

Notes – Session 12

Wrap-up session:

Comments or suggestions on format and content of this and future workshops.

Practical issues, call for papers, POQ – Data sets, issues from last year.

Next year : it was decided the workshop would meet 2 years in N Am, then one in Europe. Next year DC – who will oversee/organize, etc?

Mary: proceedings from this workshop even online – for our personal interest, and for others.

Frauke – agrees, and wants it too, from last year – if last year's group could put slides or papers in some format, for people's reference.

Mary – even like what Alan set up last year on his website – she thinks it promotes change, and good for others in field and us to reference.

Jaki – especially if one does not have expertise in a particular area, papers are particularly helpful, because slides are not enough.

Paul B. – good to have more than just slides, but here we are encouraging “half-baked” research, research not done, lots of flaws, and in progress – he doesn't like the idea of writing research up as papers when not ready to be disseminated. Doesn't feel completely comfortable with it.

Jacki – we could always have a disclaimer about it being “half baked,” not ready, but it is good for people's reference.

Paul L. – I think it should be voluntary, but ok to put up.

Alan – I don't think having a formal paper should be a requirement for participating.

Lars- it might be good half-way – if you think you have a pretty good paper, good. In the old days, without powerpoint, people brought papers to the conferences. Now, no.

Paul B. – yeah, something more narrative is good, sometimes it is hard to make sense of power points – so could be more of a paper, or just a bit more narrative.

Lars – Well, we are being served kindly by NISS, so we have some space there - We just need someone to be in charge of that site.

Alan – I still feel fine about hosting it.

Mary – I get points for proceedings papers, people are evaluated in different ways. What may mean little to some, means more to others.

Lars – That has always been the case.

Mary – Volunteering is fine, but it definitely benefits me.

Lars – We could call that space “Proceedings”...

Paul B. – Can you go to Google, “total survey error,” and see us, the site.

Alan – the new site will have built-in search capabilities , but you have faith in Google

Lars – in Slovenia, that is how it works, anything on that topic comes up with the search. But the main thing about the site is finding who can be responsible for it.

Frauke – collect the info, update it, put the papers, the structure of uploading it regularly

Alan- for us, the mechanics are easy – just need someone there to do higher level organization of it.

Lars – Catherine , at NISS, I have worked with her there, and she is very efficient. Also, it is a great gateway for us to use NISS.

Paul B. – do we need someone to do it?

Lars – It would be good if someone is responsible for gathering ideas, etc.

Alan – for lack of a better person, I could do it since I am there.

Lars – great

Frauke – so, some have presented us with slides already, will you just upload them?

Lars – no, you can edit them – let's agree on dates to submit

karr@nyss.org.

Paul B.– end of july

Paul L. – do we have everyone's email here?

Paul – About the call to papers - not just these people, call for papers is to larger group too – to everyone?

Paul L. I was asking about all of us, though.

Paul B. – we will put it on the site, as a PDF.

Frauke – different topic: congrats, lars, on this workshop. And the many breaks – the opportunity to talk to people, I bring this up, because, in DC, I am worried about these larger places. If that can be kept in mind, it would be good.

Jaki – If you have this in DC, 10x more people will want to come.

Paul B. – we kept it small, invites to previous attendees and to others we know do this research - we can always expand if we want, but we want to keep it small.

Jaki – also, people will leave on breaks, to go visit the sites of DC.

Alan – areas we can construe as DC, but not quite - Harper's Ferry.

Rachel – If you could announce the student award earlier, that would be good so that it is cheaper.

Lars - yes

Paul B. – If we could get other sponsors for the students, too, that would be great.

Paul L. – in DC, if we do an additional day, we could have some speakers to present that would be open to a larger group, and use that extra income to subsidize students.

Jaki – how many people were at the nonresponse bias conference last week?

Paul B. – people were watching on close caption tv from outside the room.

Clyde – Before, our first time, there were the stats elite, so those really doing the work, those of us here, were left out. I heard talk of doing it not in dc, but somewhere else – Sheperd's Town, WV, or something - it is like this, cabins, and hotel, etc. nice place, and near a federal center for train access.

Paul B. – St Michael's – 1st CHASM there.

Jaki – Charlesville too

Claude – a bit pricey, maybe.

Freuke – to follow up on our discussion from before – one of the things we want to do in the long run is get journals on board with what we do, it will help to disclose our proceedings, to make the process more public, so that others will do the things we do..

Matt – the way poq requires researchers to say something about the study relative to IRB, exact wording or questions, etc. Must meet minimum requirements.

Lars - Now, the emphasis is on non response rate, but not reporting other things about the survey. There should be other requirements as well.

Frauke – we should come up with a guideline for people.

Paul B. – what has to happen is someone very enthusiastic about the topic, heads a committee, then take it to AAPOR, POQ, etc.

Paul L. – I will take it to them – people interested in methodology and TSE., I will bring to board.

Onno – at Eurostat, we have a guideline, like nonresponse rate, coverage, etc – but we would like to develop this further

Lars - Eurostat works a lot with guidelines – but, it is less obvious how they are used

Onno – we would like to develop it further.

Frauke – there should be a handbook - part of it is just knowing, not that these guidelines would mean that you cannot publish if you don't meet them, but that disclosure is important.

Onno – we had difficulties including the flexibility that is needed – don't think we have fixed threshold...

Jost – at ESS we have that information.

Lars – yes, but in ESS they need indicators for each production step, too.

In order to advance this field, we need education efforts – what is offered is sampling theory, and scattered topics, but no systematic view on how to convey education material to survey statisticians and other interested parties – ideas about how this should be pursued would be good. In Europe, there are classes on sampling, a bit on analysis, very little on errors, so most involved in our industry get an inaccurate picture. We need to increase knowledge.

Mary – I am on committee for ASA – we are doing webinars this fall. So, we are looking for topics. Couple of hours around lunchtime, etc. we are currently just trying to learn about it, and we think we have an audience. This sounds like an opportunity.

Lars – It takes a concerted effort to reach out about what is known on TSE. Early on, there were only a few who thought about this in depth. Something is going to happen, so some must take charge of it. I think the competence of this field in general must increase – it is hard currently for these results to be used by others.

Paul B. – these abuses, most are just an educational effort, to stop these issues.

Clyde – (regarding next year) We need to book quickly If we want any of those locations.

Lars – Is some group interested in thinking about providing educational material, strategies?

Paul – yes, but no time.

Mary – anyone have a course already available for the webinar?

Parul – Lars and I have a course on survey quality

Mary – sounds good

Paul – and it is already prepared

Mary – it would be good to test it – they are already “set up” for these webinars.

Paul – I dk what a webinar is, but it sounds live – ours is a two day seminar.

Mary – oh, that's too long

Paul we could cut it.

Frauke – why not tape it? And put it on the web? Profs who were reluctant about putting taped lectures on the web were worried about actual attendance, but that is not true. I have been trying to convince colleagues about it, because it actually increases interest, and works for recruitment – I think already we already have a lot and can provide it in

other ways to people – short courses on methods exist too, but they are scattered, not organized, no sense of curriculum.

Onno – yes – Eurostat thinks about extending this idea, providing courses, with virtual capacity, including with other universities in Germany. To closer communicate.

Lars – there are initiatives, but they are limited in scope. Much of it, in Europe, on areas that, are not our stuff, our material is not covered there. I am interested in something that covers our laundry list. The things Paul and I are doing is a great intro, but we also need courses for those who would use latent path analysis – more advanced. There is a need for both. In my organization, most people don't know about the majority of the topics we talk about.

Frauke – Alan, if there is one section for training on the site, if we could have links to what is there out there already, it would be a central location that anyone can go to who would be interested.

Mary – courses? Material?

Fr – list of courses, about the trainings, etc. or links.

David – IASS site has information about everything that is going on, if not, I would not have found out about this.

Lars – people who give courses at IASS, they get little compensation. So, they are kept once they start. The reality is that guys who have courses have been teaching them for 15 years. But I agree, we should try to use all the courses listed.

Paul B – someone must gather all that information.

Lars – in Sweden, we have a course in Septemer. Paul and others will talk about error. But this is an ad hoc course. It would be good if more knew about these things.

Paul B. – what kind of process would be put in place to be sure these get sent to Alan?

Lars – I think we can cover lots of ground together.

Mary – also, if we want to post on Survey Research Methods website, could do that too.

Onno – Let me get this right, you miss some comprehensive curriculum?

Lars – my concern is that training in the field is conservative – in every county, just have training on, say, sampling theory analysis, adjustment techniques, confidentiality, but no concerted effort to look at survey quality in general, so we miss lots of error sources, and many of these are not known, even by statisticians. They ask “why do we believe in this cognitive stuff: it doesn't have affect,” and yet it does.

Onno - Michael at Eurostat would be interested in this connction, but still, the whole union is conservative, mostly just about sampling.

Paul – ISI must diversify?

Lars – Limited budget – people have been teaching for years, they ask them first, and unless they say no, it will be the same courses as last time.

Leil and andy – For next year's ISS meetings, if you have suggestions for courses, let me know, because I could put them in DUBLIN. For this conference: whether it makes sense to have short courses attached to this workshop - half-days, because good travel award, short day for short course, for more advanced courses. Others, who you would not want to come for the meeting may come for the course...that may be a more visible way of presenting our agenda, rather than getting lost at other meetings.

Andy - This was sent up as TSEW under the model of nonresponse – what I value here is that it is not like a conference – I get 100 times more out of this – present, discussion, small group. Putting the focus on outreach places the focus elsewhere. I am not sure that

the whole field is ready for this. Do we need to step back and say what is goal of this? Get together, collaborate, and figure out what needs to be done over next year.

Lars – That may be up for debate – originally about nonresponse, there was a distinct idea about how work should be done, and at the workshops, people should agree to work together. Well, it didn't really work like that – the only real collaboration was the book. Part of the problem was that those there did not have the power to decide what area they would work in – they were not managers, etc. So, the collaboration idea did not really work out. It turned out to be a workshop like this one: present, and get ideas. But I think we also have responsibility to advance infrastructure, if people are not ready to understand what is being presented here...

Paul B. – We try to stimulate research in this area. The theme last year of looking at more than one error source. That is not just last year, we want to take this broader look – maybe not TOTAL error, but major chunks. But I think the strength of this group, like any special interest group to act for change is the power to spread the word, publication, education, if we can get others to be more forthcoming to volunteer – at one point there was talk of a Wicki – hopefully, throughout the workshop we talk about topics and someone will get inspired.

Giovanna - Education, - we offer 2 quality courses, one for nonstatisticians, the second is more advanced. It does not cover sampling errors, only non-sampling errors, and we provide info about what can be done – They are successful, they only reach a small objective (audience?) – we could widen the quality within the institution. At least now people know there is formula for non response rate. But as far as estimation goes, nothing that can be compared to latent class analysis is offered. But...we have a lack of resources – or, slow process and we need more time to have higher efficacy in terms of spreading the estimation culture.

Clyde – is there a course on TSE?

Matt – we have a shared course with Michigan on TSE –

Clyde – if we could get copies of the syllabus.

Frauke - And the reading list too.

Clyde – We could make, say a two- day course – 2nd day could focus on a particular type, and people could choose, or certain types of analysis. Techniques, hard to do it all in one day. Intro stuff and modes, etc.

Matt – Bob gives it, the first lecture is whole 2 hrs just on the history of TSE.

Paul B. – We have a basic course, we need a more advanced one.

Fr – Well, this is the last course that masters take.

Paul B. – People need to know how to do it. How evaluate it, report it, and the implications for analysis.

Matt – I like this as a thinking group – if it became 100% education...

Paul B. – We hope that people gain awareness from this, that people realize there are multiple sources of error...to the extent we can get people to collaborate, none of that will be precluded if we do outreach. State we are in, people focusing only on non response – more than MSE to be aware of.

Lars – if we want things to proceed at a higher pace, we need more people to know about TSE. Papers that deal with one source of error will not chosen (for POQ special issue) we want more.

Lars – So, for training, Frauke said she could put in some thoughts, I could do that too. It would be good if we could have one more – Claudia?

Claudia – I could help with the website.

Andy – direct special interest groups? One that had papers of cross-cultural, cross-national surveys?

Frauke – I am torn, that worked one year, then people felt locked in one area. Not sure how sustainable that actually is. I don't know if you can identify it ahead of time.

Andy – well, it would take lots of forethought

Lars – CSDI, they have their own site, we have lots in common. I think it would be good if we can talk. There may be other examples not well covered today. If someone is interested in international surveys, that is an area that is really coming up. It is huge and there are so many problems. Visit the CSDI site – lots of good stuff there – they need more good persons of this kind.

Paul B. A paper topic: How do you design to correct for error on a fixed budget.

Paul will look into design that people are doing now.

Lars – There is little research on that.

Paul B. – People tend to just allocate based on intuition.

Leila – Minimizing survey error as a topic, in design, and in estimation. In estimation, is that done in national surveys?

Andy – Measure, reduce, adjust, must impose it for every survey.

Leila – How do you minimize through design.

Paul B. – We want to do all those things, but we want people to look at multiple error sources.

Leila – my CSDI group, is more focused on design, less on estimating in national surveys.

Lars – Yes, heavy in some areas. Writing specifications, design. Many error sources not there. The international surveys have been forced to start with first-things-first. They need an instrument that gives comparable data. Lots of effort put there - I think methodology is in its infancy. Problems we have in one country when it comes to cultures are magnified. We don't know how to deal with them – the surveys, however, are still happening. Can't ask them to wait 15 years to conduct them while we do the research.

Andy - Well they can benefit from this research. Not done, now in context of TSE.

Lars – No, they do some primitive risk assessment.

Paul B. - Well, the current conference committee should draft a mission statement.

Lars – Good! and we welcome feed back.

Paul B. – What it is, and what it isn't.

Marcel – Last year, people wondered about access to different data sets – I found out a they just created a group to investigate that: paradata and frame data as well. – They will be releasing data, with weights. Unfortunately, must wait 2to4 years, but, still, we would be the first to use this data, then it would be open to all Canadians, then to all researchers.

Paul B. – The idea is to have data sets available, for collaboration.

Freuke – Also true of the data that Garret has at IAB...