Methodological Issues in
Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity

Lead Instructors:
Phillip Bowman & Angela Ebreo, National Center for Institutional Diversity
John Garcia, University of Arizona

Invited Lecturers: Tim Johnson, Maria Krysan, Ruby Mendenhall, & Uma Jayakumar

TAs: Denise Carty, Darrell Hudson, & George Smith

Location: Lecture Room 1, Modern Languages Building

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; and analysis options, 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 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 a core component of a new National Consortium for Diversity Research & Policy Initiative based on a collaboration between the National Center for Institutional Diversity and the Institute for Social Research.

References

MIQRRE WORKSHOP COURSE PACK

M 6/22 - No Class

T 6/23 - Conceptual & Policy Issues in Race/Ethnic Research: Diversity Challenges

- Course Overview and Logistics
  - Developing a Research Agenda: Research Programs, Proposals & Engagement
  - Workshop Lab: Secondary Analysis of Selected ICPSR Datasets
- Conceptual Issues in Race & Ethnicity: Theory, Constructs & Measurement Issues
  - Major Concepts: Diversity, Categories, Discrimination, Culture, Identity, etc.
  - Measurement of Racial/Ethnic Variables: Reliability and Validity
- Racial/Ethnic Disparities & 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

W 6/24 - “Pivotal” Program for Research on Black Americans: The Expanding Agenda

Health Disparities – Methodological Issues in Research on Risk & Protection

Invited Featured Speaker: James S. Jackson
Panelists: Harold Neighbors & Cleopatra Caldwell

R 6/25 - 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 6/26 - Developing a “Personal” Research Agenda – Problem Statement and Questions

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

DAILY: “Hands-On” ICPSR Secondary Data 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 – Specialized Methodological Strategies for Racial/Ethnic Populations

M 6/29 - Sampling & Data Collection Issues in Diverse Populations

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

T 6/30 - Beyond a White-Black Paradigm - The Changing Terrain of Race & Ethnicity: Methodological Innovation in Multi-Ethnic Quantitative Research

Maria Krysan, Innovative Methods in Racial/Ethnic Studies: Examples & Reflections

W 7/1 - “Diversity” Research & Multilevel Public Policy Engagement: Critical Issues & Implications for Quantitative Research on Racial Issues

- National Center for Institutional Diversity: Litigation, debate & agenda-setting
- Ongoing debates and public policy challenges - “Diversity” vs. “Race”
- Strategic priority areas to bridge scholarship and multilevel engagement

R 7/2 - 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)


Invited Panelists: Linda Chatters, Robert Taylor, & Uma Jayakumar

F 7/3 - Educational Disparities – Bridging Basic & Policy Research Agendas: Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity

Invited Panelists: Uma Jayakumar, John Matlock, Ed St John

DAILY: “Hands-On” ICPSR Secondary Data Analysis Laboratory

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Week 3 - Promoting Policy-Relevant Research on Racial/Ethnic Disparities:
Implications for a National Consortium for Diversity Research & Policy

M 7/6 - Supporting Policy-Relevant Disparities Research: Challenges & Opportunities

- Improve methodological training opportunities for policy-relevant racial/ethnic disparities research
- Improve access to high quality data for policy-relevant racial/ethnic disparities research
- Support initiatives to develop new scholars committed to racial/ethnic disparities research
- Support initiatives to improve scholar-policy leader exchanges about racial/ethnic disparities
- Support university-based capacity for improving policy-relevant racial/ethnic disparities research
- Promote exemplary initiatives at various universities to support diversity research and policy

T 7/7 - Beyond The White-Black Paradigm - Latina/o and Asian Americans:
Methodological Issues in Research on Latina/o and Asian American Populations

John Garcia and Angela Ebreo

W 7/8 – 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

R 7/9 - 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 7/10 - Developing a “Personal” Research Agenda – Methods and Prospectus

- Critical Issues and Examples
- Student Presentations

DAILY: “Hands-On” ICPSR Secondary Data 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.

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Week 4 – Analysis Issues, Traditions and Trends: Bridging Basic vs. Policy Research

M 7/13 - Introduction: Bowman

- Cross-Cultural and Racial/Ethnic Analysis: Across Groups, Contexts, & Nations
- Basic Social/Behavioral Sciences: Disciplinary Analytic Traditions (Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)
- Policy-Relevant Professional Fields: Multi-disciplinary & Inter-disciplinary Trends (Business, Education, Health Sciences, Policy Studies, Social Work, ETC)
- Quantitative vs. Qualitative Methods: Strengths and Weaknesses

“Institutional” vs. “Personal” Research Programs on Racial/Ethnicity: Challenges of Bridging Quality Social Research and Policy Engagement

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH: Historical Reflections & Implications
Invited Guests: Gerald Gurin and other ISR researchers


Tim Johnson, “Innovative Survey Research Methods in Diverse Urban Areas”

- Cross-Cultural Issues: Survey Research Challenges & Innovative Strategies
- Cultural Sources of Measurement Error: Implications for Disparities Research
- Significant Involvement & Functional Relevance: Errors, Challenges & Strategies


Ruby Mendenhall, “Experimental & Mixed Methods Research on Urban Poverty

R 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)


F 7/17 - MIQRRE Workshop Review, Personal Reflections, and Evaluation

- “Personal” Research Program Development: Plans, Supports & Strategies

DAILY: “Hands-On” ICPSR Secondary Data Analysis Laboratory
Workshop Assignments and Requirements

1) Assignment I: Developing a “Personal” Quantitative Research Agenda
2) Methodological Critique of a Selected Illustration from Class Readings
3) “Databased” Review of Studies (i.e. 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 “Personal” Research Agenda – Problem Statement
B) Developing a “Personal” 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