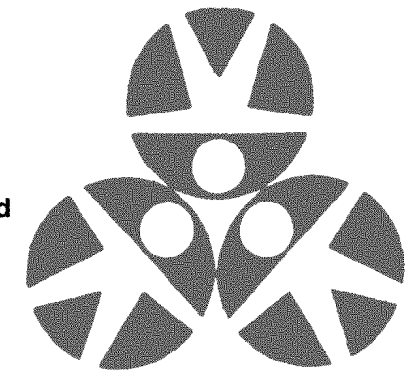


# ACSPRI newsletter

Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated  
Number 40, September 1999 ISSN 0158-6882



*incorporating*

## SSDA news

Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences,  
The Australian National University

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This newsletter is available at: <http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri/newsletter>

This newsletter is produced at the Social Science Data Archives, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, 0200. Phone 02 6249 4400; Fax 02 6249 4722 Articles, letters, research notes, conference information and other contributions are encouraged. Write to the editors at the address listed above, or send by e-mail to [ssda@anu.edu.au](mailto:ssda@anu.edu.au)

This issue of the ACSPRI Newsletter/SSDA News was edited by Sophie Holloway.

### ACSPRI WWW Pages (<http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri>)

The ACSPRI WWW pages provide more accessible, comprehensive, and timely information about ACSPRI services and activities. Web browsers may access the following ACSPRI pages at

(<http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri>):

- **Introduction**
- **Services**
- **Membership**
- **Members**
- **ACSPRI Programs in Social Research Methods**
- **Newsletter**
- **What's New / Hotline**
- **Contact Information**

The online Newsletter is accessible at least a week before the printed version is posted. An "amendment to address details" form is included with the on-line Newsletter for those readers who wish not to receive the printed Newsletter, preferring instead to receive a reminder when the latest on-line version is available.

### ACSPRI Membership News

Since the March issue of the Newsletter, the University of Melbourne has announced that Professor **Patrick Griffin**, Director of the Assessment Research Centre in the Faculty of Education, is to be its new Representative. Patrick may be contacted by telephone on 03 9344 8206, or by fax 03 9344 8790.

ACSPRI welcomes Dr **Neil Argent**, of the Department of Geography and Planning, School of Human and Environmental Studies, as the University of New England's new Representative. Neil's telephone number is 02 6773 2803 and his fax number is 02 6773 3030.

Finally, Monash University has announced that Dr **Bob Birrell** is to be the new ACSPRI Representative for the University. Bob may be contacted by telephone on 03 9905 2967 or by fax on 03 9905 2993.

A current, complete list of ACSPRI's academic and government members, with contact details for their Representatives, may be found on the ACSPRI web pages (<http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri/members.html>).

From 1 July 1996, the Joining Fee for new (or rejoining) members of ACSPRI has been \$500. The annual subscription remains \$970.

### 16<sup>th</sup> ACSPRI Summer Program (<http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri/courses/summer>) The Australian National University 24 January — 4 February 2000

The 2000 ACSPRI Summer Program in Social Research Methods and Research Technology (SP2000) will be co-hosted with the Research School of Social Sciences and the Faculties at the Australian National University from 24 January through 4 February 2000.

ACSPRI's 16<sup>th</sup> Summer Program will offer the following courses/workshops:

#### **Block 1 (introductory level)**

Improving Survey Quality  
Introduction to Statistics  
Data Analysis in SPSS  
Data Analysis in SAS  
Qualitative Research Techniques

#### **Block 2 (intermediate level)**

Fundamentals of Multiple Regression  
Principal Components and Factor Analysis  
Applied Regression Analysis  
Social Network Analysis  
Strategies of Policy Analysis  
Risk and Decision Making

#### **Block 3 (advanced level)**

Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling (using AMOS)  
Applied Logistic Regression  
Advanced Structural Equation Modelling with LISREL  
Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling (using LISREL)  
Analysis of Categorical Data (Log-linear Models)  
Multilevel Analysis with MLwiN and LISREL  
Event History Analysis

Comprehensive information about the Summer Program, including course descriptions, fees, and application procedures, is provided in the **Summer Program Course Booklet**, available on the SSDA WWW pages (<http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri/courses/summer>), or from:

ACSPRI-SP2000  
Social Science Data Archives  
Research School of Social Sciences  
Institute of Advanced Studies  
The Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200

Tel: 02 6249 4400; Fax: 02 6249 4722  
[ssda@anu.edu.au](mailto:ssda@anu.edu.au)

### The 1999 ACSPRI Winter Program at UWA

ACSPRI held its 6th Winter Program in Social Research Methods and Research Technology at the University of Western Australia from 28 June to 2 July. The Program, the third to be held at UWA, was again co-hosted by that University's Faculties of Economics, Commerce, Education and Law (ECEL) which, along with the Department of Psychology and the Department of Computer Science, provided computing facilities and technical support.

Whereas the 1997 Program at UWA had attracted 121 participants to eight courses, the 1999 Program attracted 110 to seven— its average course enrolment of 15.7, however, was the highest of any previous ACSPRI Program.

Applied Regression and Factor Analysis	19
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Introduction to Statistics	16
Multilevel SEM (MLwiN & LISREL)	15
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Slightly more than two-thirds of Program participants came from WA, and, of these, 34 were from the University of Western Australia, 16 from Curtin University of Technology, 7 from Edith Cowan University, with the remainder coming from the WA public and private sectors.

New South Wales (10), Victoria (9), and South Australia (9) contributed the most interstate participants, with Queensland (4), ACT (1), and New Zealand (1) sending the rest. Participation from non-ACSPRI member institutions was greater than at previous Winter Programs, with state government departments in WA alone sending fourteen participants.

The UWA affiliated Kingswood College again provided accommodation for the Program, with the UWA Student Guild catering morning and afternoon tea/coffee, as well as the Program's Monday evening reception. The unofficial Program dinner on Tuesday was held at Stephenies Restaurant in Nedlands.

ACSPRI thanks its instructors for their fine teaching, the University of Western Australia for superb administrative, technical and catering support, and participants for their involvement in the 1999 Winter Program.

### Memorandum of Understanding Signed for ACSR

The Chair of ACSPRI Council, Professor Frank Jones, has signed the Memorandum of Understanding between ACSPRI and the Australian National University for the establishment of the new ACSPRI Centre for Social Research in the Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS). As reported in the last Newsletter, Professor Jones headed a three member working group (Associate Professor Ann Daniel of UNSW and Dr Brian Graetz of LaTrobe were co-members) established by Council to negotiate arrangements with the Director of the RSSS, Professor Ian McAllister. With the establishment of ACSR, recruitment of a Director has begun.

### Update on ABS/AVCC CURF Agreement

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that, as of 1 September, 29 Australian universities had signed the AVCC-ABS CURF agreement, allowing students/staff at these universities to access, free of charge, all of the Bureau's available confidentialised unit record files. The following universities had not yet signed the agreement: Bond University; Central Queensland University; James Cook University; Northern Territory University; Southern Cross University; University of Ballarat; University of Notre Dame; and University of Southern Queensland.

Eighteen of the subscribing universities had made 129 applications for CURFs, no applications had been denied, and 89 CURFs had been distributed. The ABS was 'maintaining its ability' to deliver a file within six weeks of receiving the application. Of the 51 CURFs made available by the Bureau, 42 different CURFs had been ordered. The ABS's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) web page regarding the CURF 'release process' had been amended since the agreement was signed, and now clarifies in particular the restrictions on CURF usage by academics for consultancies.

As indicated in the last Newsletter, the agreement facilitates academic access to (unidentifiable) unit record data from a range of the Bureau's labour and social household surveys. Many of these CURFs were previously only available commercially (most at a RRP of \$7,500 per CURF).

In order to gain access to a CURF, a separate application for each CURF, together with a legally binding undertaking, signed by a 'responsible officer' of the university, must be submitted to, and approved by the Australian Statistician. The undertaking requires that only 'authorised' students and staff of the participating university use the CURF for 'statistical purposes' and not 'to support commercial or income generating projects'. It requires the responsible officer, who is legally responsible for the CURF and its use, to keep a list of all authorised users of the CURF, and to ensure that these users agree to the terms and conditions of the undertaking.

The undertaking also requires the responsible officer to 'return' (or, if authorised in writing by the ABS, 'destroy') the CURF and all authorised copies to the ABS when 'authorised use' ceases or 'by the date specified for its return by the ABS, whichever is sooner'. The ABS suggests that such fixed time approval for use of a CURF will be 'generally a maximum of 12 months', but may be extended if the responsible officer requests it in writing.

The application and undertaking are contained in the '**CURF Application and Undertaking Booklet for Universities**' distributed by the ABS through its Library Services. Once the Booklet has been completed and signed by the responsible officer, the entire Booklet needs to be submitted to Library Services.

Staff and students in universities that have not signed the ABS/AVCC Agreement will now also need to use the Application and Undertaking Booklet when purchasing a CURF.

To access the ABS web pages pertaining to the ABS/AVCC Agreement, select the 'University access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files' link at the following URL: <http://ssda.anu.edu.au/UPDATES/index.html>. The ABS site has a useful Frequently Asked Questions page, a list of available CURFs, and a PDF (Acrobat) downloadable version of the **Application and Undertaking Booklet**, which may also be obtained by contacting: The Director, ABS Library Services, Unit 5 Ground Floor, Cameron Offices, Chandler Street, Belconnen, ACT, 2616. Phone (02) 6252 6610, fax (02) 6252 6906, or e-mail: [library@abs.gov.au](mailto:library@abs.gov.au).

## New CATI facility at Central Queensland University

The Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR) at Central Queensland University is proud to announce the opening of its new Population Research Laboratory (PRL) to assist in the development of social research in the region and throughout Australia. The PRL promotes and facilitates research and student learning within the Centre for Social Science Research at Central Queensland University. We work with faculty to secure project funding, train undergraduate and post-graduate students, sponsor and conduct our own research, and provide services for the community and Central Queensland. The PRL has the ability to apply appropriate methodological tools to a variety of social issues and concerns. The data gathered and evaluated by the PRL provides useful information to both the public and private sectors of Central Queensland and the wider Australian community.

We maintain a 10-station Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) facility using Ci3 software by the Sawtooth Software Corporation. The lab offers trained interviewers, standardised callback procedures, a sound methodological approach to survey construction, automatic record keeping, and in-process data cleaning and analysis. In addition, the PRL has the capacity for Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), disk-by-mail (DBM), online Internet data collection, and the direct to database scanning of pen and paper data collection tools.

The initial project by the PRL at CQU is the Central Queensland Social Survey (CQSS). The survey is designed to be the flagship project of the PRL, annually collecting data from a representative sample of the population of Central Queensland using CATI procedures. The survey is an omnibus study of a wide range of social issues germane to the CQ population. The first CQSS is scheduled to run in early October of this year (1999).

The Centre for Social Science Research at Central Queensland University is keen to involve other parties in large-scale, population-based research using the facilities now available through the Population Research Laboratory. For more information about the PRL or to discuss the possibility of collaborative research opportunities using our facilities, please contact either:

Dr. Kerry Mummery, Associate Director, Population Research Laboratory, Centre for Social Science Research, Central Queensland University, (Tel. 07 4930 76749; [k.mummery@cqu.edu.au](mailto:k.mummery@cqu.edu.au)) or Dr. Dani Stehlik, Director, Centre for Social Science Research, (Tel. 07 49 309 405; [d.stehlik@cqu.edu.au](mailto:d.stehlik@cqu.edu.au)).

## The NESSTAR Project

NESSTAR (Networked Social Science Tools and Resources) is a project being developed jointly by the Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD), UK Data Archive and the Danish Data Archive (DDA). Its objective is to achieve what its developers term the 'virtual data library'—an interface on the Internet to archived data and metadata (i.e. study descriptions, codebooks, coding instructions, explanatory notes, etc.) worldwide.

Through the NESSTAR software, an integrated data discovery, analysis and dissemination system based on Java/Corba technology and a newly developed metadata standard expressed as an XML-DTD, users will be able to:

- Locate multiple data sources across national boundaries
- Browse detailed metadata about these data
- Analyse and visualise these data online
- Download the appropriate subsets of data in one of a number of formats for local use. The system will include advanced user authentication procedures to prevent unauthorised use of data.

According to the NESSTAR developers:

*Searching across archives is fully seamless in the NESSTAR system, which is based on the Cheshire search engine [<http://cheshire.lib.berkeley.edu/>]*

*Although many data providers and data archives are producing high quality metadata, the integration between metadata and the data as such are usually less than satisfactory. The bulk of metadata are often stored in separate systems and must be viewed by other software devices than the data. This is partly due to the fact that the formats of most statistical packages do not support inclusion of metadata (beyond simple variable and value descriptions).*

*NESSTAR is trying to bridge this gap between metadata viewing and data analysis. Metadata in NESSTAR are, therefore, not only used for resource discovery. As soon as a dataset is located, the accompanying XML-formatted metadata travel the net and can be viewed in a combined metadata/data browser. In this tool the user can easily jump from full text descriptions of variables to statistical analysis. When analysing data, the relevant parts of the metadata will never be more than one keystroke away.*

*The on-line data browser in NESSTAR includes basic statistical methods like n-way crosstabs, breakdown analysis, correlation and regression. For every statistical method, relevant graphical visualisation methods are available. The data browser is designed for two purposes: for the advanced user, the browser will mainly be used to decide whether or not a particular dataset fits a research purpose. If data can be used, the advanced user will probably download the data in an appropriate format and continue the analysis in his/her own favourite statistical package. In situations where the user decides to continue the analysis locally, the dataset can easily be sub-setted by variable and/or cases to create manageable selections or simply to save bandwidth. For the more inexperienced user, the methods that are available in the NESSTAR browser might be sufficient. In this case downloading of data for local analysis will not be needed.*

(Jostein Ryssevik and Simon Musgrave: The Social Science Dream Machine: Resource discovery, analysis and delivery on the Web. Paper given at the IASSIST conference "Building bridges, breaking barriers: the future of data in the global network", Toronto, May 99)

A Beta version of the NESSTAR system is to be distributed to 7000 users at the end of September. For more information about the NESSTAR Project see <http://www.nesstar.org/>. To take a 'guided tour' of the Nesstar 'end user interface' see [http://www.nesstar.org/M\\_What\\_Is.shtml](http://www.nesstar.org/M_What_Is.shtml)

## UK National Digital Archive of Datasets (NDAD)

The UK National Digital Archive of Datasets (NDAD) is operated by the University of London Computer Centre and the University of London Library under contract to the Public Record Office (PRO), and acts to preserve electronic datasets generated by UK government departments which have been selected by the PRO for permanent preservation.

NDAD preserves digital datasets and makes them available to the public via a freely accessible web site at <http://ndad.ulcc.ac.uk/>. To gain access to the data, there is now an online registration form that allows immediate access to the Archive.

To find out more about NDAD, visit their website at <http://ndad.ulcc.ac.uk/> or email on [support@ndad.ulcc.ac.uk](mailto:support@ndad.ulcc.ac.uk)

## General Social Survey Data Online

The March 1999 release of the General Social Survey Data and Information Retrieval System (GSSDIRS) is now available at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/GSS99/>. This version of the GSSDIRS site covers data collected from 1972 through 1996.

The GSS (General Social Survey) is an almost annual, "omnibus," personal interview survey of U.S. households conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) with James A. Davis and Tom W. Smith as principal investigators (PIs). The first survey took place in 1972 and since then more than 35,000 respondents have answered over 2500 different questions.

The Web site has online codebooks, GSS publications, and variable trends. It also allows free online analysis of this data using the Survey Research Center's (University of California) online data analysis program SDA.

The previous version of GSSDIRS is still available at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/GSS/>. This version includes data collected from 1972 through 1994. It will remain available to allow current users to make the transition to the current version.

## Sociometrics Social Science Electronic Data Library

The Sociometrics Social Science Electronic Data Library is a US health and social science resource that consists of six topically focused data archives. With over 300 data sets from 200 different studies comprising six topically-focused collections, it is a unique source of high quality health and social science data and documentation for researchers, educators, students, and policy analysts. The collections include: AIDS/STD; Disability; American Family; Adolescent pregnancy and pregnancy prevention; Aging; and Maternal Drug Abuse. The Electronic Data Library is available on a set of CD-ROMs and includes an online membership with free access to datasets for downloading by members.

Through ACSPRI's ICPSR membership, people ordering through ACSPRI can receive a 15% discount on the Sociometrics collection. For more information, visit the Sociometrics Web site at <http://www.socio.com/edl.htm> or contact the SSDA on 02 6249 4400 or email [ssda@anu.edu.au](mailto:ssda@anu.edu.au).

Sociometrics Social Science Electronic Data Library <http://www.socio.com/edl.htm> August 16 1999.

## If Not Significance Testing, What Should We Teach in Introductory Statistics Courses for Psychology and the Social Sciences?

Michael J. Smithson, Division of Psychology, A.N.U.

Many readers will be aware that various disciplines throughout the human sciences are moving away from traditional Neyman-Pearson-Fisherian significance testing. This trend has been a long time coming, particularly in psychology where I teach undergraduate statistics. It raises questions about what we should be teaching instead, especially at the undergraduate level, and whether we need new textbooks or other materials to revamp our curricula.

I should state straight away that I have taken a position and written an introductory textbook, *Statistics with Confidence* (to be published by Sage, U.K., due out in November this year). The main options I considered in formulating my approach are listed below. Cutting straight to the chase, I elected to say "No" to 1, 6, 7, and 8 and "Yes" to 2-5.

1. Ban significance tests
2. Model comparison framework
3. Exploratory data analysis
4. Effect size measures
5. Confidence intervals
6. Monte-Carlo techniques (e.g., bootstrap and other resampling techniques)
7. Bayesian approaches
8. Inference and estimation based on generalized probability theories

From the book's title, it is clear that confidence intervals figure largely in my approach, so I should offer a few remarks concerning my reasons for adopting a confidence interval framework. First and foremost, on all counts it seems clearly superior to the traditional significance testing approach. Persuasive arguments to this effect have been offered for many years in psychology. Early examples include Rozeboom (1960) and Meehl (1967). The groundswell of authoritative opinion against significance testing and in favor of confidence intervals mounted to a tidal wave by the 1980's and early 1990's (e.g., Oakes, 1986 and Hunter & Schmidt, 1990).

And still, instructional practice and editorial policies largely clung to significance testing. Frustrated commentators such as Oakes (1986: 68) asked

why it had not been abandoned long ago, and yet a large-scale survey of American graduate psychology programs around that time (Aiken et al., 1990) found little evidence of change. Recently, calls for banning significance testing altogether have appeared in high-profile journals (e.g., Hunter, 1997 and Schmidt, 1996).

A task-force on this topic in the American Psychological Association (APA) published its report on the APA website in 1996, recommending substantial reforms in statistical analysis, but stopping short of stipulating a ban on significance tests. Their chief recommendations have been taken up in this book:

- More extensive descriptions of data (i.e., means, standard deviations, sample sizes, five-point summaries, box-and-whisker plots, other graphics, and descriptions related to missing data as appropriate); and
- Routine reporting both direction and size of effects as well as their confidence intervals.

Banning significance testing seems unlikely to do much other than alienating both students and colleagues, who must still read and work with the traditional research literature. Rather than banning significance tests, I think a healthier approach involves teaching confidence intervals and model comparisons, while presenting significance testing as a special case so that students can read the older literature. Even from a hypothesis-testing viewpoint, there are advantages to a confidence interval based approach. Confidence intervals alert us to all the null hypotheses we can and cannot reject. Power is much more easily taught with confidence intervals. That said, there is also clearly a need for statistical methods instruction to move away from significance testing so that the next generation will not repeat and perpetuate our errors. Confidence intervals seem likely to assist us in doing just that.

What about the more "radical" (and certainly more modern) alternatives (6-8)? These are the directions that statistical methods are taking, and with their incorporation into computer applications, their usage seems likely to become far more widespread. There is much to be said for introducing these at a more advanced undergraduate and post-graduate level. At the present time, however, I do not think that it would be feasible to bundle them along with a confidence interval approach for an introductory course. Doing so would overload students (and possibly teachers as well!) without providing sufficient immediate reward for the effort required to assimilate it all. The more revolutionary alternative of abandoning the

Neyman-Pearson tradition altogether (in favour of, say, a Bayesian approach) is not viable at the present time for the same reasons I've given for not banning significance testing.

The end result is an attempt at a reformation, rather than a call to revolution. Interested readers may wish to visit the website for *Statistics with Confidence* at this address:

<http://psy.anu.edu.au/staff/mike/Statbook/TOC.html>

### References.

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## The ACSPRI Newsletter is online!

Send us your email address and we'll notify you when the latest edition is available.

For those of you with access to the internet this is the best way to receive the newsletter - it will offer you more up-to-date information and it's environmentally friendly!

<http://ssda.anu.edu.au/acspri/newsletter>



## Fifth International Conference on Social Science Methodology

October 3 - 6 2000

### Call for Papers

The Fifth International Conference on Social Science Methodology is being organised by Research Committee on Logic and Methodology (RC33) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), Gesellschaft sozialwissenschaftlicher Infrastruktureinrichtungen (GESIS) and Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung (ZA), University of Cologne, Germany. This conference will combine all areas of quantitative and qualitative methods in empirical research. Earlier conferences were held in Amsterdam, Dubrovnik, Trento, and Essex. The Zentral Archive in Cologne will be our host on 3-6 October 2000. GESIS will co-organize the conference, and Jörg Blasius of the ZA-Archive will act as chair of the organizing committee.

Persons wishing to organize a session have to send a proposal of the session and a list of potential speakers who they would like to contact. A session should last approximately 90 minutes, and have four to six papers. The session should be as international as possible and focus on recent trends and developments in quantitative and qualitative methods. Papers which combine methods and empirical results are very welcome. The deadline for session organisers (full proposal) is 30 September 1999.

Persons wishing to present a paper should send: a title; an abstract of no more than 200 words; name and affiliation of the author who should be contacted and key-words. The deadline for abstracts for individual papers is 31 January 2000.

For more information, visit the conference site at URL: <http://www.za.uni-koeln.de/rc33/>, or contact Jörg Blasius, Zentralarchiv fuer Empirische Sozialforschung, Universität zu Köln, Bachemer Strasse 40, D-50931 Koeln, Germany or email at [rc33@za.uni-koeln.de](mailto:rc33@za.uni-koeln.de).

## Conferences

**ASC 3rd International Conference, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland  
22 - 24 September 1999**

Building on the success of its 1992 and 1996 international events, and to set the scene for the millennium, The Association for Survey Computing is pleased to announce that in 1999 it will be hosting its Third International Conference on Survey and Statistical Computing in Edinburgh. The theme of the conference is Leading Survey and Statistical Computing into the New Millennium. Topics of invited papers include: Usability Evaluation of Computer Assisted Survey Instruments; Software for the new Millenium; Data Mining: New Challenges for Statisticians; Innovation and Change in Population Census Taking; Understanding Behaviour in the New Millenium and Trends in Survey Data Processing.

Contact: ASC Conference, PO Box 60, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 3QH, UK. Tel/Fax: (+44) 1494 793033. Email: [booking@asc.org.uk](mailto:booking@asc.org.uk). URL: <http://www.asc.org.uk/Events/Sep99/index.htm>.

**APSA 1999 Conference, Sydney, NSW  
26-29 September 1999**

Australasian Political Studies Association will hold its 1999 conference at the University of Sydney. The conference will include a special morning-long stream on "The Politics of the Olympics". Perspectives will be based on overseas as well as Australian experience, historically as well as contemporaneously grounded, and foreign policy as well as domestic politics.

Contact: APSA 1999, Department of Government and Public Administration, Merewether Building HO4, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006. Tel: 02 9351 2054. Fax: 02 9351 3624. Email: [apsa@econ.usyd.edu.au](mailto:apsa@econ.usyd.edu.au). URL: <http://www.econ.usyd.edu.au/govt/apsa/apsa99.htm>

**Institute of Australian Geographers National Conference, Sydney, NSW  
27 September to 1 October 1999**

This year's conference theme is Geography at the Millennia, allowing sufficient scope to accommodate a wide range of papers from all aspects of geography. Some areas to be covered are economic, rural, cultural, health and physical geography, gender and geography, indigenous issues, coastal studies and assorted special sessions.

Contact: Assoc. Prof. John Connell or Chloë Flutter, Division of Geography, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, NSW 2006. Tel: 02 9351 2805/7842. Fax: 02 9351 3644. Email: [iagconf@geography.usyd.edu.au](mailto:iagconf@geography.usyd.edu.au). URL: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/geography/conference/IAG.html#About>.

**APS 1999 Conference, Hobart, Tas  
29 September – 3 October 1999**

This year's Annual Conference offers a high quality and invigorating 5-day program appealing to both a professional and scientific audience. Topics include: Health Issues; Mental Processes and Cognition; Gerontology and Families; and Organisational and Social Psychology. The Program, featuring over 70 symposia, forums, workshops and poster sessions, will provide delegates with a wide variety of choices and tackle a breadth of contemporary psychological issues.

This years keynote speakers include: Professor Norman Feather, The Flinders University of South Australia; Professor John F. Kihlstrom, University of California, Berkeley; Professor Mary Luszcz, The Flinders University of South Australia; and Professor John Weinman, Guy's Hospital, London.

Contact: The Conference Coordinator, The Australian Psychological Society Ltd, P O Box 126, Carlton South VIC 3053. Tel: 03 9663 6166. Fax: 03 9663 6177. URL: [http://www.psychsociety.com.au/news/fr\\_news.htm](http://www.psychsociety.com.au/news/fr_news.htm)

**Workshop on the Complexity of Multivariate Problems, Hong Kong  
4 – 8 October 1999**

Contact: Complexity '99, c/o Department of Mathematics, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong SAR, China. Tel: 852 2339 7015, Fax: 852 2336 1505. Email: [complexity99@math.hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:complexity99@math.hkbu.edu.hk). URL: <http://www.math.hkbu.edu.hk/complexity99>

**17th International AES Conference, Perth, WA  
6-8 October 1999**

The aim of the Australasian Evaluation Society is improving the theory, practice and use of evaluation. The theme of the AES International Conference is 'Evaluation - "Challenging Boundaries"'. The Society is honoured to have secured the participation of three outstanding international Keynote speakers:

- Prof Blaine Worthen, well known author and editor of the American Journal of Program Evaluation;
- Prof Nick Tilley, President of the UK Evaluation Society; and
- Dr Maria Barados, Assistant Auditor General of Canada

In the two days prior to the conference, a wide range of half day and full day workshops will be offered. Topics include: Designing evaluations; Obtaining customer feedback; Focus groups; Qualitative software; Program logic; Needs analysis; Performance auditing; and Cross-cultural evaluation.

Overall, the week should offer delegates a wide variety of exciting speakers, a stimulating program and opportunities for networking and "catching up" with other evaluation practitioners.

Contact: AES International Conference, c/- Keynote Conferences. Tel 08 9382 3799. E-mail: [keynote@ca.com.au](mailto:keynote@ca.com.au). URL: [http://www.ca.com.au/~keynote/conf\\_pge/cnf1eval.html](http://www.ca.com.au/~keynote/conf_pge/cnf1eval.html)

**1999 International Association for Time Use Research Conference, University of Essex, U.K.  
6-8 October, 1999**

The theme of the conference is 'The State of Time Use Research at the End of the Century'. Interest in time-use is at an all time high as evidenced by the European harmonised Time Use Survey and recent planning in the United States. Attention in the area of time-use has focused to a great extent on its role in supporting the valuation of non-market activity. However, time-use data can make a far broader contribution to well-being, including the changing role of work and leisure.

Contact: Andrew S. Harvey, Time Use Research Program, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS, CANADA, B3H 3C3. Tel/fax: +1 902 420 5676 or +1 902 420 5129. E-mail: [Andrew.Harvey@Stmarys.ca](mailto:Andrew.Harvey@Stmarys.ca). URL: <http://www.stmarys.ca/partners/iatur/iatur2.htm>

**Best Practice Interventions in Corrections for Indigenous People, Adelaide, SA  
13-15 October 1999**

Hosted by the Australian Institute of Criminology, the aims of the conference will be to examine and compare some of the best practice interventions being used within the Australian correctional system for Indigenous people. The conference will provide a forum for Correctional Administrators, custodial staff, Indigenous groups, health professionals, researchers and many others to participate. The AIC is also delighted to be able to draw on the knowledge and experiences from a number of international speakers and participants.

A significant component of the conference will introduce expert speakers to discuss specific programs operating within their jurisdictions that are viewed to be making positive contributions to reducing the significant over-representation and custodial death problems, together with progress in reforming areas of the criminal justice system dealing with Indigenous offenders and addressing the underlying issues such as disadvantage and inequality that have contributed to their excessive incarceration rates.

Contact: Conference Co-ordinators, PO Box 139, Calwell, ACT 2905. Tel 02 6292 9000, Fax: 02 6292 9002. E-mail [conference@netinfo.com.au](mailto:conference@netinfo.com.au). URL: <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/indigenous/index.html>

**The Transformation of Australia's Population, 1970-2030, Canberra, ACT  
14-15 October 1999**

On 14-15 October 1999, the Demography Program of the Australian National University will be conducting a two-day seminar entitled: The Transformation of Australia's Population, 1970-2030.

The seminar will be held at University House on the ANU campus in Canberra. The papers address the changes that have occurred in different aspects of the Australian population over the past 30 years and look forward to the coming 30 years. The list of papers and speakers is:

The Indigenous Population Fertility Trends	Dr John Taylor Dr Gordon Carmichael and Prof. Peter McDonald
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Mortality Trends  
Immigration  
Internal Migration  
Population Distribution  
Family  
Ethnicity  
Labour Force  
Ageing

Dr Heather Booth  
Dr Robert Birrell  
Dr Martin Bell  
Prof Graeme Hugo  
Prof Peter McDonald  
Dr Siew-Ean Khoo  
Prof Bruce Chapman  
Dr Don Rowland

In addition, Prof Philip Morgan of Duke University, a leading United States demographer, will discuss the similarities and differences in trends in the United States and Australia. Prof Geoffrey McNicoll will provide a synthesis.

Contact: Demography Program, RISS, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200. Tel: 02 6249 2307. Fax: 02 6249 3031. Email: [Demog.Program@coombs.anu.edu.au](mailto:Demog.Program@coombs.anu.edu.au). URL: [www.demography.net](http://www.demography.net)

**Improving Literacy Learning, What does the research tell us? Glenelg, SA  
18-19 October 1999**

A number of recent research studies have provided important new insights into literacy learning in schools. This conference, organised by the Australian Council for Educational Research, brings together leading literacy researchers to review the current state of knowledge on ways of improving literacy learning. Outstanding international and national literacy researchers will review research findings in the areas of enhancing early literacy learning, setting international benchmarks in literacy and exploring literacy and new technologies.

Contact: Ms Lexie Marshall, ACER, Private Bag 55, Camberwell, VIC, 3124. Tel: 03 9277 5503. Fax: 03 9277 5500. Email: [conference@acer.edu.au](mailto:conference@acer.edu.au). URL: <http://www.acer.edu.au/conferences/national99.htm>

**International Conference on Survey Nonresponse, Portland, USA  
28-31 October 1999**

The International Conference on Survey Nonresponse is being co-hosted by the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Survey Research Methods Section, American Statistical Association, Council of American Survey Research Organizations, Council for Marketing and Opinion Research, and the International Association of Survey Statisticians.

The last major international meeting devoted to survey nonresponse was mounted in the early 1980's. In the 13 years since then the field has changed in important ways:

- the techniques and properties of multiple imputation were discovered and use of the method has become more common;
- theories of survey participation have been forwarded, identifying principles underlying nonresponse;
- the experimental literature examining the role of interviewers, mode of data collection, and survey task burden on cooperation has expanded;
- the practices of the field with regard to the use of incentives, refusal conversion, mixed mode designs, and other mechanisms to reduce nonresponse have changed;
- more sophisticated adjustment procedures for ignorable nonresponse mechanisms have been explored; and
- advances in the specification of adjustment and estimation procedures in the presence of nonignorable nonresponse have been made.

However, there has been no international scientific meeting devoted to survey nonresponse since the early 1980's, and there is no single printed volume describing these developments, for use by professionals wishing to inform themselves of the state of the art.

**Goals of the Conference and Monograph**

The conference and edited volume have the following goals:

- the conference will gather together large numbers of active researchers in survey nonresponse and missing data issues;
- the conference will stimulate the assembly of documentation of state of the art practice;
- the conference will stimulate the writing of papers suitable for publication in a special issue of a survey journal;
- the volume will be designed to be a description of the state of the art in social science and statistical theory and practice in nonresponse

rate reduction, nonresponse error measurement, and postsurvey compensation for nonresponse;

- the volume will be designed to be suitable for university use; that is, it will not be a proceedings volume, but an integrated treatment of the field.

**For Tentative Session Schedule and Paper Abstracts, see <http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/icsn99/main/tentative2.htm>**

Contact: ASA Mtg Dept, 1429 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314-3415. Fax: +1 703 684-8069. E-mail: [meetings@amstat.org](mailto:meetings@amstat.org). URL: <http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/icsn99>

**Data & Strategies in Evaluating Research & Development, ANU, Canberra  
15-16 November 1999**

Systematic R&D evaluation techniques and modes of analysis have progressed markedly in the past two decades and, at the same time, have achieved a higher status in policy development in the innovation systems of many countries. The centres responsible for much of this work are, in some cases, entering the second and third decades of their active life, an impressive round of conferences and symposia now routinely occurs, and the range and sophistication of journals in the broad fields of research evaluation improves annually. This Symposium, jointly sponsored by: Research Evaluation and Policy Project, and Reshaping Australian Institutions, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, brings together a number of leading researchers for a critical stocktaking of the field.

Topics include: the routine generation of achievable data (e.g. compilation of national and international R&D statistics); implications of the WWW for data provision; standards issues for international comparison in R&D, data gathering and analysis; levels of aggregation in R&D evaluation; refining and validating measures for linking R&D, and their socio-economic effects; quantification of effects of R&D; integration and interaction of quantitative and qualitative R&D evaluation methods; implementation of results of R&D evaluation in the S&T policy-making process.

Contact: Bev Biglia, Research Evaluation and Policy Project, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, 0200. Tel: 02 6249 4849. Fax: 02 6249 3969. Email: bevb@coombs.anu.edu.au. URL: <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/Depts/RSSS/REPP/repp.htm>.

#### Australia's Welfare 1999, Canberra, ACT 25 November 1999

To coincide with the launch of Australia's premier welfare publication, Australia's Welfare 1999, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is presenting a one-day conference on welfare services in Australia. Sessions will examine the content of the publication and other issues relevant to welfare services in Australia.

Contact: Michelle Wells, Communication and Public Affairs, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601. Tel: (02) 6244 1012. Fax: (02) 6244 1044. Email: michelle.wells@aihw.gov.au. URL: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/events/index.html>.

#### 1999 AARE-NZARE Conference on Research in Education, Melbourne, Vic 29 November - 2 December 1999

Since 1970, Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) has organised major annual conferences on research in education across Australia. The conferences are intended to provide a forum for exacting criticism, to increase awareness of the breadth of research areas, to inspire new research directions, to foster co-operative research ventures, and to provide a forum for interaction and fellowship amongst the educational research community within Australia and in the international context.

This joint AARE and NZARE (New Zealand Association for Research in Education) conference is the last conference on educational research to be held in the twentieth century and will focus on globalisation, the challenges facing education in the new millennium, and what can be learned from past research. Sub-themes include: new learning environments; policy and strategy development; using education to break down social and cultural barriers; university, school and industry education and training of the

future, technology and education, as well as traditional research themes including: educational psychology, measurement, language and literacy, research methodology, early childhood, teacher, TAFE and vocational tertiary education, and subject themes.

Contact: AARE Office Services, PO Box 71, Coldstream, Victoria, 3770. Tel: 03 5964 9286 Fax: 03 5964 9586. Email: aare99@swin.edu.au. URL: <http://www.swin.edu.au/aare/conf99.htm>

#### TASA Conference 1999, Melbourne, Vic 7-10 December 1999

The 1999 conference of the Australian Sociological Association (TASA) will be held at Monash University, Melbourne, from 7-10 December. The Health and Women's sections will meet on 7 December, with the full conference commencing Tuesday evening, 7 December. The theme of the conference is, "Sociology for a new millennium".

Contact: TASA Conference, Dr Harry Ballis, Monash University, School of Humanities, Communications & Social Sciences, Gippsland Campus, Churchill Victoria 3842. Tel: 03 9902 6339, Fax: 03 9902 6359 Email: harry.ballis@arts.monash.edu.au. URL: <http://www-mugc.cc.monash.edu.au/gss/tasa/index.htm>

#### History of Crime, Policing and Punishment, ANU, Canberra 9-10 December 1999

The Australian Institute of Criminology in conjunction with the Professional Development Centre (Policing), Charles Sturt University is hosting a conference relating to historical and developing issues in the areas of crime, policing and punishment. The conference aims to increase knowledge and understanding of different criminal justice issues, the errors/successes of the past, the interaction between models of criminal justice and wider social forces, and the history and development of current practices. This should be an important forum of interest to academics, researchers, historians, policy makers and practitioners from areas such as policing, law, sentencing, corrections, indigenous and ethnic community groups, sociology and criminology.

Contact: Conference Co-ordinators. Tel: 02 6292 9000. E-mail: [conference@netinfo.com.au](mailto:conference@netinfo.com.au). URL: <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/hcpp/index.html>

## SSDA News

### Staff News

Since the last Newsletter, Paul Floro from IT Support has left the SSDA to work at CSC. Adam Mein and Charlie Ward have been hired to fill the gap.

### SSDA Web Pages

The SSDA Web pages are a main point of user contact with SSDA services and staff. These pages are updated regularly.

- **About the SSDA** - describes our function to preserve machine readable data and facilitate secondary analysis of data.
- **Accessing our Data** - includes online data order form.
- **Data Holdings** - complete, searchable catalogue of all SSDA Australian Studies, Polls, and Census holdings.
- **Depositing Data** - provides information for data deposit procedures with the SSDA.
- **Online User's Guides** - a growing library of all SSDA Special User's Guides.
- **Downloading Data** - our primary means of data distribution.
- **Online Analysis** - OASSIS allows basic statistical analysis of our most popular data sets.
- **SSDA Staff** - telephone numbers and email addresses for all SSDA/ACSPRI staff members.
- **SSDA/ACSPRI Updates** - provides updates of new releases and other information that may interest our visitors.

General enquiries can be directed to Email: [ssda@anu.edu.au](mailto:ssda@anu.edu.au) or Telephone (02) 6249 4400.

### ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files – August 1999

The ABS now provides a comprehensive list of CURFs from the period 1975 to present, including some that have yet to be released. Staff at all Universities party to the ABS/AVCC agreement are able to apply for access to each of these files. For more information, visit the ABS website at <http://www.statistics.gov.au/>

Title	Reference Period
Alcohol & Tobacco Consumption Patterns	1997
Aspects of Literacy	1996

### Gaining Access to International Data

The SSDA is one of many Social Science Data Archives around the world. A central goal of each of these archives is to encourage the use of data for secondary analysis, whether it is local, international or multinational data. As a result, it is the role of the people working at a data archive to be able to assist a researcher to locate applicable data, even if that data is stored overseas.

The most useful source of international data for Australian researchers is the ICPSR data archive in the USA. ICPSR holds not only US data, but data from all over the world. It is also an excellent source of multinational data, such as the Eurobarometers or the World Values Survey. Each year ACSPRI pays the Australian subscription to the ICPSR archive. This allows the SSDA to download the ICPSR data on request and pass on this data to ACSPRI members at a discounted rate.

Other archives around the world, such as Zentralarchiv, University of Cologne in Germany, and The Data Archive (formerly ESRC) at the University of Essex, UK also continue to be very useful to Australian researchers. The SSDA can help Australian researchers make contact with these other archives, and locate the required information.

To find out more about other sources of data, go to our Other Data Archives pages at [http://ssda.anu.edu.au/OTHER/other\\_archives.html](http://ssda.anu.edu.au/OTHER/other_archives.html). If you would like more information about accessing international data please contact the SSDA at [ssda@anu.edu.au](mailto:ssda@anu.edu.au) or phone on 02 6249 4400.

Title	Reference Period
Australian Families	1982
Australian Housing Survey	1994

Title	Reference Period	Title	Reference Period
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns	1994-96	Income and Housing Costs Survey, Australia	1996-97
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns	1994-97	Income Distribution Survey, Australia, Sample File	1986
Business Longitudinal Survey, Australia	1994-95 to 1996-97	Labour Mobility	1984
Census 81 - Sample Files	1981	Labour Mobility	1986
Census 86 - Household Sample Files	1986	Labour Mobility	1994
Census 91 - Census of Population and Housing: Household Sample File	August 1991	Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults, Australia	1997
Census 96 - Census of Population and Housing: Household Sample File	August 96	Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults, Western Australia	1997
Child Care Survey	June 1993	National Health Survey (formerly Australian Health Survey)	1977-78
Child Care Survey	March 1996	National Health Survey (formerly Australian Health Survey)	1983
Domiciliary Services, Victoria	1986	National Health Survey (formerly Australian Health Survey)	1989-90
Disability, Ageing and Carers	1993	National Health Survey (formerly Australian Health Survey)	1995
Education and Training Experience, Australia	1997	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey	1994
Families in Australia	1992	National Nutrition Survey	1995
Household Expenditure Survey, Australia	1975-76	Rental Investors' Survey	July 93
Household Expenditure Survey, Australia	1984	Rental Investors' Survey	June 1997
Household Expenditure Survey, Australia	1988-89	Survey of Training & Education	1993
Household Expenditure Survey, Australia	1993-94	Survey on Rental Tenants	April 94
How Workers Get Their Training	1989	Time Use Survey (pilot test NSW only)	May to June 1987
Income and Housing Costs and Amenities Survey, Australia	1989-90	Time Use Survey, Australia	1992
Income and Housing Survey, Australia	1981-82	Time Use Survey, Australia	1997
Income and Housing Costs Survey, Australia	1994-95	Training and Education Experience, Australia	1993
Income and Housing Costs Survey, Australia	1995-96	Womens Safety Survey	1996
		Working Arrangements	1993

Not Yet Released

Title	Reference Period
Disability, Ageing and Carers	1998
Income and Housing Costs Survey, Australia	1997-98

### OASISS Version 3

Earlier this year, the SSDA developed Version 3 of OASISS. OASISS is the SSDA's web interface to SPSS designed to allow users remote access to selected SSDA datasets for some basic analyses such as recodes, frequencies and crosstabulations. The main purpose of OASISS was to allow users a closer look at the data prior to ordering their own. Version 2 added the ability for experienced SPSS syntax users to be able to access the more complex SPSS procedures. The main aim in the development of version 3 was to make it more user friendly.

In 1998 we became aware that lecturers were running tutorials on OASISS. Whole classes were assigned OASISS-based assignments, which not only tested the system's capacity for having many users at once, but also tested the format of OASISS for ease of use. This exercise made it evident that a few simple changes to OASISS would further simplify and enhance the introduction to secondary analysis for students.

While remaining mostly the same, Version 3 has step by step guides to assist the less experienced user. Other improvements included a more secure log in procedure, a more useful recoding facility and enhanced layout. OASISS was also put on a larger machine, allowing increased speed and a greater ability to cope with many users accessing it at the same time.

Version 3 has been used by a class of 1<sup>st</sup> Year Research Methods students taught by Richard Volpato and Bert Taylor at the University of Canberra. To heighten the feedback procedure, Bert invited Sophie Holloway and Derek Foster from the SSDA to participate in two tutorials at the University of Canberra.

The majority of students were able to use OASISS successfully. The main difficulty was with students remembering their password. OASISS has been set up to create personal accounts for users. The benefit of having personal accounts is that OASISS can store each user's results for a period (one month), allowing only the user access to their account during this period. OASISS has the further feature of emailing results of analyses to each user's specified account. This can be problematic in a class-based situation when a user forgets to bring their password. While OASISS is set up to email the passwords again, this might be emailed to the user's personal email address, which they cannot access while in class. One way around this is to still create separate accounts for each user, but each having the same password, which the lecturer has access to. Lecturers will have to contact the SSDA in order to implement this system.

Another problem we found was that students had problems swapping between the windows used in OASISS. There is a central OASISS window in which all requests for analyses are made. However users should also have the User's Guide open, to allow them to identify the variables they are interested in. When a user clicks on the User's Guide link, this opens it up in a separate window. To go back to OASISS, a user only needs to click on the original OASISS window.

Aside from those difficulties, Version 3 of OASISS has been found to be much more user friendly. The SSDA invites people to test Version 3 of OASISS. We hope you will find it faster and easier to use. We ask that any lecturer wanting to use OASISS in a class situation please contact us. We can assist with the assignment of class passwords, as well as the provision of further documentation to assist the less experienced user. Please feel free to send any comments or suggestions to [ssda@anu.edu.au](mailto:ssda@anu.edu.au) or phone us on 02 6249 4400.



## Announcing New Special User's Guide

### National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 1998

Paul Williams, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. (SSDA No. 1016).

This study is the sixth in a series of national household surveys to examine current awareness, attitudes and behaviour related to drugs and drug problems, usage of drugs, and to assess changes in these attitudes and usage over the period 1985-1998. The five earlier studies are Social Issues in Australia, 1985 (SSDA No. 405), the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1988 (SSDA No. 498), the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1991 (SSDA No. 610), the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1993 (SSDA No. 765) and the National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 1995 (SSDA No. 862). A supplement was also carried out targeting the urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations in 1994 (SSDA No. 824).

As with the previous surveys in the series, the questionnaire asked respondents about their degree of concern regarding various social issues and drugs. A sealed section of the questionnaire allowed respondents to indicate their usage of each drug without the interviewer being aware of their answers. In addition, self-completion

questionnaires were administered to two supplementary samples.

The drugs covered were: tobacco/cigarettes, alcohol, pain killers/analgesics, tranquillisers, steroids, barbiturates, marijuana, heroin, amphetamines, cocaine, hallucinogens, LSD, ecstasy/designer drugs and inhalants. This survey also includes extra questions on State and Territory regulations on cannabis use, alcohol and drug related incidents, respondent's friends drug use, a section on methadone, and the SF-36 survey instrument which enables the respondents personal health 'score' to be calculated.

Background variables include state, urban/rural, sex, date of birth, marital status, birthplace, language spoken at home, employment status, occupation, educational attainment, income and household descriptions.

The National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 1998 User's guide is available for browsing at <http://ssda.anu.edu.au/SSDA/CODEBOOKS/D1016/title.html>. It is also freely downloadable in both rtf and pdf format. The data is now available from the SSDA. Please contact us for more information on [ssda@anu.edu.au](mailto:ssda@anu.edu.au) or phone on (02) 6249 4400.

## Recent Additions to SSDA Holdings

Additions to the SSDA holdings are listed below. Please note that some of these carry an Access Category which should be read as follows:

**A:** the depositor wishes to be informed (by the Archives) of use being made of the data, in order to comment on that use and make contact with colleagues of similar interests

**B:** the depositor wishes to be informed of each request to use the data in order to give or withhold permission

**E:** there is an embargo period - no access is permitted until after the date specified

**S:** there are special access conditions peculiar to the data set in question

**U:** as specified in the User Undertaking Form, the user is required to obtain permission in writing of the original depositor of the data, or an authorised representative, before publishing any interpretation of such materials

**tba:** to be advised (Access Category not determined).

For data sets listed as having no special Access Category, users must still sign a standard Undertaking Form prior to access.

Data can be ordered via the SSDA's WWW pages at [http://ssda.anu.edu.au/ssda/data\\_order\\_form.html](http://ssda.anu.edu.au/ssda/data_order_form.html). Charges for data can be supplied on request.

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Peter Dwyer, Youth Research Centre. **Youth Research Centre Life Patterns Project 1991-1997.** (SSDA Study No. 1000)

The Youth Research Life Pattern Project is a progressive longitudinal analysis of Victorian students' life experiences, aspirations and expectations for the future. The aim of this study was to identify barriers to participation in, and effective delivery of, programs in vocational education and training. The original database included 29,155 Victorian students who were planning to finish schooling in 1991. These participants were resurveyed a year later. In 1995, a matched sample of participants who were representative of the original set were contacted and completed a detailed survey to provide an up-date on their progress. Annual surveys were also completed in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Variables include work and study involvement, area of study, stage of study, current employment, lifetime goals, future career aspirations, and attitude towards education and the different education pathways. Background variables include sex, living situations, social background, and disabilities.

**Access Category: A**

Deborah Saltman, Manly Hospital. **Patient and Provider Feedback Project, 1998.** (SSDA Study No. 1006)

This study aimed to allow elderly patients in Australia access to information about 'functional status' (how effectively a person is performing at any given point in time - in relation to health) and 'health care utilisation' (the frequency of medical services used over a period of time) for the first time. It also examined the relationship between 'functional status' and 'health service utilisation' in the sample as a means of predicting patients which may require medical services once discharged from hospital. This was considered important in order to assess and predict future demands on health care and services.

Variables used to measure functional status included physical functioning, role physical, bodily pain, general health, vitality, social functioning, role emotional and mental health.

Background variables included age, gender and length of stay in hospital (days).

**Access Category: B**

Ward, Nick, Queensland Aids Council. **The Popular People Project, 1994.** (SSDA No. 1007).

The Popular People Project was undertaken as part of the Queensland AIDS Council's investigation into preventative education interventions in Australia's gay communities. The objectives of the interventions were to decrease levels of unsafe sex, increase knowledge about the risk of different sexual activities and to increase the perception of peer support for Safe Sex within the gay venue attending community.

Elements of the project included: the identification and recruitment of opinion leaders, or 'Popular People'; their participation in a four week training course covering information on Safe Sex and HIV/AIDS, and how best to make conversations with friends and strangers in nightclubs; and the conversations in nightclubs initiated by the Popular People.

The main variables evaluated were behaviour, knowledge, perception of peer support, and attitudes with regard to Safe Sex practices of members of the gay venue attending community.

These were measured by collecting data on areas such as demographics, behaviour, relationship status, knowledge, perception of peer norms and perception of risk and self efficacy.

**Access Category: A**

Kippax, Susan et al., National Centre for HIV Social Research. **The Male Call Project, 1992.** (SSDA Study No. 1008).

The Male-Call Project's objective was to examine homosexually active men's knowledge of HIV and AIDS and their sexual practice, and how these relate to a number of demographic and contextual variables. It was also used to develop a set of core questions that could be used as a set of indicators for monitoring HIV-related knowledge and adoption of safe sexual strategies among men who have sex with men in Australia.

Main variables include sexual identity, gay community and social involvement, sexual practice - enjoyment, frequency (regular and casual partners) and sexual history, media exposure, general AIDS knowledge and attitudes, 'safe sex' knowledge and practice,

change in sexual practice, sex with women, prostitution, health practices, drugs, testing, relationship to people with AIDS.

Background variables include age, country of birth, ethnicity, accommodation, labour force status, occupation, income, level of education, religion, marital status, and parenthood.

**Access Category:** BU

Withers, Glenn, The Australian National University and David Throsby, Macquarie University. **Measuring Demand for Public Expenditure, 1992.** (SSDA Study No. 1009).

The aim of this study was to measure willingness to pay for a range of public expenditures out of taxation and to assess the extent to which demand was based on recognition of public good benefiting the respondents, their household or the community in general. Two questionnaires were used, one with a module covering health and the arts, and the other, education and the environment.

Variables include perceived community, individual and household benefit of government spending on items such as public transport, roads, law enforcement, the arts, recreation, health, the environment, and education. Variables also include use of health facilities, public transport and police services; cultural participation, sporting event and national park attendance.

Background variables include sex, age, country of birth, household composition, highest qualification, type of schooling of dependents, occupation and income.

**Access Category:** B

McDonald, Peter, Jones, Frank and Mitchell, Deborah The Australian National University, and Baxter, Janeen, University of Tasmania. **Negotiating the Life Course, 1997.** (SSDA Study No. 1015).

Negotiating the Life Course is designed to study the changing life courses and decision-making processes of Australian men and women as the family and society move from male breadwinner orientation in the direction of higher levels of gender equity. The project has six aims:

- to extend the theories of human capital and

new home economics in explaining women's and men's labour force participation;

- to map women's and men's work trajectories over their life course, from career entry into retirement, and to develop explanatory models of career trajectories;
- to identify those aspects of the family-household system and the labour market that facilitate or impede women's involvement with the labour market;
- to investigate the interrelationships between labour force decisions about family formation and household arrangements;
- to identify the portfolio of resources that women and men draw upon throughout their lives when making decisions about career and family; and
- to assess the policy implications of the findings of the project for the institutions of the welfare state, the labour market and the family.

Variables include relationship and fertility histories, household work, child care arrangements, future objectives, attitudes to work, promotion, children and relationships.

Background variables include parental country of birth, employment, occupation and education, respondent's and spouse's place of residence, education, income, housing, religion, health status, birthplace, marital status and household composition.

**Access Category:** S



## Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth

The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) has recently deposited five surveys in the series of Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) with the SSDA. In the ACSPRI Newsletter 37, March 1998, Gary Marks from ACER wrote the following about the LSAY project.

*One of the major policy thrusts of Australian governments in recent years has been the creation of flexible pathways between education, training and paid employment. Understanding the transitions between education, training and work is greatly facilitated by longitudinal surveys of cohorts of young people. Since the late 1970s major contributions to improving the knowledge base in this area have resulted from two programs of longitudinal studies. One of these was the ACER program called Youth in Transition and the other was the Australian Youth Survey (and its predecessor the Australian Longitudinal Survey) conducted by DEETYA itself. Research based on those studies has examined the causes and consequences of educational participation among different groups in the Australian population, and how these patterns have changed over time.*

*From July 1995 the two programs were brought together as the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth. The new project currently has three components:*

- *ongoing contact with the Youth in Transition cohort that was born in 1975,*
- *management of data collection and archives for the Australian Youth Survey, and*
- *the establishment of, and data collection from new LSAY cohorts (the first being a sample of over 13,000 students from Year 9 in 1995 with a second sample planned for 1998).*

The SSDA now holds the following studies in the LSAY series

D1011 - Youth in Transition, 1961 Cohort  
D1012 - Youth in Transition, 1965 Cohort  
D1013 - Youth in Transition, 1970 Cohort  
D1014 - Youth in Transition, 1975 Cohort  
D959 - Australian Youth Survey 1989-1994  
D980 - Australian Youth Survey, 1995  
D981 - Australian Youth Survey, 1996  
D1010 - Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth, 1995, Year 9 Cohort

If researchers are interested in gaining access to these data, please contact the SSDA on 02 6249 4400 or email [ssda@anu.edu.au](mailto:ssda@anu.edu.au).

## ICPSR Additions

The following titles have been extracted from the ICPSR Winter Bulletin, 1999. Data sets are not currently held by the SSDA, but may be ordered from ICPSR on request. Contact the SSDA for more details.

To access additional information about data collections listed below, please consult the ICPSR Website at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu>.

British General Election Cross-Section Survey, 1997 -- A. Heath, R. Jowell, J.K. Curtice, and P. Norris (ICPSR 2615)

British General Election Panel Survey, 1992-1997 -- A. Heath, R. Jowell, and J.K. Curtice (ICPSR 2616)

British General Election Study: Campaign Panel, 1997 -- A. Heath, R. Jowell, J.K. Curtice, and P. Norris (ICPSR 2619)

British General Election Study: Scottish Election Survey, 1997 -- D. McCrone, A. Brown, P. Surridge, and K. Thomson (ICPSR 2617)

CBS News Call-Back Poll, August 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2603)

CBS News Call-Back Poll, September 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2610)

CBS News Monthly Poll #2, July 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2602)

CBS News Monthly Poll #1, August 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2604)

CBS News Monthly Poll #3, September 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2609)

CBS News/New York Times Monthly Poll #1, July 1998 -- CBS News/The New York Times (ICPSR 2601)

CBS News/New York Times Monthly Poll #3, August 1998 -- CBS News/The New York Times (ICPSR 2606)

CBS News/New York Times Monthly Poll #1, September 1998 -- CBS News/ The New York Times (ICPSR 2607)

CBS News/New York Times Monthly Poll #2, September 1998 -- CBS News/ The New York Times (ICPSR 2608)

CBS News/New York Times Monthly Poll #4, September 1998 -- CBS News/ The New York Times (ICPSR 2611)

Canadian Election Survey, 1997 -- Andre Blais, Elisabeth Gidengil, Richard Nadeau, and Neil Nevitte (ICPSR 2593)

China Housing Survey, 1993 -- John R. Logan and Yanjie Bian (ICPSR 2571)

Controlling Victimization in Schools: Effective Discipline and Control Strategies in a County in Ohio, 1994 -- Steven P. Lab and Richard D. Clark (ICPSR 2587)

Crime Changes in Baltimore, 1970-1994 -- Ralph B. Taylor (ICPSR 2352)

Criminal Careers, Criminal Violence, and Substance Abuse in California, 1963-1983 -- Ernst Wenk (ICPSR 9964)

Current Population Survey, 1998: Annual Demographic File -- United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census (ICPSR 2573)

Current Population Survey, February 1998: Displaced Workers and Employee Tenure -- United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census (ICPSR 2574)

Employee Stock Ownership Plans, 1982-1991: [United States] -- Eric S. Sheppard and Stephen J. Smela (ICPSR 2600)

Eurobarometer 43.0 and 43.1: Drug Abuse and AIDS, March-May 1995 -- Karlheinz Reif and Eric Marlier (ICPSR 6661)

Eurobarometer 44.3OVR: Employment, Unemployment, & Gender Equality, Feb-Apr 1996 -- Karlheinz Reif and Eric Marlier (ICPSR 2443)

Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1970-1971 Through 1971-1972: College and University Libraries -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2113)

Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1968: Fall Enrollment -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2056)

Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1969: Fall Enrollment -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2057)

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Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1972: Fall Enrollment -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2060)

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Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1973-1974: Financial Statistics -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2099)

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Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1973-1974: Institutional Characteristics -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2043)

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Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1980-1981: Salaries, Tenure, and Fringe Benefits of Full-Time Faculty -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2199)

Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1981-1982: Salaries, Tenure, and Fringe Benefits of Full-Time Faculty -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2202)

Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1984-1985: Salaries, Tenure, and Fringe Benefits of Full-Time Faculty -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2203)

Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1985-1986: Salaries, Tenure, and Fringe Benefits of Full-Time Faculty -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2204)

Improving the Decision-Making Skills of Secondary School Students, 1992-1993: [Eugene, Oregon] -- Robin Gregory (ICPSR 2361)

Lectures and Seminars in German Universities on the Sciences of State, 1820-1914 -- David Lindenfeld (ICPSR 2515)

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 1995 -- United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics (ICPSR 2354)

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 1996 -- United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics (ICPSR 2355)

National Corrections Reporting Program, 1996: [United States] -- United States Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics (ICPSR 2448)

National Health Interview Survey, 1994: Second Supplement on Aging -- United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics (ICPSR 2563)

National Health Interview Survey on Disability, 1994: Phase I, Person and Condition Data -- United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics (ICPSR 2562)

National Health Interview Survey on Disability, 1994: Phase II, Adult Followback -- United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics (ICPSR 2568)

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National Survey of Self-Care and Aging: Follow-Up, 1994 -- Gordon H. DeFries and Jean E. Kincaid Norburn (ICPSR 2592)

Patterns in the Bankruptcy Reorganization of Large, Publicly Held Companies, 1979-1988: [United States] -- Lynn M. LoPucki and William C. Whitford (ICPSR 2555)

School Culture, Climate, and Violence: Safety in Middle Schools of the Philadelphia Public School System, 1990-1994 -- Wayne N. Welsh, Patricia H. Jenkins, and Jack R. Greene (ICPSR 2026)

Science and Technology-Based Economic Development Programs [United States]: A Study of Evaluation Efforts, 1996 -- Julia Melkers and Susan Cozzens (ICPSR 2591)

Social Weather Stations Survey [Philippines]: Quarter I, 1995 -- Social Weather Stations (ICPSR 2367)

Social Weather Stations Survey [Philippines]: Quarter II, 1995 -- Social Weather Stations (ICPSR 2405)

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 1993 Panel, Longitudinal File -- United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census (ICPSR 2421)



- Uniform Crime Reports: Monthly Weapon-Specific Crime and Arrest Time Series, 1975-1993 [National, State, and 12-City Data] -- Susan M. Carlson (ICPSR 6792)
- Violent Incidents Among Selected Public School Students in Two Large Cities of the South and the Southern Midwest, 1995: [United States] -- Daniel Lockwood (ICPSR 2027)
- Washington Post 1996 Politics Poll, Wave 1, September 1996 -- The Washington Post (ICPSR 2164)
- ABC News Clinton Statement #2 Poll, August 1998 -- ABC News (ICPSR 2633)
- ABC News Clinton Terrorism Poll, August 1998 -- ABC News (ICPSR 2634)
- ABC News Clinton Videotaped Testimony Poll, September 1998 -- ABC News (ICPSR 2644)
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- ABC News Pre-Election Poll #2, October 1998 -- ABC News (ICPSR 2648)
- ABC News Pre-Election Poll #3, October 1998 -- ABC News (ICPSR 2649)
- ABC News Starr Report Poll #1, September 1998 -- ABC News (ICPSR 2638)
- ABC News Two Clintons Poll, August 1998 -- ABC News (ICPSR 2635)
- ABC News "World News Tonight" Starr Report Poll #5, September 1998 -- ABC News (ICPSR 2642)
- ABC News/Washington Post Lewinsky/ Politics Poll, September 1998 -- ABC News/The Washington Post (ICPSR 2643)
- British General Election Study: Ethnic Minority Survey, 1997 -- A. Heath and S. Saggat (ICPSR 2618)
- CBS News Call-Back Poll, November 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2670)
- Central and Eastern Eurobarometer 8: Public Opinion and the European Union, October-November 1997 -- Jacques Vantomme and Louis Hersom (ICPSR 2624)
- CBS News Monthly Poll #1, October 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2677)
- CBS News Monthly Poll #2, October 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2662)
- CBS News Monthly Poll #1, November 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2668)
- CBS News Monthly Poll #2, November 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2669)
- CBS News Monthly Poll #2, December 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2673)
- CBS News Monthly Poll #4, December 1998 -- CBS News (ICPSR 2675)
- CBS News/New York Times Call-Back Poll, December 1998 -- CBS News/ The New York Times (ICPSR 2676)
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- CBS News/New York Times Monthly Poll #3, December 1998 -- CBS News/The New York Times (ICPSR 2674)
- CBS News/New York Times New York State Poll #2, October 1998 -- CBS News/The New York Times (ICPSR 2664)
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- Community Tracking Study Physician Survey, 1996-1997: [United States] -- Center for Studying Health System Change (ICPSR 2597)
- Cross-National Indicators of Liberal Democracy, 1950-1990 -- Kenneth A. Bollen (ICPSR 2532)
- Effects of Community Policing on Tasks of Street-Level Police Officers in Ohio, 1981 and 1996 -- Lawrence F. Travis III and Beth A. Sanders (ICPSR 2481)
- Evaluation of the Focused Offender Disposition Program in Birmingham, Phoenix, and Chicago, 1988-1992 -- John R. Hepburn (ICPSR 6214)
- Foreign Policy Leadership Project, 1976-1996 -- Ole R. Holsti and James N. Rosenau (ICPSR 2614)
- Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), 1976-1977: College and University Libraries -- United States Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics (ICPSR 2116)

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- Longitudinal Study of Criminal Career Patterns of Former California Youth Authority Wards, 1965-1984 -- Rudy A. Haapanen (ICPSR 2478)
- National Health Interview Survey, 1994: Family Resources Income and Assets Supplement -- United States Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics (ICPSR 2656)
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