2011 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods
BJS Workshop on Quantitative Analysis of Crime and Criminal Justice

Instructor: Lynn A. Addington, American University
Class Meeting Time: 12:30-2:30 p.m. (daily)
Class Location: G150 / Perry Building, 330 Packard Street

This four-week workshop seeks to provide participants with an introduction to Bureau of Justice Statistics data housed in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. We will focus on those BJS datasets that describe the principal activities of the criminal justice system with an emphasis on data concerning measures of the victimization incident, the police response, and the execution of sentences. The goal at the end of the Workshop is to have participants ready to use these data appropriately to inform theoretical and methodological issues in their current and future work.

The seminar lectures will introduce participants to the datasets with particular attention to more complex issues such as sampling error, measurement error and file structure challenges as well as methods for addressing these issues. There will be several guest lecturers who are top scholars and researchers with extensive expertise working with these datasets. Assigned readings will complement the seminars and acquaint participants with the design and uses of the data, methodological issues relevant to the use of the data, and logistical problems that complicate the use of these data.

An integral part of the workshop is the participant’s individual project. Each participant has outlined a research project to be explored during these four weeks using one of the BJS datasets. This project is crucial to integrating lecture materials into a personally meaningful framework. The projects also will facilitate the support of a research community among participants. Individual presentations on the project will be given at the beginning and end of the seminar. The initial presentations will focus on the theoretical and/or policy rationale for the project and plan for analysis. In the final days of the seminar, each participant will provide a summary of progress and findings which will take the form of an academic conference presentation.

Assigned readings will be available electronically via our course’s shared drive or freely available online. Participants should download and review the ICPSR Codebook relevant to the dataset(s) they are utilizing and, if applicable, review the NACJD Data Resource Guide concerning their dataset(s).

For an overview of BJS and its data collection efforts, the following resources are highly recommended:

Available at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12671

Available at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12090

**Workshop Schedule of Topics and Speakers**

**Week 1**
June 20 Introductory Session
- Welcoming Remarks – Director James P. Lynch, Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Introduction to BJS – Ramona R. Rantala, Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Introduction to the Archive – Tom Zelenock, NACJD
- Introduction to Computing at ICPSR – Edward Czilli, ICPSR
- Presentation of Preliminary Plans for Research Projects – Participants

June 21 National Criminal Victimization Survey

June 22 Structuring and Using NCVS Data Files

June 23 NCVS: Substantive Issues, Measurement Errors, Complex Sampling

June 24 BJS’s Recidivism Data Collection
- Guest Speaker: Dr. Howard Snyder, Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Week 2**
June 27 Uniform Crime Reporting Program

June 28 UCR – Supplementary Homicide Report
- Guest Speaker: Dr. Colin Loftin, University at Albany (SUNY)

June 29 National Incident-Based Reporting System

June 30 Issues related to data management and file construction

July 1 BJS’s Law Enforcement Data Collection
Guest Speakers: Dr. Brian Reaves and Dr. Christine Eith, Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Week 3**

**July 4**  Independence Day (no class)

**July 5**  Current Issues and Uses of the NCVS  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Janet L. Lauritsen, University of Missouri, St. Louis

**July 6**  Current Issues Concerning Crime Data and Law Enforcement  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Richard B. Rosenfeld, University of Missouri, St. Louis

**July 7**  State Court Processing Statistics and BJS Prosecution and Adjudication Statistics  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Thomas H. Cohen, Bureau of Justice Statistics

**July 8**  Prison Rape Elimination Act Data Collection  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Allen J. Beck, Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Week 4**

**July 11**  Correctional Statistics  
Guest Speaker: Dr. William J. Sabol, Bureau of Justice Statistics

**July 12**  Presentation of Progress on Individual Projects

**July 13**  Presentation of Progress on Individual Projects

**July 14**  Presentation of Progress on Individual Projects

**July 15**  Wrap Up Session