

## **JPSM Distinguished Lecture Series**

**Paul P. Biemer,**

RTI International and  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### **“Incorporating Level of Effort Paradata in Nonresponse Adjustments”**

**Friday, May 8, 2009 @ 3:30 p.m.**

**2205 Lefrak Hall, University of Maryland, College Park**  
There will be a reception immediately following the lecture.



Level of effort (LOE) paradata (especially number of call attempts) can be used in response propensity models to reduce nonignorable nonresponse bias in sample surveys. In applying these models, a number of issues arise, from the definition of terms such as “call attempt,” “contact/noncontact,” and “nonresponse,” to LOE truncation (callback censoring), unrecorded call attempts, and other data errors. As will be demonstrated, these problems can diminish the fit and utility of the models. Despite these problems, callback

models can substantially reduce the nonignorable nonresponse bias, particularly when data on nonrespondents are quite limited. This presentation will review some approaches for employing callback models for nonresponse bias adjustment and analysis, focusing on extensions of the Drew-Fuller model. Some of the problems in using LOE paradata in nonresponse adjustments will be described and the potential of the approach will be demonstrated for a large field survey.

Discussants: Jonaki Bose, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
Administration

Frauke Kreuter, Joint Program in Survey Methodology

Please join us on the 8<sup>th</sup>! The talk is open to the public, but we ask you to let us know you are coming by sending a note to Sarah Gebremicael at [sgebremicael@survey.umd.edu](mailto:sgebremicael@survey.umd.edu).