Methodological Issues in
Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity

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Workshop: 2 credits. This course examines research design, measurement, and analysis issues in quantitative research on racial and ethnic populations in the United States. Individuals with a substantive interest in policy-relevant social science research on race, ethnicity and related diversity challenges will be afforded the opportunity to explore a variety of methodological issues to help refine both their analytic skills and research agendas. "Hands-on" analysis of computerized data will be an integral component of the learning experience. Methodological areas focused on will include: reliable and valid measurement of racial and ethnic variables in major survey studies; innovative sampling strategies for diverse populations; race-related measurement errors in data collection; analysis traditions, trends and issues within various social science fields and public policy arenas. The class will bridge an inter-and cross-disciplinary perspective (sociology, psychology, political science, economics, etc.) with a policy-relevant focus on racial/ethnic disparities (health, education, criminal justice, urban poverty, etc.).

The course will meet 12:30 to 2:30 during the 4 week period. Participants are encouraged to also enroll in an appropriate ICPSR statistics course in the afternoon. Participants in the course must have had at least two courses in statistics, as well as a course on research methods/design.

References


MIQRRE WORKSHOP COURSE PACK

M 6/25 - No Class


Featured Speaker: James S. Jackson
Panelists: Linda Chatters, Cleo Caldwell-Howard, Harold Neighbors, Robert Taylor

W 6/27 - Changing Terrain of Research on Race & Ethnicity: Beyond White & Black

• Course Overview and Logistics
  - Developing a Research Agenda: Research Programs, Proposals & Engagement
  - Workshop Lab: Secondary Analysis of Selected ICPSR Datasets
• Changing Terrain of Race & Ethnicity: Theory, Concepts & Measurement Issues
  - Conceptual Issues: Categories, Discrimination, Culture, Identity, Diversity, etc.
  - Measurement of Racial/Ethnic Variables: Reliability and Validity
• Racial/Ethnic Disparity & Public Policy: Inter-group, Ideological & Ethical Issues
  - Racial/Ethnic Inequality: Health, Education, Political & Economic Disparities
  - Theoretical vs. Policy Goals: Bridging Basic and Policy Research Agendas

R 6/28 - Featured Methods - BASIC MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

• Scaling, Dimensional Analysis & Data Mining
• Multiple Regression/Linear Models
• Categorical Data Analysis
• Social Network Analysis

Student Selected Articles (Methodological Critique Guidelines - Babbie, pp. 352-56)


F 6/29 - Developing a Research Agenda – Problem Statement and Questions

• Critical Issues and Examples
• Student Presentations

Daily: “Hands-On” ICPSR Secondary Analysis Laboratory

• Secondary Analysis of Selected Dataset: ICPSR CD0016 or other archived data for analysis of race/ethnic issue
  - Latino National Political Survey
  - National Study of African Americans
  - National Black Election Studies
  - Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality
  - Detroit Area Study
  - Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhood
  - Monitoring the Future, etc.
Week 2 - Diverse Populations: Sampling Issues and Special Methodological Strategies

**M 7/2 - Probability Sampling in Diverse Populations: Bowman and Ebreo**

- **Sampling Procedures:** Designs and Challenges in Diverse Populations
- **Sample Quality:** Small N Problems, Sampling Errors and External Validity
- **Low Density Challenges:** Rare Element Sampling and Innovative Strategies
- **Race/Ethnic-Related Challenges:** Response Rates, Undercounts, Missing Data, etc.

**T 7/2 - Beyond The White-Black Paradigm – Asian American Perspectives:**

*Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Asian Americans*

**W 7/4 - JULY 4TH**

**R 7/5 - Featured Methods - MULTILEVEL MODELING/BAYESIAN ANALYSIS**

- “HLM” – Basic
- “HLM” – Advanced
- Multilevel Modeling Using SAS
- Bayesian Models

**Student Selected Articles** *(Methodological Critique Guidelines - Babbie, pp. 352-56)*


**F 7/6 - Educational Disparities – Bridging Basic & Policy Research Agendas:**

*Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity*

**Featured Speaker: William Trent**

**Panelists:** Deborah Carter, John Matlock, and Ed. St. John

**Daily: “Hands-On” ICPSR Secondary Analysis Laboratory**

- Secondary Analysis of Selected Dataset: ICPSR CD0016 or other archived data for analysis of race/ethnic issue
- Latino National Political Survey
- National Study of African Americans
- National Black Election Studies
- Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality
- Detroit Area Study
- Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhood
- Monitoring the Future, etc.
Week 3 - Diverse Populations: Data Collection and Special Methodological Strategies

M 7/9 - Data Collection in Diverse Populations: Bowman and Garcia

- **Data Collection Errors**: Beyond Measurement and Sampling Errors
- **Race of Interviewer Effects**: Methodological Challenges and Strategies
- **Significant Involvement & Functional Relevance**: Errors and Strategies
- **Interviewer Observations**: Converging Survey & Ethnographic Strategies
- **Cross-Cultural Considerations**: Methodological Issues & Strategies

T 7/10 - Beyond The White-Black Paradigm – Latina/o Perspectives:
*Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Latinas/os*

W 7/11 - Featured Methods – "CAUSAL" AND MATHEMATICAL MODELS

- "LISREL" Models (General Structural Equations)
- Simultaneous Equation Models
- Mathematical Models
- Spatial Econometrics

**Student Selected Articles** (Methodological Critique Guidelines - Babbie, pp. 352-56)


R 7/12 – Political Disparities – Participation, Citizenship & Criminal Justice –
*Bridging Basic & Policy Research Agendas:*
*Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity*

**Featured Speaker: John Garcia**
**Panelists: Ron Brown, Darren Davis, Vincent Hutchings**

F 7/13 - Developing a Research Agenda – *Methods and Prospectus*

- **Critical Issues and Examples**
- **Student Presentations**

Daily: “Hands-On” ICPSR Secondary Analysis Laboratory

- Secondary Analysis of Selected Dataset: ICPSR CD0016 or other archived data for analysis of race/ethnic issue
  - Latino National Political Survey
  - National Study of African Americans
  - National Black Election Studies
  - Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality
  - Detroit Area Study
  - Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhood
  - Monitoring the Future, etc.
Week 4 – Comparative Analysis Trends: Bridging Basic vs Policy Research Traditions

M 7/16 - Introduction: Bowman and Forman

- Comparative Racial/Ethnic Analysis: Across Groups, Contexts, and Nations
- Basic Social/Behavioral Sciences: Disciplinary Analytic Traditions
  (Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)
- Policy-Relevant Professional Fields: Interdisciplinary Trends
  (Health Sciences, Education, Business, Social Work, Public Policy)
- Quantitative vs. Qualitative Methods: Strengths and Weaknesses

T 7/17 - Beyond The White-Black Paradigm – Multi-Ethnic Perspectives:
Methodological Issues in Comparative Research on Race & Ethnicity

W 7/18 - Featured Methods - EXPERIMENTAL & LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS

- Field Experiments
- Longitudinal Analysis (Panel, Trend, Historical, etc.)
- Time Series and Econometrics
- Latent Trajectory/Growth Curve Analysis

Student Selected Articles (Methodological Critique Guidelines - Babbie, pp. 352-56)


R 7/19 - Economic Disparities - Urban Poverty, Segregation & Immigration -
Bridging Basic & Policy Research Agendas:
Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity

Featured Panelists:
Sheldon Danzinger, Reynolds Farley, Tyrone Forman

F 7/20 - MIQRRE Workshop Review, Reflections, and Evaluation

Daily: “Hands-On” ICPSR Secondary Analysis Laboratory

- Secondary Analysis of Selected Dataset: ICPSR CD0016 or other archived data for analysis of race/ethnic issue
  Latino National Political Survey
  National Study of African Americans
  National Black Election Studies
  Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality
  Detroit Area Study
  Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhood Monitoring the Future, etc.
Workshop Assignments and Requirements

1) Assignment I: Developing a Quantitative Research Agenda
2) Methodological Critique of a Selected Illustration from Class Readings
3) “Databased” Review of Studies (ie 10) on a Research Topic of Personal Interest
4) Methodological Critique of 1 Selected Study (Published) of Personal Interest
5) A Final Research Prospectus: Problem Statement and Methodological Plan
6) A Short Diary on Lab Experience: Hands-on” ICPSR Secondary Analysis Lab

Related Class Presentations:

A) Developing a Research Agenda – Problem Statement
B) Developing a Research Agenda – Prospectus and Methods
C) Methodological Critique of 1 Selected Illustration from Class Readings
D) Methodological Critique of 1 Selected Study (Published) of Personal Interest
ASSIGNMENT I

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES IN QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH ON RACE AND ETHNICITY

“Developing a Quantitative Research Agenda: Toward A Prospectus”

GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. YOUR NAME: ____________________________

2. What is your major reason for participating in this Workshop?

2. Which of the following best describes your primary discipline or field of interest:

   [ ] a. Economics
   [ ] b. Political Science
   [ ] c. Psychology
   [ ] d. Sociology
   [ ] e. Business
   [ ] f. Education
   [ ] g. Health Sciences (Please Specify ____________________________)
   [ ] h. Public Policy or Management
   [ ] i. Social Work
   [ ] j. Other Method (Please Specify): ____________________________

3. At this stage, what source of quantitative data are you most interested in utilizing to conduct research on race and ethnicity?

   [ ] a. Census Data
   [ ] b. New Sample Survey Data
   [ ] c. Secondary Analysis of Existing Data
   [ ] d. Randomized Experiment or Trial Data
   [ ] e. Other Method (Please Specify): ____________________________
3) Are you particularly interested in using or finding out more about any of the following ICPSR Archived datasets which are useful for quantitative research on race and ethnicity issues?

[ ] a. Census and Government Surveys  
[ ] b. National Study of African Americans  
[ ] c. National Black Election Studies  
[ ] d. Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality  
[ ] e. Latino National Politic Survey  
[ ] f. Surveys of Latinos  
[ ] g. Detroit Area Study  
[ ] h. Monitoring the Future  
[ ] i. Panel Study of Income Dynamics  
[ ] j. Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhood  
[ ] k. Please Specify: _________________________________________________________

4) Which of the following quantitative methods are you most interested in utilizing to study race and ethnicity?

A. BASIC MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS:
   [ ] 1. Scaling and Dimensional Analysis  
   [ ] 2. Multiple Regression/Linear Models  
   [ ] 3. Categorical Data Analysis  
   [ ] 4. Social Network Analysis

B. MULTILEVEL MODELING/BAYESIAN ANALYSIS:
   [ ] 1. “HLM” - Basic  
   [ ] 2. “HLM” - Advanced  
   [ ] 3. Multilevel Modeling Using SAS  
   [ ] 4. Bayesian Models

C. “CAUSAL” AND MATHEMATICAL MODELS:
   [ ] 1. “LISREL” Models (General Structural Equations)  
   [ ] 2. Simultaneous Equation Models  
   [ ] 3. Mathematical Models  
   [ ] 4. Econometrics/Spatial Econometrics

D. EXPERIMENTAL AND LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS:
   [ ] 1. Field Experiments  
   [ ] 2. Longitudinal Analysis (Panel, Trend, Historical, etc.)  
   [ ] 3. Time Series and Dynamic Econometric Analysis  
   [ ] 4. Latent Trajectory/Growth Curve Analysis
5) Which of the following racial/ethnic groups in the U.S. are you most interested in quantitative research?
   [ ] a. African Americans
   [ ] b. American Indians or Native Americans
   [ ] c. Arab Americans
   [ ] d. Asian Americans
   [ ] e. European Americans
   [ ] e. Latinos or Hispanic Americans
   [ ] f. Other or Combinations (Please Specify: ____________________________

6) Select a “Specific Research Topic” related to race and ethnicity of particular personal interest; then write a “preliminary research problem statement” using the guidelines below:

Specific Research Topic:____________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

**PRELIMINARY RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT** (Write on Separate Sheet):

A. General Problem Statement (1p)
B. Significance (1p)
C. Highlight Critical Issues and Supportive Studies (1p)
D. Specific Research Questions/or Hypotheses (1p)

7) At this time, please list any statistical method(s) that you think may be particularly useful in a future study to address your research questions: ____________________________