The Evaluation and Analysis of Survey Paradata

Instructors: Bob Groves and Mick Couper
Winter, 2008

Overview of the Course

“Paradata” are empirical measurements about the process creating survey data themselves. They consist of visual observations of interviewers, administrative records about the data collection process, computer-generated measures about the process of the data collection, external supplementary data about sample cases, and observations of respondents themselves about the data collection. The definition is not well-evolved and is subject to debate.

This course will have four parts:

a. Review of the (brief) literature on survey paradata
b. Review of analytic approaches to paradata
c. Student proposals on analysis of paradata
d. Analysis projects on paradata

Student Activities
Students will be responsible for reading the small amount of literature assigned, discussing it in class. Particular attention will be paid to identifying gaps in the past uses of paradata to answer questions about costs and errors of survey estimates.

Students will then expand the bibliography of relevant literature by their own searches, producing a more comprehensive set of readings.

Each student will propose an analysis of paradata to be performed on data supplied by the instructors. The proposal will be written and presented in the class.

Each student will conduct the proposed analyses and write a technical paper describing the analysis.

Student Prerequisites
Limited to PhD students in Survey Methodology or to others by explicit permission of one of the instructors.
Key Perspectives on Paradata Motivating the Class

1. Cost Efficiency of data collection
2. Building propensity models on paradata
3. Management interventions based on paradata
4. Using paradata as proxy indicators of measurement error
5. Error structures of paradata
6. Ethical consideration re paradata

Class Schedule

Thursday, January 29\n
Class 1 - Orientation
Overview and Class Scheduling
Student-level goals

Saturday, February 7, 9-11AM
Class 2 – Conceptual Framework of Paradata Issues


Friday, February 13, 3-5PM
Class 3 – Issues in Paradata for Nonresponse Error Investigations


Wednesday, February 18, 10AM-12PM
Class 4 – Issues in Paradata for Measurement Error Investigations


**NO CLASS WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23 (UMi Spring Break)**

**Friday, March 6, 3-5PM**

**Class 5 – Miscellaneous Other Issues**


**Friday, March 13, 3-5PM**

**Class 6**

**NO CLASS WEEK OF MARCH 16 (UMd Spring Break)**

**Wednesday, March 25, 9-11AM**

**Class 7**

**Friday, April 3, 3-5PM**

**Class 8**

**Friday, April 10, 3-5PM**

**Class 9**

**Wednesday, April 15, 9-11AM**

**Class 10**

**Friday, April 24, 3-5PM**

**Class 11**
Friday, May 1, 3-5PM
Class 12

Saturday, May 9, 11AM-1PM
Class 13

Wednesday, May 13, 9-11AM
Class 14