar mandates will benefit the wider research community.

Daniel Goroff, program director at the Sloan Foundation, said the project illustrates how Sloan's dedication to the advancement of scientific, technological and economic research also entails support for infrastructure that can enhance the scholarly communication and impact of such research.

"Effective data citation and data sharing practices are good for science and good for scientists," he said. "Everyone wants research results that are reliable, reusable and reproducible. ICPSR's 50 years of experience curating data like this for the social sciences can serve as an inspiration for all disciplines."

RCMD honored by U-M

The Resource Center for Minority Data at ICPSR was one of 15 groups and individuals given Distinguished Diversity Leaders Awards by the University of Michigan for demonstrating extraordinary commitment and dedication to diversity.

Pictured before the ceremony on October 16 are, from left, Abayomi Israel, David Thomas, and Daphne Lin of RCMD, and Rita Bantom, ICPSR's Human Resources Director.



ICPSR and You: Don't miss out on these opportunities

Measures of Effective Teaching Longitudinal Database Early Career Grant Competition

Applications Due: December 15, 2012

ICPSR is pleased to introduce the [Measures of Effective Teaching Longitudinal Database](#) project, along with an associated Early Career Research Grants competition. This project offers to researchers rich video data and a diverse set of quantitative data from elementary and middle school classrooms.

First access to the collection will be given to researchers via the Early Career Research Grants competition, which will award up to 10 grants of \$25,000 each to conduct a research study using the extensive collection. For more details on both the project and the grants competition, please visit the MET Web site at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/METLDB/>.

ICPSR Summer Internship Program

Applications Due: January 31, 2013

Applications are now being accepted for the [2013 ICPSR Summer Undergraduate Internship](#) program, an intensive, ten-week program for undergraduates interested in social science research.

The [NSF-funded](#) program matches students with mentors at ICPSR, and supports exploration of a research question from start to finish — including literature searches, data analyses, and creation of conference-ready posters summarizing students' research findings.

Applications are now being taken through an [online application portal](#). Two letters of recommendation are required, and can also be submitted [over the Web](#).

For examples of research projects that 2012 interns completed, see [these videos](#).

ICPSR Research Paper Competition

Submissions Due: January 31, 2013

ICPSR invites submissions for our 2013 Research Paper Competition for undergraduates and master's students at member institutions. There are three categories:

- The ICPSR Research Paper Competition, for analyses on any topic using data from the ICPSR General Archive or Thematic Collections.
- The IFSS Research Paper Competition, for analyses on any topic using data from the Integrated Fertility Survey Series.
- The RCMD Research Paper Competition, for analyses on issues relating to minorities in the United States, including immigrants, using data from the Resource Center for Minority Data.

For complete information on the competitions and how to apply, [visit the Web site](#).

NEWS AND NOTES ...

Save the dates!

OR Meeting

The 2013 Meeting of Official Representatives and Designated Representatives will take place **October 9-11** at ICPSR's headquarters in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The meeting typically includes workshops orienting new ORs and DRs to ICPSR, and sessions that refresh knowledge about ICPSR and highlight new and exciting developments.

To have your say on the offerings, please take our survey by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013ORProgramContent.

Summer Program

The dates for the 50th [ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods](#) of Social Research have also been set:

- The first four-week session in the 2013 ICPSR Summer Program will run from June 24, 2013, through July 19, 2013.
- The second four-week session in the 2013 ICPSR Summer Program will run from July 22, 2013, through August 16, 2013.
- Additional Summer Program courses (in shorter, three- and five-day formats) will be offered from the beginning of June through the end of August, in a variety of locations across the country, as well as in Ann Arbor.
- We will begin posting information about the 2013 ICPSR Summer Program course list and schedule in December 2012.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions about the 2013 ICPSR Summer Program, please feel free to contact us by e-mail (sumprog@icpsr.umich.edu) or telephone (734-763-7400). Information on the three- to five-day workshops on statistical topics is not yet available.

Data Fair, webinar videos available

Videos and slides from the Oct. 1-3 Data Fair titled "[Analyzing Election Data with ICPSR](#)" as well as from dozens of educational webinars conducted over the past several months are now available on the ICPSR YouTube Channel! .

[Click here](#), and type a term in the search engine to narrow down your results.

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Michigan State University

Linda Waite
University of Chicago

Bulletin Staff

Editor: Dan Meisler
dmeisler@umich.edu
(734) 615-7904

ICPSR is a center within the [Institute for Social Research](#) at the [University of Michigan](#).

Photos by Dan Meisler, except page 2, courtesy of Fudan University, and page 5, courtesy of Mark Regnerus