OVERVIEW OF SEMINAR STRUCTURE

Individual Projects:

We have planned with each of you to arrive with a project in mind and a data set available to you. This project is crucial to integrating the discussions we will have in the seminar into a personally meaningful framework. Individual presentations on the project will be given at the beginning and end of the seminar. At the beginning, participants will describe the theoretical and/or policy rationale for the project and the plan for analysis. In the final days of the seminar, you will provide a summary of progress and findings.

Seminar Meetings:

The Seminar will meet each day from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in room G150A in the Perry Building. Additionally, several lunches may be scheduled with guest speakers between 11:15 and 12:30 p.m. When we have a lunch meeting, the seminar will usually end by 2:30 p.m., although it may run over in some cases. We will also attempt to schedule individual or small group consultations with speakers as appropriate.

Discussions within the seminars will center on issues raised in the readings, by speakers and by the demands of your particular project. To provide some continuity as we move across data sets, I will highlight specific methodological (e.g. combining contextual and individual levels of analysis, accommodating measurement error) and substantive themes (e.g. establishing and interpreting disparity in CJS decision-making) that are common across data sets.

Information to be Covered:

The seminar will provide an introduction to the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NCJDA) and a number of data sets available in the Archive. Emphasis will be given to Bureau of Justice Statistics data that describe the principal activities of the criminal justice system. These data describe 1) the incidence of crime (NCVS), 2) police response (UCR and NIBRS), and 3) the execution of sentences (NCRP, NSPI, SILJ). These data sets will be described briefly since most of the basic descriptive data will be in the readings. Participants will have the opportunity to manipulate these data in lab sessions. More complex issues pertaining to sampling error, measurement error and file structure issues will be described and methods for dealing with these issues will be presented. Our goal at the end of the Workshop is to have participants ready to use these data correctly to inform theoretical and methodological issues.
Readings:

Recommended readings on the outline that follows acquaint participants with: (1) the design and uses of these data (2) methodological issues relevant to the use of the data sets; and 3) logistical problems that complicate the use of these data. These readings are available on the Z drive in the Lynch subdirectory

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

**June 22**  
**Introductory Session**  
Introduction to the Archive—Tim Bynum, Tom Zelenock  
Introduction to Computing at ICPSR—Ed Czilli  
Computer Lab  
Presentation of Preliminary Plans for Research Projects

**June 23**  
**National Criminal Victimization Survey and Kindred Data Sets--Jim Lynch**

**TOPICS:**  
Survey design and change overtime  
Information content  
Survey supplements  
File structures  
Helpful hints  
The "Ragu" effect

**READINGS:**  
Rennison, Callie Marie and Michael Rand, ok  
Biderman, A.D. and J.P. Lynch.  
1991 *Understanding Crime Incidence Statistics: Why the UCR Diverges from the NCS.* New York: Springer. (Chapter 1)

Baum, Katrina, Shannon Catalono, and Michael Rand  
2009 *Stalking Victimization in the United States* Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice. Statistics 0k

**June 24**  
**Structuring and Using NCVS Data Files (Lab Session)**

**TOPICS:**  
Structuring Files  
Estimating Rates  
Producing person-level files
Producing household-level files aggregating up person-level information

READINGS:
Most of the crucial information on these topics can be found in the Resource Guide assembled by NACJD staff

June 25  NCVS: Substantive Issues and Measurement Errors--Jim Lynch

TOPICS:  Measurement errors in the NCS
Implications of measurement errors for substantive research
Longitudinal aspects of NCVS

READINGS:

Cantor, David and James P. Lynch.

Cantor, David and James P. Lynch ok

Andromachi Tseloni and Ken Pease*
2004  ‘Repeat Personal Victimization: Random Effects, Event Dependence and Unexplained Heterogeneity.’” The British Journal of Criminology 44:931-945

Xie, Min, Gregory Pegarsky, James Lynch and David Mc Dowall “Prior Police Service and the Decision to Call the Police.” Justice Quarterly, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp.481-501 ok

Dugan, Laura "The Effects of Criminal Victimization on a Household’s Moving Decision.”

Ybarra, Lynn and Sharon Lohr

June 26  BJS Overview and Preview of Recidivism Data Base –Guest Speakers—Howard Snyder and Ramona Rantala, BJS

June 29  Complex Samples and Complex Standard Error Calculation

TOPICS:  Simple and Complex Samples
Standard Error Computation in Complex Surveys
Linearization
Balanced Group Methods
Replicates
General Variance Functions
Categorical Data Analysis with Complex Surveys
Regression with Complex Surveys
Using Various Software Packages for Estimating Variances in the NCVS

READINGS:
Lohr, Sharon
Sampling Design and Analysis. Boston, Duxbury Press. Chapters 9, 10,11
1998

June 30 The Uniform Crime Reporting Program

TOPICS: Outline data collections in UCR
Emphasis on Return A
Organization of data system
Estimation issues
Linkage to other Census systems
Error Structure

READINGS:
Barnett-Ryan, Cynthia
“Introduction to the Uniform Crime Reporting System” in James P. Lynch and Lynn Addington (eds.) Understanding Crime Incidence Statistics: Revisiting the divergence of the UCR and the NCVS
2007
Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Maltz, Michael
1999

July 1 The Uniform Crime Reports Supplementary Homicide Reports –Colin Loftin

TOPICS: System Design and change over time
Information content and change
Strengths and weaknesses as research tool
The missing data problem
Helpful hints

READINGS:


Parker, Karen and Pruitt, Matthew V. How the West was one: Explaining the similarities in race-specific homicide rates in the West and South. *Social Forces*, 78:1483-1508.


**July 2**  Al Blumstein

**July 3**  Holiday (no class)

**July 6**  Law Enforcement Administrative and Management Statistics and Kindred Data on the Police

TOPICS:  
History of data on the police industry  
Structure of the sample  
Instrumentation and data collection procedures  
Substantive issues that can be addressed  
Linkage and other issues  
Error Structure

READINGS:


Bureau of Justice Statistics
July 7  National Incident Based Reporting System--Guest Speaker—Cindy Barnett, Federal Bureau of Investigation Introducing NIBRS

TOPICS: How is NIBRS different from the UCR?
What can NIBRS be used for and what shouldn’t it be used for?
How should it be used?

READINGS:
Federal Bureau of Investigation...

Rantala, Ramona

Maxfield, Michael

Chilton, Roland and John Jarvis

July 8  Using NIBRS—What can be investigated with NIBRS, Limitations, File Structuring. Lynn Addington, Tom Zelenock and Jim Lynch

TOPICS:
Building analysis files
Addressing coverage and missing data problems
Innovative uses of NIBRS data

READINGS:

Review the resource guide on NIBRS.

Eitle, David, Lisa Stolzenberg and Stewart D’Alessio

Addington, Lynn
July 9  State Court Processing Statistics and Federal Justice Statistics and Research Program

Browse the website--http://www.fjsrc.urban.org.

The Urban Institute.
Motivans, Mark

Kyckelhahn, Tracey and Thomas Cohen.

Kyckelhahn, Tracey and Thomas Cohen.

Perry, Steven W.

July 10  Correctional Statistics--NCRP, SILJ, SISCF—William Sabol, Bureau of Justice Statistics

TOPICS:
  Describing individual data collections
  Strengths and weaknesses of each
  Substantive uses--describing criminal careers
    describing attributes of criminal events
    conditions of confinement
    distribution and effects of imprisonment in society
  Methodological issues—problems with modeling dynamic populations
    Missing data
    Small denominators and extreme values

READINGS:

Blumstein, Alfred and Alan Beck
1999  “Factors Contributing to the Growth in U.S. Prison Populations.” in Michael
Lynch, James P. and William J. Sabol


Levitt, Stephen

Sevigny, Eric.

July 11 PREA and Other Things—Guest Speaker- Allen Beck
July 14 Presentation of Progress on Individual Projects
July 15 Presentation of Progress on Individual Projects
July 16 Presentation of Progress on Individual Projects