Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity

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Co-Instructors: Angela Ebreo, John Garcia, Maria Krysan, & Ruby Mendenhall
TAs: Darrell Hudson, Jonetta Johnson, Kristine Molina, & Edward Vargas

Location: TBA

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. "Hands-on" analysis of computerized data will be an integral component of the learning experience to help participants refine both their analytic skills and research agendas. 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 sciences, professional 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 in the course must have had at least two courses in statistics, as well as a course on research methods/design. Participants are encouraged to also enroll in an appropriate ICPSR statistics course in the afternoon. This ICPSR workshop is also one of several core components of a new National Consortium for Diversity Research & Policy Initiative based at the National Center for Institutional Diversity.

References


MIQRRE WORKSHOP COURSE PACK

M 6/23 - No Class

T 6/24 - 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

  - 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


  Invited Featured Speaker: James S. Jackson
  Panelists: Robert Taylor, Harold Neighbors, Linda Chatters, Letha Chadiha

R 6/26 - 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 6/27 - Developing a Research Agenda – Problem Statement and Questions

- Critical Issues, Examples Student Presentations
- ICPSR MINORITY DATA RESOURCE CENTER – Felicia LeClere

Daily: “Hands-On” ICPSR Secondary Analysis Laboratory

- Secondary Analysis of Selected Dataset: ICPSR CD0016 or other archived data for analysis of race/ethnic issue
  National Survey of Black Americans/National Survey of American Life/World Mental Health 2000 Project
  Latino National Political Survey/National Latino and Asian American Study
  National Black Election Studies
  Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality
  Detroit Area Study
  Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhood
  Monitoring the Future Survey, Panel Study of Income Dynamics, etc.
Week 2 - **Diverse Populations: Sampling Issues and Special Methodological Strategies**

**M 6/30 - Probability Sampling in Diverse Populations**

- **Sampling Procedures:** Designs and Challenges in Diverse Populations
- **Sample Quality:** Small N Problems, Sampling Errors and External Validity
- **Low Density Challenges:** Rare Element Sampling, Weights, and Innovative Strategies
- **Race/Ethnic-Related Challenges:** Response Rates, Undercounts, Missing Data, etc.
- **Cross-Cultural Sampling Issues:** Cross-National, Multi-Ethnic, Sub-Ethnic, etc. (ie World Mental Health Survey/National Survey of American Life/National Latino & Asian American Study)

**T 7/1 - Asian American Perspectives - Beyond The White-Black Paradigm:**

*Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Asian Americans*

**W 7/2 - 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)


**R 7/3 - Educational Disparities – Bridging Basic & Policy Research Agendas:**

*Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity*

Invited Panelists: Deborah Carter, John Matlock, Ed. St. John

**F 7/4 - JULY 4TH**

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

- Secondary Analysis of Selected Dataset: ICPSR CD0016 or other archived data for analysis of race/ethnic issue
  - National Survey of Black Americans/National Survey of American Life/World Mental Health 2000 Project
  - Latino National Political Survey/National Latino and Asian American Study
  - National Black Election Studies
  - Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality
  - Detroit Area Study
  - Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhood
  - Monitoring the Future Survey, Panel Study of Income Dynamics, etc.
Week 3 - Diverse Populations: Data Collection and Special Methodological Strategies

M 7/7 - 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 7/8 - Latina/o Perspectives - Beyond The White-Black Paradigm:

Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Latino Populations

W 7/9 - 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 7/10 – Political Disparities – Participation, Citizenship & Criminal Justice –

Bridging Basic & Policy Research Agendas:

Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity

Invited Featured Speaker: John Garcia
Panelists: Ron Brown and Vincent Hutchings

F 7/11 - 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
- National Survey of Black Americans/National Survey of American Life/World Mental Health 2000 Project
- Latino National Political Survey/National Latino and Asian American Study
- National Black Election Studies
- Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality
- Detroit Area Study
- Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhood
- Monitoring the Future Survey, Panel Study of Income Dynamics, etc.
Week 4 – Analysis Trends and Issues: Bridging Basic vs Policy Research Traditions

M 7/14 - Introduction: Bowman and Mendenhall

- Cross-Cultural and Racial/Ethnic Analysis: Across Groups, Contexts, and Nations
- Basic Social/Behavioral Sciences: Disciplinary Analytic Traditions (Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)
- Quantitative vs. Qualitative Methods: Strengths and Weaknesses


Ruby Mendenhall and Invited Panelists

W 7/16 - 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)


Reflections from Invited ISR Panelists

F 7/18 - 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
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  Latino National Political Survey/ National Latino and Asian American Study
  National Black Election Studies
  Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality
  Detroit Area Study
  Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhood
  Monitoring the Future Survey, Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 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) A Final Research Prospectus: Problem Statement and Methodological Plan