Grad Program in Survey Methods to Start This Fall

By helping to define the basic principles and practices of the social survey method, the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (ISR) established its reputation as the nation’s leading academic survey and research organization. Now, in addition to fielding some of the longest-running and most widely cited surveys in the world—including the monthly Surveys of Consumers, the National Election Studies, the Monitoring the Future Study, the World Values Study, the Health and Retirement Study and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics—the ISR is launching a new graduate degree program in survey methodology, with classes starting in Fall 2002.

“For more than five decades, the ISR summer program in survey research techniques has offered courses that cannot be found on any other campus in the world,” says ISR director David L. Featherman, who helped forge the ambitious new graduate program. “The University of Michigan has long been recognized nationally and internationally as one of the leading places to study social sciences and statistics. The combination of these strengths makes us one of just a few institutions in the world with the depth and breadth necessary to mount this kind of interdisciplinary program, drawing on faculty from economics, sociology, psychology, statistics, public health, political science, education, and communications.”

According to Jim Lepkowski, acting director of the new program, the Michigan Program in Survey Methodology joins a scant handful of established academic programs in the U.S. and around the world to offer Master’s degrees in survey methodology, and only one other—the Joint Program in Survey Methodology offered by the University of Maryland in collaboration with ISR—to offer a Ph.D. degree. The new Michigan program will also offer Certificates in Survey Methodology.

“With the world-wide demand for survey professionals higher than ever, the time is clearly right for a large, new academic training program,” Lepkowski notes. The U.S. market for commercial survey research is estimated at more than $5 billion and the top 25 global research firms reported FY ’99 revenues of just over $8 billion a year, according to Jack Honomichl’s latest industry review in Marketing News. Federal agencies from the Bureau of the Census to the National Center for Health Statistics spend approximately $4 billion a year on economic and social information collected through surveys, employing over 12,000 staff, Lepkowski says, with state and local government agencies conducting surveys, too. Hundreds of survey research centers at universities and colleges across the U.S. also need professional staff.

Even with the current economic downturn, the need for survey research professionals will continue, according to Bruce Hoynoski, senior vice president, research, at

— continued on page 14
Taking the measure of America. One might say this mission lies at the heart of ISR’s research programs for more than a half century. The Detroit Area Study, celebrating its 50th anniversary in the moment of that so-American city’s 300th anniversary, is a classic example. DAS began in the heyday of this industrial metropolis, a magnet of opportunity for Euro-American and African American working class migrants. Its various studies chronicle the vibrant moments and also the painful travail of this once iconic example of urban America in the making. If Detroit is no longer a principal exemplar of American cities, its history remains a worthy case. And the DAS has proven a durable and valuable resource for that historical account. DAS also has offered many generations of graduate students in Ann Arbor a direct encounter with urban realities, in the living rooms of its interviewed residents (see page 4). Because of Detroit’s social and historical importance, the DAS has been a laboratory for refining social measurements—of racial attitudes and relationships but also of family and religious values, among many other topics.

Monitoring social change and the impacts of historic, even cataclysmic, events is ISR’s mission, indeed, its métier. One high point in ISR’s long leadership in social measurement occurred during the “golden era” for social research—in the 1960s and early 1970s. This period also corresponded with federal legislation to foster the Great Society, but also with the escalation of resistance to the war in Southeast Asia and with racial riots in Detroit and other cities. In this era, ISR was at the center of the so-called social indicator movement, an effort to provide not only economic but also social, political and psychological indicators of national progress (or better put), of changing stocks and flows in some national account of who we are and where we are going.

More immediately, the horrific and tragic events of September 11th prompted a team of volunteer researchers to deploy these skills of social measurement and monitoring in an effort to help us all understand how we as a nation, as a people, would respond. “How Americans Respond” (see the story about this survey by Robert Groves) is more than a well-designed instance of social measurement, of precise monitoring of ongoing events as unfolding history. It’s also a story of extraordinary interdisciplinary effort and scientific intelligence mobilized within hours of tragedy. It reveals all of what has been the fiber of ISR’s strength for over a half century—the Institute’s high scientific standards in measuring the seemingly unmeasurable, its commitment in social measurement to systematic time series—to precise historic accounting, and exhaustive collegial, collaborative efforts toward these scientific ends. Let us all hope that what we shall learn from this study is not only good social science but also a proud chapter in America’s history of freedom, civil liberty, and respect of the differences among us.

In the fall of 2002, we at ISR anticipate the admission of a first class to a new graduate program in Survey Methodology (see page 1). This happy event marks a new era for ISR’s educational, instructional mission and strengthens its ties to the wider educational mission of the University. At the heart of this program is a curriculum of social measurement and of the monitoring of social change. How could it be otherwise, here at ISR?
Established in 1951, the U-M Detroit Area Study (DAS) has served as a sort of academic boot camp for several generations of survey researchers from around the nation and the world, providing hands-on experience in all phases of survey research. According to founding director Ronald Freedman, the annual, face-to-face survey of a representative sample of residents from the Detroit region has also been a rich source of data for generations of social scientists, who have produced more than 37 scholarly books, 430 journal articles and book chapters, and 64 Ph.D. dissertations in sociology, political science, psychology, speech, economics and social work, along with numerous professional presentations, using DAS data.

“With 50 continuous years of operation, the DAS has served as the model for similar survey training programs in the U.S. and around the world,” says program director Mick Couper. “In recent years, as cross-national social science research has become more important, DAS surveys are being designed with the potential of comparing data from parallel surveys conducted in Beijing, Cape Town, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and other regions.” The U-M sociology department co-administers the DAS with the ISR Survey Research Center.

When the DAS started, Freedman recalls, most social scientists didn’t know much about conducting surveys, and they knew even less about drawing samples. “A great many studies, and most polls, were done with samples that didn’t truly represent the population,” he says. “The DAS introduced generations of students to the potential of survey findings as a powerful tool and let them know just exactly what is involved in mounting a solid survey, from developing a questionnaire and drawing a sample to conducting the interviews, and coding and analyzing the responses.” With ISR founders Angus Campbell and Leslie Kish serving as the inspiration and the “spark plug” of the project, respectively, according to Freedman, the first DAS was fielded in 1952, with a response rate most contemporary survey researchers can only dream about achieving—87.5 percent.

Over the years, DAS topics have included political behavior, child training patterns, the meaning of work, religion, and, more recently, studies on stress, racism and health, and on the quality of life. Each year, a new research team takes the helm, with the 2002 study, directed by U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment researchers Paul Mohai and Steve Brechin, aimed at understanding the root causes of environmental concern both domestically and internationally. In the last decade, many ISR researchers have served as study directors. Reynolds Farley has studied social change in Detroit. James Jackson and David Williams have tackled how stress and racism influence health (see accompanying story). Bill Rodgers has studied health and aging. Don Deskins, Eleanor Singer and Bob Groves have studied survey participation. Howard Schuman has studied collective memories. Mike Traugott, Vince Hutchings and Nick Valentino have studied how political campaigns influence citizen evaluations of candidates. In DAS 2001, ISR senior research scientist

Around the time the DAS started, SRC sampling director J. Roe Goodman and west coast field supervisor Claire Sergeant confer.
Bob Marans, a professor at the U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning, has been probing the quality of community life.

“We selected questions for the 2001 survey that replicated questions on neighborhood quality, residential mobility, crime, and public services that were asked as part of the 1980 DAS survey, based on the pioneering work of Angus Campbell, Phil Converse, and Bill Rodgers,” notes Marans, who co-directed that 1980 survey on the quality of life in Detroit. “This strategy is allowing us to analyze change in public perceptions and behaviors, and to examine the degree to which changes in attitudes and actions reflect the reality of change that has taken place in the region. We’ve also added new topics that address the needs of policy makers in the region, including urban sprawl and the benefits of parks and open space.”

Lawrence D. Bobo, the Norman Tishman and Charles M. Diker professor of sociology and of Afro-American Studies at Harvard University, was one of the 1980 DAS students. “Looking back, I believe that the process of questionnaire development, of sample listing, and especially the experience of interviewing itself were invaluable learning and training opportunities,” says Bobo.

Not all the interviews he did went smoothly:

“When I first pressed the apartment buzzer, I completed the household enumeration form and determined that the randomly selected respondent should be the wife, who was about my age. The husband, who was about 12 years older, informed me they were going out and that therefore the interview could not be done. He wouldn’t allow me to schedule another time to visit. Since I had other addresses in that building and on the block I stayed in the foyer trying other units. I saw the husband get in his car and leave the building. He was clearly quite suspicious since he drove to the end of the block and just sat there. I surmised that he had no intention of leaving until he saw me leave the building. So, I walked out and down the street. He circled the block and then left. Two days later I was still interviewing and tried their address again. This time just the wife was home and she was happy to do the interview. Mistake. Half way into the interview the husband returned home. In the midst of a complicated ‘friends page’ (social network data on three people) he became openly hostile so much so that his wife was frightened, and began shouting ‘This interview is over!’ despite having shown him my identification, etc. So, I hastily departed that spot.”

Undaunted, Bobo went on to do more interviewing in the 1981 study, then served as teaching assistant in the 1982 study. “Getting in the door for interviews was a challenge,” he notes, “but I believe the experience is essential for any serious survey analyst.”

“Those of us who were DAS students tend to view empirical data more critically than others,” says SRC director Bob Groves. “Having worked in the field, I think we’re sensitive to the gap between a social scientist’s theoretical concept and the foibles of measuring real people, with limited questions, in the midst of real-life settings.”

For more information on the DAS, see http://www.ka.umich.edu/soc/das/ and to learn more about the 2001 DAS, see http://www.tcaup.umich.edu/workfolio/DAS2001/index.html
**How Americans Respond**

— By Robert Groves

On the afternoon of Tuesday, September 11, a multidisciplinary group of ISR research scientists gathered to consider how we might help the country in the wake of that morning’s attacks. The group included economists, psychologists, political scientists, sociologists, demographers and survey methodologists. Bob Kahn, James Jackson, Michael Traugott, Richard Curtin, Tom Juster, Bob Willis, Don Kinder, David Weir, Matt Shapiro, Ted Brader, Mark Tessler, David Featherman, Beth-Ellen Pennell, Martha Hill, and myself were among them.

Based upon our previous research and knowledge of key studies in our fields, we each proposed hypotheses about aspects of American life and individual morale and behavior that were most likely to be affected by the disaster. Knowing that “snapshot” media polls would proliferate in the near future, providing a quick sense of immediate public reactions, we agreed that ISR should instead delve more deeply into how the events would affect Americans’ psychological well-being, political beliefs, social attitudes and economic intentions and behavior.

Within 48 hours, we constructed a questionnaire with an eye toward comparisons with psychological, economic, political and social attitude measures used in ISR and other national surveys conducted before September 11. Using Survey Research Center institutional funds to support our efforts, we programmed the questionnaire into a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system on Friday, September 14, drew a national sample of randomly selected adults in the coterminous United States, trained interviewers, and began data collection on the evening of Saturday, September 15. A month later, we had obtained over 700 interviews. Christening our survey “How Americans Respond,” we disseminated some of the findings from our initial analyses via news releases, with resulting coverage in a wide array of popular media, including the *New York Times*, *USA Today* and *Newsweek*.

These preliminary analyses confirmed everyone’s fears that the terrorist attacks had exacted a significant impact on Americans’ sense of personal safety. About 20 percent of those surveyed reported that the attacks had shaken their own personal sense of safety a great deal, and 29 percent reported feeling shaken a good amount. Linking these measures of personal safety with economic expectations and behavior from the monthly ISR Surveys of Consumers, Rich Curtin found that a loss in this sense of personal security was linked to a decline in consumer confidence. The levels of both the Indices of Consumer Sentiment and Expectations, a loosely watched component of the U.S. Index of Leading Economic Indicators, differed significantly across groups of consumers who felt their personal sense of safety was affected a great deal or a good amount, compared to those who were shaken not too much or at all (51 percent of those surveyed).

Tom Juster’s initial analyses showed that the impact of a shaken sense of personal sense of safety extended from how consumers would respond
to government programs designed to stimulate the economy, to how they evaluated investment opportunities and how they viewed potential job prospects. Overall, only 15 percent said they would spend an additional tax rebate of $1,000, compared to 85 percent who said they would use the money to pay down existing debt or rebuild their savings. By comparison, only 9 percent of those whose sense of personal safety was shaken a great deal said they would spend a new tax rebate.

Analyzing data from a “feeling thermometer” included in the survey that asked respondents how they felt about a variety of ethnic and racial groups, James Jackson found that Black, Hispanic and even white Americans all received higher ratings than they had in 2000, leading him to note that the events of September 11 may have produced, at least temporarily, a patriotism of inclusion that was less jingoistic and ethnocentric than during similar periods in the past.

Bob Kahn found another shard of reassurance in the answers to an open-ended question asking respondents to name possible reasons for the attacks. Almost half provided at least two reasons and one out of five provided three or more reasons. Among the most frequently mentioned were hatred of the U.S., undesirable characteristics of the terrorists, religious issues, non-religious differences between the U.S. and the terrorists, and U.S. international policies. As a nation, he observed, at least we did not seem to be making the mistake of seizing on a single simple answer to the very complex question of why the attacks occurred.

Examining data on how Americans’ sense of personal safety and security affected their willingness to give up some civil liberties in return for greater security, Mike Traugott found that 76 percent of those whose personal sense of safety was shaken a great deal said they would be willing to give up some civil liberties in exchange for greater security, compared with 66 percent of those who said their sense of safety was not affected at all by the attacks.

Our current analysis has not yet extended to the data on families and...
children included in the initial survey, nor has it included more than cursory examinations of the symptoms of stress or the coping mechanisms that adults and children are using to deal with the trauma of recent events. We are continuing to analyze these other data as we prepare for the second wave of How Americans Respond, which we plan to conduct in the first half of 2002 using funds external to the Survey Research Center. From the start, all of us involved in this project have felt that the true potential of the study can only be realized with longitudinal measurements, allowing us to monitor the resilience of the U.S. population. In the coming months, we plan to track how individual levels of stress, psychological coping mechanisms, social and political attitudes, and economic intentions have changed over time and in response to new events, including the anthrax attacks and the U.S. military actions in Afghanistan.

A longitudinal approach will also allow us to explore causal influences on key attitudes and behaviors. For example, one of the most important findings to date is the fact those those people whose sense of personal safety has been shaken a great deal show high levels of pessimism about the future of the U.S. economy. Does this relationship arise because both these measures are the shared effects of some general sense of optimism or pessimism about uncertain futures? Or does a reduction in the sense of personal security itself produce a more pessimistic consumer outlook? This is a key issue if we are to understand how further security-threatening events might affect consumer behaviors and the economic recovery of the nation.

Throughout the on-going process of seeking funding for the continuation of How Americans Respond and develop the second-wave questionnaire, we have made design choices that confirm our commitment to scientific methods. We will continue to place a high value on locating and interviewing sample persons who are rarely at home (and thus more engaged in public events), less interested in political events (and thus less likely to have fully informed reactions to terrorist actions), and less likely to reveal their thoughts and attitudes to researchers (so are easy to miss in national surveys). This commitment requires many call-backs in order to gain contact with the households, rigorous sampling methods within the household, repeated efforts to contact the selected adult, and incentives to respond for those who have no active interest in the survey topics themselves.

While we know that timing continues to be crucial, we move forward with the firm conviction that the methodology of social science provides our best hope of identifying the complex American response to terrorism.

A new ISR website will be launched in Spring 2002, accessible at the current URL: www.isr.umich.edu. “Many people are stimulated to visit the ISR website by an article they have read in the newspaper citing research done by one of our research scientists,” says ISR Development Director Patrick Shields. “The new website will enable them to navigate easily to the research papers behind the newspaper article or radio story. In some cases, they will be able to work with the data themselves, to answer their own questions.” The new site will also serve the needs of researchers who want to analyze and manipulate the data that are the basis of a scientific paper, or search for related research. According to Shields, the re-design is the first phase of ISR’s plans to develop THE website for those interested in social science information and data.
ISR Researchers Featured on Fathom.com

— By Nancy Ross-Flanigan

Three ISR researchers have contributed features to Fathom, an on-line learning community. In addition to making their work accessible to others, Tom Fricke, Denise Park and Frank Stafford have learned something themselves. “It was nice to feel free of the need to cover myself as an academic, which is, in fact, to take a lot of the life out of things,” says Fricke, an anthropologist who directs the ISR Center for the Ethnography of Everyday Life. “This gave me the opportunity to stretch and talk to an imagined audience that includes a really diverse group of people. I could be more creative with the language and have some flexibility, which I very much enjoyed.” It also gave Fricke a chance to set an example for graduate students. “I think it’s very useful to show them that their faculty can write in a way that’s appealing,” he adds.

Fathom, an e-learning company founded by Columbia University, solicits material from faculty, researchers and curators at its 13 member institutions, which include Columbia University, The New York Public Library, the University of Chicago, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the London School of Economics and Political Science. Then Fathom producers work with contributors to turn their words into interactive, multimedia offerings. In addition to providing content, faculty contributors suggest relevant books, articles and other resources. Visitors to Fathom also can explore a directory of online courses (typically offered for a fee). The U-M joined Fathom in late 2000. One of the goals of the collaboration is “to provide relatively painless opportunities for faculty to explore new online ventures,” says James L. Hilton, U-M associate provost for academic, information and instructional technology affairs.

“I’ve gotten something back from it professionally, in terms of having something I can use to present my work to other groups,” says Park, a psychologist and senior research scientist at ISR, who wrote a Fathom feature about her research on the aging brain. “We’ve gotten incredibly generous increases in the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation budgets, and if we want to continue to get increases or even maintain current levels, we need to be out there saying, ‘Look, we’re doing something useful,’” says Park, who appears in the new PBS series “The Secret Life of the Brain.” “We can put out journal articles, but those don’t seem useful to a lot of people. So taking those articles and translating them into something that’s accessible but still intellectually honest is extremely important.”

For more information on Fathom, visit www.fathom.com/umich.

First Miller Scholar Attends ICPSR Summer Program

University of Mississippi political science graduate student Christopher Lawrence was selected as the first Warren Miller Scholar. “It’s an honor to be associated with the man who invented quantitative social sciences,” Lawrence says. Each year, the award honoring Miller, who founded the ISR Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), will support at least one highly promising young faculty member or advanced graduate student interested in applying quantitative methods to political and social research. The endowed fund enables the recipient to attend the ICPSR Summer Program by covering travel and housing costs, while ICPSR donates the tuition. The fund-raising campaign was co-chaired by Philip Converse, University of Michigan professor emeritus in sociology and ISR research scientist, J. Merrill Shanks, professor of political science and director of the...
University of California at Berkeley Social Science Computer Lab, and David Leege, professor of government at the University of Notre Dame.

“Warren frequently emphasized the importance of both methodological training and interaction with cutting-edge research among the next generation of scholars,” says Shanks. “We remember many prominent social scientists who were influenced profoundly by their experience in the Summer Program. The Miller Scholars Fund will make a continuing—and quite visible—contribution to meeting Warren’s goals.”

Lawrence’s research interests include legislative behavior, voting behavior and comparative political behavior. “In many ways, Christopher is the ideal first recipient of the Miller Scholars Fund,” says Henry “Hank” Heitowitz, director of the ICPSR Summer Program. “In addition to the coincidence between his substantive interests and Miller’s, he is an outstanding student from a program that does not normally send students to our Program. We are delighted to have this additional tool to bring the best young empirical minds to the Program.”

For his part, Lawrence is honored to have been selected as the first Warren Miller Scholar. “I enjoyed the opportunity to broaden and deepen my training in cutting-edge techniques, and to meet students and faculty from around the country who have similar methodological interests but come from different disciplinary perspectives.”

For information on contributing to the Miller Fund, please contact ISR Development Director Patrick Shields at (734) 764-8369 or e-mail peshield@umich.edu.

To apply to the Miller Scholars Fund, please contact Henry Heitowitz at the ICPSR Summer Program at P.O. Box 1248 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106 or e-mail sumprog@icpsr.umich.edu.

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**Leslie Kish Fellowships Are Available for 2002**

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ISR co-founder Leslie Kish had a substantial and sustained influence on the ISR Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques. Of particular importance was the Sampling Program he started in 1960, when he recruited Latin American students for a new training program in survey sampling that he planned as a part of the Summer Institute. Visiting statistical offices and academic centers, Kish convinced statistical leaders in countries throughout the Americas to send their bright, young statisticians to the ISR during the summer months.

Today, the Leslie Kish International Fellowship continues his mission of teaching survey sampling to those from around the world. Each year the fellowship covers Summer Institute fees for up to three participants from developing countries. The participants experience an intensive eight weeks of training in survey sampling. For many, it is their first time visiting the United States. The 2001 Leslie Kish Fellows—Krishna Mohan Palipudi and Cissé Mohamed Ibrahima—exemplify the type of students that the late Professor Kish sponsored. Mohan Palipudi is a graduate student from India who studies the methodological aspects of errors in large-scale sample surveys. He came to Ann Arbor with great anticipation about the program, and has returned to India to apply what he learned to his dissertation research. Cissé Mohamed, originally from Guinea, also came to the U.S. for the first time with the help of the fellowship, recommended by his ambition and interest in sampling, as well as his knowledge of the contributions Leslie Kish made to the field.

The application process for 2002 is now closed. Those interested in applying for Leslie Kish Fellowships in 2003 should contact: Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques, 426 Thompson Street, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248; e-mail summers@isr.umich.edu; website: www.isr.umich.edu/src/si.
ICPSR Opens Access to World’s Largest Computerized Social Science Data Archive

Significant changes are taking place at the world’s largest computerized social science data archive, the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at ISR. ICPSR director Myron Gutmann is giving top priority to an ambitious series of activities designed to expand services to approximately 500 member institutions and enhance access to the massive ICPSR archive. “The big news is ICPSR Direct,” says Gutmann. “Data users at about 100 of our member institutions are now able to download data straight from our archives to their desktops, without needing official representatives to obtain the data for them, and we’re working to open up access even further. This direct access gives students, faculty and staff researchers the chance to work more efficiently, and it gives our official representatives the freedom to provide additional services, assisting data users with substantive and technical issues rather than spending time on routine data transmissions.”

In order to make the most of ICPSR Direct, all archival documents that accompany the data must be converted to digital format, Gutmann notes. “At the start of 2001, between one-fourth and one-third of our documents were available only in paper form, and we are continuing an ambitious program to scan and convert these materials, which we anticipate will be completed within one year.”

Visiting the recently redesigned ICPSR Web site at www.icpsr.umich.edu suggests the extent of the archival holdings, which include everything from the latest ABC News/Washington Post polls on the recent terrorist attacks to a dataset describing the height of runaway slaves and indentured servants in United States from 1700 to 1850. Some of the data sets are available free of charge to non-members. In the special topical archives, for example, data on health and medical care, aging, criminal justice, education, and substance abuse and mental health are freely available to the general public. Other data are available to non-members for a charge. ICPSR also offers a summer training program, with a record 599 scholars from 194 institutions in 25 countries attending the courses that ended this past August. Nationally and internationally recognized for the quality of its methodological instruction, the ICPSR summer training program attracts participants from a broad range of social and behavioral sciences, including sociology, psychology and political science.

Robert M. Groves has been named director of the ISR Survey Research Center, taking over in August 2001 from U-M sociologist James House, who stepped down after a decade of leadership to return to full-time research and teaching responsibilities. “Bob Groves emerged from our national search with a compelling vision for the future of university-based survey research,” says ISR Director David L. Featherman. “He has been instrumental in developing the new interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in survey methodology at Michigan. His return to Ann Arbor as a faculty member and scientist is also timely because the challenges to affordable high quality survey data and to the development of new technologies of data gathering thrust ISR and the Survey Research Center into a new era.”

Before taking the position of SRC director on August 1, 2001, Groves, a professor of sociology at the U-M and a senior research scientist at ISR, served as director of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, a graduate education consortium funded by the U.S. federal statistical agencies, and led by the University of Maryland, the U-M and Westat, a survey firm in Rockville, Md. Started in 1993 as
the first in the nation to offer a master of science degree in survey methodology, the program is the model for a growing number of graduate programs in survey methodology, including the new Ph.D. degree program at Michigan.

The author, co-author, or editor of several classic books on survey methods, including *Telephone Survey Methodology* and *Survey Errors and Survey Costs*, Groves’ most recent edited volume *Survey Nonresponse*, is forthcoming from John Wiley and Sons. He is also the author or co-author of more than 50 journal articles and book chapters, and of more than 100 conference proceedings papers or presentations on survey methods.

Groves received the 2001 Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Association for Public Opinion Research. The award citation notes his work “to transform both the theory and the practice of survey methodology through a rare blend of scholarship, teaching, and institution building” as well as his leadership in providing “a firmer intellectual footing for the field” by helping to create multidisciplinary doctoral programs in survey methodology.

Groves received an A.B. degree in sociology from Dartmouth College in 1970, M.A. degrees in statistics and sociology from the U-M in 1973 and a Ph.D. degree in sociology from U-M in 1975. He joined the U-M Department of Sociology as a lecturer in 1975, attaining the rank of assistant professor in 1977, associate professor in 1983 and full professor in 1990. From 1990 to 1992, he served as associate director of statistical design, standards, and methodology at the U.S. Census Bureau, on loan from Michigan. An elected fellow of the American Statistical Association, an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, and past president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Groves currently serves on the National Research Council’s Committee on National Statistics, the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee, and the National Science Foundation Advisory Committee for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate.

He has consulted on survey designs for a wide range of public and private organizations, from the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and the Social Security Administration, to A.C. Nielsen and Company, the Gallup Organization, the American Lung Association, Cornell University, and Statistics Sweden.

Groves also serves as project director of the ongoing 2001 National Survey of Family Growth. Funded and directed by the National Center for Health Statistics, the survey of more than 18,000 men and women between the ages of 15 and 49 is the principal source for national estimates of factors affecting pregnancy and birth rates.

In November 2001, ISR and the Office of the University of Michigan Vice President for Communications launched a new publication to provide research results to the public, policymakers and the national news media. The first issue of *ISR Update* highlights research findings on aging, a topic central to a number of public policy debates and to the everyday lives of a growing number of U.S. families and individuals. Subsequent issues will focus on ISR research on a variety of topics, including how Americans are responding psychologically, economically and politically to the terrorist attacks on the U.S. “We are eager to serve as a resource for public policy discussions on a broad range of issues, including the well-being of children and families, data privacy, and racial and ethnic differences in physical and mental health,” notes David Featherman. “Our hope is that *ISR Update* will serve as a vehicle to make our expertise more familiar and accessible to the policy community, and to interested members of the public and the news media as well.” Among the news briefs in the first issue are new findings on work and retirement from the ISR Health & Retirement Study, suggesting that growing job flexibility and declining physical demands may help older workers stay on the job longer; data from a Michigan Retirement Research Center analysis suggesting that privatizing Social Security may widen the senior wealth gap; and an analysis showing that the hidden costs of family care for older Americans with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia is more than $18 billion a year. *ISR Update* is available on the Web at www.isr.umich.edu. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for future issues, please contact Diane Swanbrow at (734) 647-9069 or e-mail swanbrow@umich.edu.
Reader Response

ISR and AAPOR

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed the article “ISR and AAPOR” in the Spring 2001 ISR Sampler, but wanted to comment on the issue of quota sampling. As the article correctly points out, this was the method used by commercial pollsters in 1948, when they incorrectly forecast a Dewey win.

The reasons for quota sampling’s failure, however, go beyond the “catch-as-catch-can” approach to subject selection that was identified in the article. A further, and perhaps more important reason for its failure was that the 1940 census data used to construct the quotas for the 1948 election polls led the researchers astray. As described in Earl Babbie’s textbook, The Practice of Social Research, the following occurred: “By 1948...World War II had produced a massive movement from the country to cities, radically changing the character of the U.S. population from what the 1940 census showed, and Gallup relied on 1940 census data. City dwellers, moreover, tended to vote Democratic; hence the over-representation of rural voters in his poll had the effect of underestimating the number of Democratic votes” (p. 178, 9th edition). The implication is that the polls failed to survey late enough (or to focus enough on their latest surveys). Further, it looks as though the closest prediction by Gallup and Crosley were off the Truman vote by about 5%, so half of that might be attributable to date of surveying.

Although the kind of weighting you describe resembles quota sampling, it’s not quite the same thing, more a form of post-stratification. And once telephone surveys replaced face-to-face surveys, most organizations started with a form of random selection, though then adding weights for various reasons. It obviously makes good sense to take into account party identification in such predictions. These days with response rates down considerably, the issues are not as simple as in earlier days. At the same time, recent research reported in Public Opinion Quarterly suggests that there is substantial robustness to most survey results, fortunately. Still, if one can obtain high response rates, I can’t see any reason not to use probability sampling where practical, recognizing that stratification before and after sampling can always be useful.

Howard Schuman
ISR Research Scientist Emeritus

Responses to Reifman

—— Original Message ——
From: Howard Schuman
To: Patrick Shields
Subject: Re: article in “isr sampler”

As you probably know, the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) sponsored a study of the 1948 predictions, The Pre-Election Polls of 1948, prepared by an exceptionally able group of statisticians and social scientists. The authors say: “Looking at all the evidence now available, the committee tentatively concludes that in the last two weeks [of the 1948 campaign] there was a net shift to Truman of 2 or 3 percentage points probably varying quite a bit from state to state.” p. 512. The

Editor:

I am not sure a rejoinder is in order since Alan’s comments appear factual and well argued. Leslie Kish would be the first to argue that the Dewey/Truman result which brought so much attention to ISR’s methodol-
ogy was a fortunate outcome of random chance. The proper confidence limits on the result for the ISR study certainly included the prospect of a Dewey win and the proper statistical inference from the data was that we didn’t have a statistical clue about the exact outcome.

In hindsight, the point estimate was right and the error bounds associated with our probabilistic methods faded into the background. If we really stuck to our probabilistic guns we would have admitted that our results were not informative to the point that we could make a choice. We knew a Truman win was in the range of probability and in hindsight we became certain of it.

I don’t read Alan as strongly defending quota sampling. His primary argument is that statistical controls to population distributions through quotas in selection or post-stratification weighting have not disappeared from the scene. Voting studies present particularly complex problems and most pollsters (regardless of sampling methods) use extensive calibration of the survey results.

They must counter: telephone subscription rates that vary across classes of households; major potential for non-response bias due to high refusal rates even in good samples; and the fact that the outcome of interest—real votes—also requires some measure of the propensity that the respondent will actually go to the polls on election day.

Quota sampling methodology can never be “falsified”. The same is true for studies that have very low response rates. By unknown and not measurable processes of chance, a quota sample could yield an accurate result. Our reason for focusing on probability sampling and rigorous methods is that in combination they provide a basis for assigning sampling error to the estimates (measurability) and corresponding inferences and minimize the threat to these inferences from non-sampling sources of bias (i.e. selectivity in non-response, non-coverage of the survey population).

Steve Heeringa
Director, SRC Division of Surveys and Technologies

Cannell Celebration Rescheduled for April 19th

In late September, one week before a planned celebration of his long and distinguished career, ISR founder Charles Cannell died unexpectedly. This event has been rescheduled for the afternoon of Friday April 19th at the University of Michigan Alumni Center. The celebration will highlight the research accomplishments of Cannell, former director of the ISR Survey Research Center field section, and his influence on research concerning the interactions between survey interviewers and respondents. Featured speakers include Nora Cate Schaeffer, professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Jack Fowler, senior research fellow at the University of Massachusetts Center for Survey Research, and Michael Schober, assistant professor of psychology at the New School of Social Research. For more information about the event, contact Linda Peterson at (734) 764-9262 or e-mail lindapet@umich.edu.

“Charlie exemplified the values and faith with which the Survey Research Center was launched—the belief that data on the state of society, while not enough to guarantee wise and humane policies, are nevertheless essential for their formulation and adoption,” said his long-time friend and colleague Robert Kahn, ISR research scientist emeritus. “Since most data must be self-reported by respondents, their understanding of their role and their motivation to fulfill it are of critical importance. Charlie devoted his career to understanding and improving that data-generating relationship.”

In conjunction with the scheduled event, the Charles Cannell Fund in Survey Methodology has been established to support graduate students and continue Cannell’s work on the interaction between interviewer and respondent and its effect on response validity. Over $200,000 has already been raised for the fund, which will help support graduate students in the new Michigan Program on Survey Methodology at ISR. Kahn and Nancy Mathiowetz, associate professor of survey methodology at the University of Maryland and a former student of Cannell, serve as co-chairs of the fund raising drive. To contribute to the Cannell Fund, please contact ISR development director Patrick Shields at (734) 764-8369 or e-mail peshield@umich.edu.
sample persons consent to participate in a survey when requested, or provide incomplete answers to the questionnaire. ISR scientist and faculty member in the new program Trivellore Raghunathan has developed complicated imputation techniques that repair significant parts of the damage of missing information from some of the survey participants. Other recent work suggests how important an interdisciplinary approach to survey methodology has become. (For more information on this research, see page 17.)

In addition to the diverse perspectives U-M faculty members in the new program will provide on the design and analysis of sample surveys, the program will also take advantage of partnerships with the University of Maryland Joint Program in Survey Methodology and with other units within the University of Michigan, including the ISR Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques and the Detroit Area Study conducted through the U-M sociology department (see accompanying story). Every year, the Master’s and Certificate programs will admit up to 30 students each, while the Ph.D. program will admit between two and four students annually. For more information, please visit the program website: http://www.isr.umich.edu/gradprogram or e-mail michpsm@isr.umich.edu. To read more about the complexities of survey research, see “They’ve Got Your Number!” in the Fall 2001 issue of Michigan Today, available at http://www.umich.edu/~newsinfo/MT/mtfpg.html.

Nielsen Media Research. “Advertisers, advertising agencies, television and cable networks, television stations and rating companies will continue to rely on survey research professionals as they conduct their business,” says Hoynoski. “In fact, many of these organizations will rely on survey researchers even more to understand how consumers are using new delivery vehicles, such as the Internet, in their lives.”

“The people now running the field of survey research have all kinds of backgrounds,” notes Robert Groves, director of the ISR Survey Research Center. “By training, they are humanists, engineers, social scientists, mathematicians, and computer scientists. That’s very common in a dynamic, emerging field. In the past 15 years, however, the field of survey methodology has been moving from a haphazard collection of techniques passed along on the job to an integrated body of theory-based research design principles. At the same time, our practices are changing rapidly. Computer and other electronic technologies are permitting measurement techniques that were unthinkable just ten years ago.

Advances in our understanding of cognitive and communicative aspects of surveys are helping us to identify key measurement issues, while advances in statistical estimation are improving our handling of non-response and measurement of uncertainty.”

Quickly developing subfields of survey methodology need to be learned by new scientists in the fields. These include the rapid development of computer-intensive techniques to improve the quality of survey estimates when some questions in an interview are not answered. A contemporary challenge to survey research is the fact that not all...
Although she has been retired for nearly ten years now, ISR Center for Political Studies faculty associate Rosemary Sarri stays active conducting research and working with high-risk adolescents. Sarri, a professor emerita of social work, started her career working in settlement houses and for community groups. She currently serves on the board of a national program, Youth as Resources, designed to help young people, even those who need some help themselves, provide help to their communities.

“When young people have a stake in the betterment of the communities they live in and care about, both the young people and the communities benefit,” she says. She has also collaborated in research on youth in Korea, Hong Kong and Australia.

In the 1970s, Sarri co-directed a multi-million dollar research project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice to document the problems of the U.S. juvenile justice system, and her current research activities include a federally funded study of high-risk and delinquent girls between the ages of 14 and 18. Female delinquency is a growing problem, Sarri notes, accounting for 26 percent of all juvenile arrests across the country in 2000. “We tend to think of delinquents as victimizers,” she says. “But many of them are really victims themselves. Of 30 girls we recently interviewed, 27 had instances of reportable abuse in their histories. That’s the highest proportion I’ve ever seen. We don’t have really good epidemiological data on abuse, but the incidence seems to be increasing.”

Over the years, Sarri has worked with some very difficult kids, but remains convinced that few are beyond reach. “Middle adolescence is a troubled period for most kids,” she says. “It’s important for adults to help them without coming down too hard on them.” One of the greatest challenges, Sarri believes, is to provide young men and women with reliable information about sexual behavior, as well as access to birth-control and safe sex methods. “Only about 50 percent of the girls in our study report that they use condoms ‘sometimes,’” says Sarri. “That’s a disaster!”

Another issue that Sarri remains intensely concerned about is the over-representation of minority youth among those who are incarcerated. For example, in a recent study she found that minority teen boys make up two-thirds of the youth in Michigan’s juvenile justice system, although they comprise less than 32 percent of the state’s teen male population. “The disproportionate processing of minority persons by both the juvenile and the adult criminal justice systems should be a matter of increasing national concern,” she says. “But little concrete action is being taken to reverse this pattern. What is particularly disturbing is the lack of relationship between race, crime and conviction. In many ways, our society seems oblivious to the problem.”

With education reform a key domestic policy issue, ISR senior research scientist Maris A. Vinovskis finds his perspective in demand. Vinovskis went to Washington during the first Bush administration as an advisor in the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), stayed on to advise the Clinton administration, then returned to the policy arena to advise the Bush-Cheney transition team on education reform. “It’s been interesting to work for three different administrations,” says Vinovskis, a historian who also holds a faculty appointment at the U-M Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. “It’s always surprising when they ask me back!” In a recent article, for example, Vinovskis points out that the studies and evaluations sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education’s OERI are “barely respected by serious scholars.” If that isn’t blunt enough, he goes on to charge that the office has frequently suffered from “unstable and intellectually weak leadership.”

As a historian, Vinovskis enjoys providing a longer view than many beltway insiders are used to taking. Co-editor with David L. Featherman of Social Science and Policy-Making: A Search for Relevance in the...
Research Center for Group Dynamics

Social psychologist James S. Jackson is now in the final stages of data collection for the $8 million National Survey of American Life, a nationally representative survey of Black Americans funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. “This study will provide normative data on the Black population at the start of the 21st Century, and about important subgroups within that population, including Blacks of Caribbean descent,” says Jackson, who directs the ISR Research Center for Group Dynamics. The survey covers neighborhood conditions, religion, psychological resources, health problems, employment, family and friends, and mental health. The mental health section is being coordinated with the National Study of Health and Stress conducted by former ISR researcher Ron Kessler at Harvard University, and with the National Studies of Hispanic and Asian American populations conducted by Margarita Alegria at the University of Puerto Rico and David Takeuchi at Indiana University. This section contains diagnostic criteria on depressive and other symptoms, and detailed questions on medication use, among many other issues.

“This information will be vital in developing culturally sensitive theories, assessments, and interpretations,” says Jackson, who conducted the first nationally representative survey of Black Americans in 1980. “If we hope to understand intra-psychic, psychological phenomena, we must understand the conditions under which a group lives. ‘Good’ psychological health is confounded by real barriers. For example, when African Americans reach retirement age, their life satisfaction goes up, while white life satisfaction goes down at retirement. That’s difficult to make sense of without considering the context. If you’re retiring from a lousy job, working at a car wash or something, when you’re through with that, you’re a happy man.”

In New Directions: African Americans in the 21st Century, a recent book published by the National Policy Associations, Jackson notes that while the U.S. population is becoming more diverse, as a result of immigration and differential birth rates, the situation of many Black Americans is deteriorating. “Race is of continuing importance in a diversified America of the 21st Century,” maintains Jackson, who directs the U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, and co-directs the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research with Wayne State University researcher Peter Lichtenberg.

Among the many research projects Jackson is involved with is the How Americans Respond study conducted in the wake of the September 11 attacks. He is interested not only in the psychological impact of the attacks on the U.S. public, but also in the psychology of extremism. But his involvement extends to many other projects as well. For example, as a senior member of the new U-M Comprehensive Depression Center, the first in the nation to combine research, education, and treatment for the illness that afflicts over 18 million men and women every year, Jackson is participating in efforts to use epidemiological data about depression in the African-American community to
Since developing the “convoy theory of social relationships” with ISR emeritus psychologist Robert Kahn more than 20 years, ISR psychologist Toni Antonucci has conducted a series of studies exploring social relations and physical and mental health throughout the lifespan. In recent work, she has been examining cross-national similarities and differences, as well as gender and racial differences. With America becoming an increasingly multi-ethnic nation, public policies and programs aimed at supplementing the support older Americans receive should be based on understanding how race and culture as well as gender influence the social capital of older people, notes Antonucci, who is the current president of the Gerontological Society of America.

In a forthcoming special issue of the Journal of Social Issues published in honor of United Nations’ International Year of the Older Person, Antonucci, ISR research scientist Hiroko Akiyama and colleagues examine differences in social relations among older men and women in France, Germany, Japan, and the U.S. The unique cross-cultural study provides insights into how social relationships help older people around the world cope with the common challenges of aging. “In all four nations,” reports Antonucci, “we found that the quality of social relations can have important implications for helping people, particularly women, cope with widowhood, illness, and financial strains in later life.”

In other recent work, conducted in collaboration with ISR researcher Kristine Ajrouch, also affiliated with Eastern Michigan University, Antonucci has shown that while the number of social contacts tends to decline with age, older men and women with close friends are less depressed and more satisfied with their relationships. “Older people may discard the ‘draining’ aspects of larger social networks,” Antonucci says, “in order to focus on those ties that are most beneficial.”

In midlife, men and women tend to have larger social networks than either older or younger people. But bigger isn’t necessarily better, Antonucci and colleagues found. Women age 50 and over who had many close relationships were less happy than women with fewer people in their inner circle. Most middle-aged people have a spouse, children, and one or more parents who are a source of satisfaction and happiness, Antonucci explains, but who also make demands. As a result, close relationships with friends sometimes seem like too much of a good thing. Despite the potential of mid-life overload, Antonucci emphasizes that most men and women benefit tremendously from close, high-quality relationships. “People can cope with a lot of psychological stress and physical problems in their lives as long as they feel someone is supporting them through it,” she says.

A psychologist and senior research scientist at the ISR, Survey Research Center with a broad range of research interests, Norbert Schwarz came to the ISR in 1993 from the University of Heidelberg and ZUMA, a social science research center in Mannheim, Germany. In one line of work, Schwarz is exploring how mood affects thinking. “People evaluate nearly anything more positively when they’re in a good rather than a bad mood,” says Schwarz. “But mood may also profoundly influence the style of information-processing that people use. Sad moods facilitate careful, analytic reasoning, whereas good moods are mostly associated with routine reasoning.”

A little-known consequence of these differences, Schwarz has found, is that moods influence stereotyping. “We can form an impression of others by paying close attention to what the person says and does, or we can simplify things by relying on our stereotypes about the person’s social category,” he notes. People in a sad mood are more likely to invest the effort needed to arrive at a correct impression, while people in a happy mood are more likely to take a short-cut and stereotype. “In fact, even performance appraisals are more accurate when the appraiser is in a mildly sad mood,” says Schwarz. “So whether you want your boss to be in a happy or a sad mood when you’re evaluated depends on how good your
In 1975, Arland Thornton was finishing his doctoral dissertation on marital instability and fertility and had just accepted what he assumed would be a temporary position at the ISR Survey Research Center when Ronald Freedman invited him to help direct a panel study of mothers started in 1962 under the auspices of the Detroit Area Study. He accepted Freedman’s invitation and later took the lead in expanding the study into an intergenerational panel study by including both mothers and children in interviews in 1980, 1985, and 1993. “There’s no question that my decision to become involved in this study set in motion the direction of my career during the next quarter century,” says Thornton, a professor of sociology at the University of Michigan and a senior research scientist at ISR. “The study and my life are intertwined. I was talking to my daughter recently about some of my research on family life, and realized that this data set had had a big effect on my own family. It was the reason that all of my children grew up in Ann Arbor.”

Last year Thornton received a prestigious Merit Award from the National Institute of Child Health and Development for his work on the changing nature of American family life, including how parental values and attitudes are passed along to children as they make the transition to adulthood. Using the Intergenerational Panel Study of Parents and Children, which documents trends from the 1960s to the 1990s, along with other data sources, including the ISR Monitoring the Future Study, Thornton and colleagues have shown how norms and values about marriage and intimate relationships have changed in important ways.

“While marriage seems to have lost much of its power to control the sexual behavior of the unmarried, its control over the sexual behavior of the married seems to have increased,” he notes, with an overwhelming majority of American men and women expressing the belief that extramarital sex is wrong.”

Thornton and colleagues have also shown how complicated the nest-leaving process has become for young adults these days. By the age of 23, he has found, about 80 percent of young adults have moved out of their parents’ homes. Within three years after they first leave, about one-third return to the nest for a substantial amount of time. Then half of them are gone again within two years. “The move toward independence from performance is. A happy boss is preferable if you’re not doing well, particularly when a positive group stereotype can work in your favor. But if your performance is great, a less up-beat boss is a better bet – in particular when a negative group stereotype might work against you.”

In another line of work, funded by the National Institute on Aging, Schwarz and colleagues Denise C. Park at ISR and Bärbel Knäuper at McGill University have been studying how age influences the way people respond to survey questions. “We know that minor changes in question format and question order can result in major differences in the reported opinions or behaviors,” he notes.

“Complicating things further, we now find that changes in question format and order influence older and younger adults in different ways.”

In one study, Schwarz and colleagues investigated the effect of age on question-order effects. “As we age, our memory gets worse, and as memory gets worse, we found that questions asked earlier in the survey didn’t have as much influence. In fact, question-order effects—which are among the most reliable in the survey research literature—pretty much disappear in people over the age of 60.” In another study, the researchers found that age had the opposite impact on response-order effects. “As people age,” Schwarz says, “we found that these response-order effects increased substantially.”

Many apparent differences between the attitudes and behaviors of older and younger respondents may, in part, be a result of the way the questions were asked, rather than a reflection of actual cohort differences, this research suggests. In other words, survey results that seem to show that older men and women are more or less conservative than younger adults about divorce, abortion, or other social issues may be unreliable. “Unless you split the sample, using different question-orders and response-orders when asking key questions, you can’t really know to what extent any conclusions about cohort differences are limited by the survey instrument,” Schwarz says.

For more information, see Schwarz’s website: http://www-personal.umich.edu/~nschwarz/.

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the parental family is more complicated and multi-directional now than in the past,” he says, “with most young adults now having many more living options to choose from. This makes the process more volatile, with a much higher percentage of young adults leaving their parents’ homes to live with friends, by themselves, in group situations or to cohabit.” About five percent of males and 15 percent of females under age 23 left their parents’ homes to marry, Thornton found.

Analysis of the Intergenerational Panel Study data has also provided insight into how parental attitudes, values, and experience about religion, marriage and childbearing, for example, are linked with children’s adult attitudes and behavior. “Children of divorced parents are more likely to be sexually active, have more sexual partners, and enter into co-residential unions more rapidly,” Thornton says. “In addition, divorce shifts union formation of children away from marriage and toward cohabitation. One particularly provocative finding is that maternal remarriage magnifies many of the effects of divorce.”

Population Studies Center

The last year has been an unusually busy one for U-M demographer Bill Frey (pronounced Fry). In between interviews with The New York Times, the Washington Post and National Public Radio about the latest results from the 2000 U.S. Census, Frey, who is possibly the most-quoted demographer in the country, has written a series of articles on population trends for American Demographics magazine on such topics as which states are magnets for seniors, for boomers versus young adults, and for homegrown versus out-of-state and foreign-born populations. He has co-authored an accessible, even entertaining, account of the dramatic demographic changes that have swept the country, America by the Numbers: A Field Guide to the U.S. Population (The New Press, 2001), with colleagues Bill Abresch and Jonathan Yeasting, and produced a series of research reports for the Brookings Institution and the Milken Institute, where he is a senior fellow. His website, www.frey-demographer.org, is a pleasure to consult, and that isn’t the half of it.

In addition to his own research and outreach, Frey is busy expanding the “Census in the Classroom” project he created several years ago. It’s part of what Frey calls the Social Science Data Analysis Network (www.ssdan.net) that makes the latest U.S. census surveys and demographic trends accessible to educators, policy-makers, the media, and students at all levels. The project hosts workshops and provides course modules and tools to help college teachers introduce user-friendly data analysis into their introductory-level classes, with more than 1,500 faculty around the country currently using the materials. The Network also co-hosts a service called Ameristat with the Population Reference Bureau, with a website (www.ameristat.org) that actually lives up to its billing as a “one-stop source for U.S. population data,” providing fast facts accompanied by eye-catching graphics on a broad range of population topics from marriage and family to mortality. Moreover, the Network has just launched another website—www.CensusScope.org—which delivers new Census 2000 statistics in user-friendly formats.

“I believe we are filling an emerging niche for social scientists,” says Frey, “as ‘mediators’ between, on the one hand, existing specialized research and a barrage of new statistics, and, on the other, the legitimate need for general audiences to understand ‘what’s happening now and why.’ The Internet and Census 2000 have dramatically increased the appetite for this niche, which is also being recognized by funding agencies.”
Two ISR Researchers Elected to Institute of Medicine

ISR researchers George A. Kaplan and David R. Williams were elected in fall 2001 to the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM), the medical arm of the National Academy of Sciences. Membership is an honor reserved for those who have made distinctive contributions to health through biomedical or social sciences research or leadership in the health professions.

Kaplan is professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and a senior research scientist at the ISR. In addition, he is director of the Michigan Initiative on Inequalities in Health, the Michigan Interdisciplinary Center on Social Inequalities, Mind and Body, and the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health. Kaplan is best known for his work on inequalities in health, and has published more than 180 papers on the role of behavioral, social, psychological and socioeconomic factors in disease prevention and health promotion. A major theme in his work is the role of upstream and downstream factors in maintaining health, delaying disease and improving function. Kaplan aims to do research directed at establishing the close linkage between economic policy and social policy and health policy, thereby illustrating how epidemiologic methods can be used to guide research and policy in this area.

Williams is a professor of sociology, a senior research scientist at the ISR and a faculty associate in the U-M Center for AfroAmerican and African Studies. The author of more than 100 scholarly papers, Williams’ research has identified the mechanisms and processes by which racism, at both the societal and individual level, can impair physical and mental health. He has contributed to the understanding of why higher rates of disease, disability and death persist for economically disadvantaged persons, in general, and for racial and ethnic minority populations, in particular. He has provided theoretically informed descriptions and empirical illustrations of the ways in which multiple dynamic dimensions of socioeconomic status can affect the incidence, prevalence, and course of disease. His research, including a recent study on forgiveness and health has appeared in leading journals in sociology, psychology, medicine, public health and epidemiology. Williams is a member of two National Research Council/Institute of Medicine committees: the Panel on Race, Ethnicity and Health in Later Life and the Committee on Understanding and Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care.

One-fourth of IOM members are drawn from outside the traditional health professions, reflecting a very desirable diversity of disciplines and professions among Institute members. Well more than 100 members are in the physical, social, and behavioral sciences, law, administration, government service, and engineering. They, together with the health professionals in the membership, bring a breadth and depth of competence necessary for studies of today’s health problems, which have many more dimensions than the traditional concerns of medicine. Election carries the obligation to assist the organization in its governance and policy studies. Members make a commitment to devote a significant amount of time as volunteers on committees engaged in a broad range of studies on health policy issues.