

The Sociological Methodologist

Newsletter of the Methodology Section, American Sociological Association
Spring 2005

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Contents

Spring Conference	1
Conference on Network Analysis Methods	1
ASA Session on Teaching Statistics	1
Web Project on Social Network Survey Protocols ..	2
New Book on Methods of Network Analysis	2
Notes from the Editor	3

Spring Conference

From Guang Guo

The 10th Spring Conference of the [American Sociological Association Methodology Section](#) was held at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill on Friday, April 22, 2005. The conference began with welcome remarks from Arne Kalleberg, Associate Dean, the College of Arts & Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Paper sessions on Survey Methodology, Causal Inference, Structural Equation Modeling, and Other New Methodological Approaches were held in the morning and afternoon. The keynote speech, entitled "New Claims about Executions and General Deterrence: A Case Study of Fakery and Causal Modeling," was given at the end of the day by Richard Berk, Distinguished Professor of Statistics and Sociology, Department of Statistics, UCLA. The conference dinner was held at the UNC Faculty Club. About 30-35 people attended the paper sessions.

This year's conference was organized by Guang Guo of the University of North Carolina, and Ken Land of Duke University. The conference was sponsored by the ASA Methodology Section, the Department of Sociology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, the Department of Sociology at Duke University, the Odum Institute at UNC-CH, and the College of Arts & Sciences at UNC-CH. Three of our colleagues (David Weakliem of University of Connecticut, Jim Moody of Ohio State University, and Hannah Brueckner of Yale University) have kindly agreed to consider the possibility of hosting the meeting in the Spring of 2006.

Conference on Network Analysis Methods

From Peter J. Carrington

There will be an informal conference on social networks July 16-17 of this year at the University of Oxford, England. It is organized by former students of the Univ. of Essex summer course on social networks. The conference is open to all and is not limited to any particular discipline. For information, visit <http://www.crim.ox.ac.uk/> and click where it says "click for more information"

ASA Session on Teaching Statistics

From Ferris J. Ritchey

For those who struggle with the challenges of teaching undergraduate statistics and want some very practical solutions, at the 2005 ASA meetings in Philadelphia, Professors Ferris J. Ritchey (University of Alabama at Birmingham) and

Thomas A. Petee (Auburn University) will present a session entitled "Successfully Teaching Statistics Without Watering Down." They presented this session at the 2004 ASA meetings and attendees found it valuable enough to warrant a rerun. The session follows a semi-workshop format with all present participating in discussions.

For additional information, please contact:

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Web Project on Social Network Survey Protocols

From David Tindall

David Tindall and Todd Malinick of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of British Columbia are developing a website on survey protocols for collecting social network data. There has been quite a lot published on social network measures, and methods of statistical analysis. Further, through UCINET, the INSNA website, and other sources, various social network data sets are publicly available. However, there is a dearth of information about social network survey protocols that are publicly available to researchers and students. We are compiling social network survey protocols to be posted on a publicly accessible website, to be used as a resource for researchers and students.

Please send us your questionnaires and/or interview schedules (preferably in MS Word format, or WordPerfect format), along with a brief description of what the pertinent items measure. Please provide any references to publications that were produced from research associated with your protocol. Please provide your name, contact

information, and institutional affiliation. You will be fully cited on the web page.

Please send these items and/or inquire for further information to:

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New Book on Methods of Network Analysis (published Feb. 2005)

Models and Methods in Social Network Analysis,
Edited by Peter J. Carrington, John Scott, and
Stanley Wasserman

(ISBN-10: 0521600979 / ISBN-3: 9780521600972)

"This volume is an important complement to Wasserman and Faust's *Social Network Analysis: Methods and Applications* (Cambridge, 1995). The authors, leading methodologists, present the most significant developments in quantitative models and methods for analyzing social network data that appeared in the 1990s. They review recent advances in network measurement, network sampling, analysis of centrality, positional analysis or block modeling, analysis of diffusion through networks, analysis of affiliation or "two-mode" networks, the theory of random graphs, and dependence graphs."

From the publisher's website:

<http://www.cambridge.org/us/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=0521600979>

Notes from the Editor

The Spring issue of *The Sociological Methodologist* is briefer than I had hoped. This newsletter depends entirely on submissions from section members, and these have been scarce. I hope this is more indicative of the way I've gone about soliciting submissions and scheduling publication than a lack of interest in having a section newsletter. It's been suggested, for example, that submissions be solicited during academic down-time, such as winter or summer holidays. Perhaps we can discuss this at the Methodology Section business meeting in Philadelphia.

In addition to being a vehicle for disseminating section news, I envision *The Sociological Methodologist* as a forum for section members to let each other know what they're working on, share ideas, insights, tips, and accomplishments. I see the editor's role as that of facilitator rather than reporter. Hopefully, we can discuss these issues in Philadelphia, also.

In the meantime, please send comments or suggestions to me at: L.raffalovich@albany.edu.