

## Inside this Newsletter

Message from the Section Chair .....	1-2
Report from the Treasurer.....	3-4
JSM 2017 SRMS Student Travel Awards.....	4
JSM 2017 SRMS Student Paper Awards.....	5
JSM 2017 Updates .....	6-9
2017 SRMS Fellows .....	10
Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors.....	10
Your SRMS Officers.....	11
SRMS Mission Statement .....	12

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## Message from the Section Chair

Elaine Zanutto



First, let me thank board members and leaders of SRMS who are finishing their roles at the end of 2017: Michael Larsen (Past Chair), Tom Krenzke (Program Chair), Rachel Caspar (Secretary), Howard Hogan (SRMS Council of Sections Representative), and David Marker and Elizabeth Stasny (SRMS Fellows Committee).

I'd also like to welcome to incoming officers and leaders of SRMS: Karol Krotki (Chair 2018), Ken Copeland (Chair-elect 2018), Asaph Young Chun (Program Chair-Elect 2018), Safaa Amer (Secretary 2018-2019), Jamie Ridenhour (SRMS Council of Sections Representative 2018-2020), and Ruth Ann Killion and Jill Dever (SRMS ASA Fellows Committee).

Thanks also to all those who ran for election.

Of course, the most significant upcoming event in 2017 is the Joint Statistical Meetings in Baltimore. SRMS is sponsoring invited, topic, and contributed technical sessions, roundtable discussions, continuing education courses, and poster and speed sessions. SRMS gives student paper and travel awards, in

addition to awards for best poster and speed session presentation. I hope to see you at the SRMS Business Meeting and Mixer on Wednesday August 2, 6-8pm. There will be news of SRMS, award announcements, refreshments (cash bar and some free appetizers), and opportunities for socializing and networking. Thanks to those who have helped organize SRMS activities for JSM 2017, especially Tom Krenzke (Program Chair), Stas Kolenikov (Program Chair-Elect), and Rebecca Andridge (Education officer). Thanks also to volunteer judges for poster and speed sessions and to session chairs. I think the meeting in Baltimore should be a real success for SRMS.

Special thanks go to three generous corporate sponsors who have donated money to support SRMS activities this year. Specifically, thanks to

- Westat for helping to support student travel awards
- RTI for sponsoring 3 speed session awards
- Marketing Systems Group for sponsoring 3 poster session awards

I am happy to report that SRMS dues for 2018 will remain the same at \$8. Remember that one benefit of SRMS membership is a free subscription to the Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology (JSSAM). To subsidize this journal subscription, \$3 of your \$8 dues goes to ASA so that members can continue to receive the journal (\$3 is a great deal for a journal subscription!).

SRMS has sponsored two interesting webinars recently. On October 25, 2016, Michael Traugott presented “Political Polls and the Prediction of Election Outcomes.” On January 26, 2017, David Haziza presented “Unequal Probability, High Entropy, and Balanced Sampling Designs.” If you wish to present a webinar in the future or have a suggestion for a presenter, please contact the Education officer.

I hope to see you at JSM 2017 and to have you involved in SRMS activities throughout the remainder of 2017 and beyond!

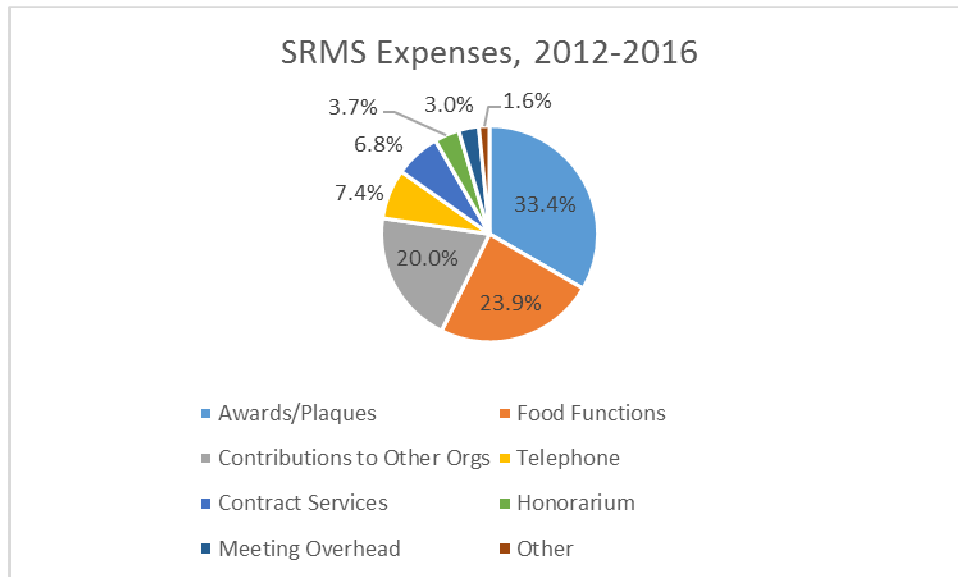
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## Report from the Treasurer



Steven Pedlow

There are currently 1,435 members of the Survey Research Methods Section. The current dues for members is \$8, \$3 of which goes towards the Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology, provided to all Section members through the dues. This is not the only source of income for the Section, which also receives sponsorships/contributions, conference registration fees, profits from conferences SRMS supports, as well as interest on our bank balance. Over the past five years, the annual expenses for the Section have averaged \$22,000. Below is a pie chart that shows how the Section funds have been spent over the last five years (2012-2016):



The largest expense for the Section is in awards and plaques, which are divided into Student Travel Awards (mostly to JSM), Student Paper Awards, and Poster Awards (open to all members). Students should strongly consider applying for these SRMS awards. The second largest category is food functions, which is dominated by the Section business meeting/mixers at JSM. The third largest category is contributions to other organizations. The section has contributed to meetings of interest to section members, including the following in the 2012-2016 time frame: ICES IV and V, the 2013 Small Area Estimation (SAE2013) conference, the 2013 Ghosh Conference, the 2015 Total Survey Error Conference,

and the 2016 Conference on Comparative Survey Design and Implementation, as well as a special issue of Public Opinion Quarterly in 2014 on new directions in presidential election research.

Telephone charges consist mostly of monthly conference calls for the Executive Board. Contract services encompasses the costs of making the SRMS Proceedings fully available. Honorariums are provided to webinar speakers, while Meeting Overhead consists mostly of webinar set-up expenses. Other expenses include bank-related charges, audio-visual and other equipment rental, and so on.

Hopefully, you agree with how the Section spends its funds. Like many good non-profits, the goal for SRMS is to have a bank balance equal to two or three years of expenses. Our current balance of \$58,000 is currently in this “sweet spot.”

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## JSM 2017 SRMS Student Travel Awards

Steven Pedlow

Each year SRMS makes awards to students to cover part of the costs of attending JSM. This year there were three recipients and one deferred recipient. The process is competitive. Each student must submit a short essay, a letter of recommendation from a faculty member, and college transcripts. A panel appointed by the SRMS Executive Committee selects the recipients based on the submitted materials. This year the panel consisted of previous treasurer Michael P. Cohen, Rachel Caspar, Pushpal Mukophadhyay, and myself.

The recipients of the 2017 JSM Student Travel Awards are:

- Michael Matthews of Ohio State University;
- Sepideh Mosaferi of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) at the Univ. of Maryland; and
- Struther Van Horn of Kent State University.

These students received \$800 each. In addition, SRMS will reimburse them up to \$150 for a continuing education course at JSM, as well as their student membership in ASA (student membership in SRMS is free).

The 2018 JSM will be in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from July 28 - August 2, 2018. Award applications will be due in December, 2017.

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## JSM 2017 SRMS Student Paper Awards

Steven Pedlow

The JSM Student Paper Awards are a joint effort of the Government Statistics Section (GSS), the Social Statistics Section (SSS), and the Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS). The students submit papers and the five that are judged the best have the opportunity to present them at a special contributed paper session at JSM as well as receive \$800 each. This year the session is Session 283, Tuesday, August 1, 8:30 AM-10:20 AM, “GSS/SSS/SRMS Student Paper Award Presentations.”

The 2017 awardees are shown in **bold** below. The papers were judged by an awards committee consisting of the Program Chairs-Elect of each of the three sections. These are Gina Walejko (Census Bureau) for GSS, Asaph Young Chun (Census Bureau) for SSS, and Stanislav Kolenikov (Abt Associates) for SRMS.

We congratulate the awardees and commend all the entrants for their high quality work. We thank the awards committee for making this program a success.

### GSS/SSS/SRMS Student Paper Award Presentations — Topic Contributed Papers

**Social Statistics Section**, Government Statistics Section, Survey Research Methods Section

*Organizer(s): Stanislav Kolenikov, Abt Associates*

*Chair(s): Stanislav Kolenikov, Abt Associates*

- 8:35 [A Joint Spatial Factor Analysis Model to Accommodate Data from Misaligned Nested Areal Units with Application to Louisiana Social Vulnerability](#) — **Rachel Nethery, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**; Dale P. Sandler, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences ; Shanshan Zhao, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences ; Lawrence S. Engel, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ; Richard K. Kwok, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- 8:55 [A Robust Interrupted Time Series Model for Analyzing Complex Healthcare Intervention Data](#) — **AM Maricela Cruz, University of California, Irvine**; Hernando Ombao, KAUST and UC Irvine ; Miriam Bender, University of California, Irvine
- 9:15 [Stable Balancing Weights for Marginal Structural Models](#) — **María de los Angeles Resa Juárez, AM Columbia University** ; José R. Zubizarreta, Columbia University
- 9:35 [Checking Validity of Constrained Survey Estimators](#) — **Cristian Oliva, Colorado State University**; **AM Mary Meyer, Colorado State University** ; Jean Opsomer, Colorado State University
- 9:55 [Comparative Study of Differentially Private Data Synthesis Methods](#) — **Claire McKay Bowen, AM University of Notre Dame**; Fang Liu, University of Notre Dame
- 10:15 **Floor Discussion**  
AM

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## JSM 2017

Tom Krenzke and Stas Kolenikov



The Survey Research Methods Section is the sponsor of 10 invited sessions, 13 topic contributed sessions and 12 regular contributed sessions. Combined with the traditional and speed poster sessions, roundtables and short-courses, one can focus on recent research on a single topic, such as imputation, or can cover a wide variety of topics from survey instrumentation to estimation. Here is the complete SRMS line up for JSM Baltimore:

### **Poster Competitions**

SRMS will have its annual poster competitions in which we select the most informative and the most interesting posters presented at the conference. The traditional poster session is going to be held 10:30am - 12:20pm on Tuesday August 1. We will have 11 contributed SRMS posters in that session. The SPEED presentation is a double-session presentation. In the first 110-minute time slot, you give a 5-minute talk that serves as a hook for the audience -- basically telling them why they should seek you out and learn more. The "learning more" part happens in the second 110-minute time slot when every presenter is provided with a computer to run their PDF/PowerPoint on, so that they can prepare a full length presentation, load it up, and show to the interested parties. The oral part will be 8:30am - 10:20am Wednesday, August 2, followed immediately by the 10:30am - 12:20pm electronic poster presentation. We will have 20 SRMS SPEED poster presentations. If you are interested in volunteering as a judge for either traditional or SPEED posters, please contact SRMS Program Chair-Elect Stas Kolenikov. The winners will be announced at the section business meeting on Wednesday night.

### **Invited Sessions sponsored by SRMS (Session Title and Organizer)**

**Bayesian Adaptive Survey Designs**, *Natalie Shlomo, University of Manchester*

**Improper Imputation**, *Paul T von Hippel, University of Texas*

**Recent Development of Bayesian Methods in Survey Sampling**, *Yajuan Si, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

**Session in Honor of Jim Lepkowski's Retirement**, *Michael R. Elliott, University of Michigan*

**Analyzing Government Data with Missing Item Values: a WSS Invited Session, Phillip Kott, RTI**

**Environmental Surveys: a Hot Spot for Statisticians, Stanislav Kolenikov, Abt SRBI**

**Multiple Imputation for Complex Health Survey Data, Joseph Kang, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention**

**Nonparametric Saturated Methods to Handle Nonignorable Missing Data, Mauricio Sadinle, Duke University**

**Recent Developments in Survey Sampling, Session in Honor of J.N.K. Rao's 80th Birthday, David Haziza, University of Montreal**

**Using Big Data to Improve Official Economic Statistics, Carma R Hogue, U.S. Census Bureau**

**Topic Contributed Sessions sponsored by SRMS (Session Title and Organizer)**

**Current Themes in Record Linkage Research, Jana L Asher, AABB**

**Improving Efficiency and Maintaining High Data Quality: Outcomes for the 2017 Survey of Consumer Finances, Catherine C Haggerty, NORC University of Chicago**

**Methods for Imputing Missing Survey Data, Daniell Toth, US Bureau of Labor Statistics**

**Multiple Imputation for Measurement Errors and Other Structured Patterns of Missing Data, Philipp Gaffert, GfK**

**Practical Applications of Small Area Estimation, Andreea L Erciulescu, NISS and USDA NASS**

**New Developments in Small Area Estimation Research at the U.S. Census Bureau, Robert Ashmead, U.S. Census Bureau**

**Nonparametric Modeling of Survey Data, Daniell Toth, US Bureau of Labor Statistics**

**NonProbability Sampling and Estimation - Fit for Purpose Designs, Karol Krotki, RTI**

**Non-Traditional Approaches for Sampling Rare Populations, Sunghee Lee, University of Michigan**

**Time-Trend Analysis with Complex Survey Data, Dan Liao, RTI International**

**Advances in Modeling Multilevel Observational Data from Complex Surveys, Mulugeta Gebregziabher, MUSC**

**GSS/SSS/SRMS Student Paper Award Presentations, *Stanislav Kolenikov, Abt Associates***

**Improving Data Quality and Estimation Methods for the Current Employment Establishment Survey, *Greg Erkens, Bureau of Labor Statistics***

**Titles of Contributed sessions**

**Combining Data and Use of Administrative Lists**

**Estimation with Complex Samples**

**Estimation with Non-Probability Samples**

**Estimation with Statistical Models**

**Impact of Data Collection Modes and Data Sources**

**Imputation and Nonresponse Bias**

**Instrumentation and Data Quality**

**Predicting Attrition and Adaptive Strategies**

**Sample Design**

**Small Area Estimation and Use of Unit-Level Models**

**Weighting Adjustments**

**Weighting and Variance Estimation**

**Roundtables**

SRMS will be hosting two roundtables at the JSM. Steve Cohen, Vice President in the Division of Statistical and Data Sciences at RTI, will be leading a discussion titled "The Connectivity of Data Science to Survey Design and Statistical Practice" during the Monday July 31 lunch time slot 12:30-1:50pm. He will focus on the capacity of data science to inform the design of surveys, their operations, and strategies to reduce survey errors and enhance data quality. Mark Schulman, co-founder and Chairman Emeritus of Abt SRBI, former president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, will be leading a discussion titled "Election 2016 Polling: What We Learned" during the Tuesday, August 1, lunch time



slot (12:30-1:50 pm). He will cover both the methodological issues and the sizeable misses by many pollsters, and the substantive issues in campaign strategies, electoral map, and media coverage.

### **Continuing Education**

SRMS is sponsoring three continuing education courses at the JSM. Jörg Drechsler (Institute for Employment Research, IAB, Nuremberg, Germany) and Jerry Reiter (Department of Statistical Science, Duke University), will offer a full day (8:30am-5pm) course on Monday, July 31 on synthetic data sets for statistical disclosure limitation. Focusing on practical aspects of confidentiality protection, the course will overview modeling strategies, analytical validity evaluations and potential measures to quantify the remaining risk of disclosure. Illustrations using R will be provided, as well. David Haziza (University of Montreal) will offer a full day (8:30 am-5 pm) course on Tuesday, August 1 on construction of weights in surveys, providing detailed description of each weighting stage such as inverse probability of selection base weighting, nonresponse, calibration and trimming adjustments. Matt Jans (Abt Associates) and Abhijit Gupta (ARAASAT) will offer a full full day (8:30 am-5 pm) course on Tuesday, August 1 titled "Research and Analysis Workflows: Low-Cost, Every-Day Project Management Techniques, Tools, and Tips That Produce High-Quality, Streamlined, Stress-Free Research and Data Science". The first half of the course will include general project and time management techniques. The second half of the course will focus on best practices for your data science pipeline to minimize errors, maximize time to think, and maintain reproducibility. This course is cross-listed with Section on Statistical Consulting, so if you are interested in maximizing your productivity, register early as this course is advertised more widely than others.

### **SRMS Business Meeting**

The 2017 Business Meeting of the section will be held at the JSM on Wednesday, August 2, from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Baltimore Hilton, Key Ballroom 7. Please come and bring a friend who might be interested in joining the section. Enjoy some snacks and drinks, learn what the section has been up to in the past year, and is planning for the next year, thank officers and volunteers of the section, and congratulate the award winners (i.e., SRMS/GSS/SSS student paper competition; SRMS student travel award; SRMS poster competition award). A hard copy of the agenda for the meeting will be distributed before the formal portion starts around 7 pm.

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## 2017 SRMS Fellows

David Marker, Chair of SRMS Fellows Committee

Congratulations to Trent Buskirk, Joe Fred Gonzalez, Thomas Krenzke, Christian Leger, Jennifer Parker, Katherine Thompson, and Daniell Toth. SRMS members make up around 7% of the ASA, but our 7 fellows are more than 10% of those receiving this honor for 2017.

I'd like to thank my fellow SRMS Fellows Committee members Jay Breidt, Mary Gray, and Elizabeth Stasny. Elizabeth and I are rotating off the committee after many years of service; replaced by Ruth Ann Killion and Jill Dever. If you have ideas for nominations for 2018 feel free to contact Jay, Mary, Ruth Ann, or Jill.

David Marker

Chair, SRMS Fellows Committee

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## Thanks to our corporate sponsors!

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- **Westat** for helping to support student travel awards
- **RTI** for sponsoring 3 speed session awards
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## Your SRMS Officers

Chair: Elaine Zanutto

Chair-Elect: Karol Krotki

Past-Chair: Michael Larsen

Treasurer: Steven Pedlow

Secretary: Rachel A. Caspar

2017 JSM Program Chair: Tom Krenzke

2017 JSM Program Chair-Elect: Stas Kolenikov

Publications Officer: Tony An

Education Officer: Rebecca Andridge

Section Representatives: Howard Hogan, Julia Soulakova

ASA Staff Liason: Rick Peterson

More information can be found at

<http://ww2.amstat.org/sections/officers.cfm?txtComm=SSRMS>.

Newsletter Editors: Dan Liao and Elizabeth Petraglia



## SRMS Mission Statement

SRMS has 1500 members, of which over 100 are based outside of North America, and is one of the largest ASA Sections. The SRMS mission is to promote the improvement of survey practice and the understanding of survey methods by encouraging both theoretical and applied research on survey-related topics, and by disseminating information on survey methods.

Areas of interest for the Section include all that employ survey methodology as a focus or as a prime tool of investigation. Of special interest are:

- ❖ Theoretical foundations of sampling;
- ❖ Sample design and estimation;
- ❖ Nonsampling errors and data collection methods;
- ❖ Analysis and presentation of survey data;
- ❖ Education of the public and students on the importance of scientific survey research;
- ❖ Publication and dissemination of survey research findings; and
- ❖ Ethics related to survey conduct and standards for survey practice.

**Not a member yet?** Here is how you can join:

- If you are not an ASA member, go to the membership page of the ASA and fill the application at [www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=becomeamember](http://www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=becomeamember). Then sign up for the SRMS section as part of your membership.
- If you are already an ASA member, just call customer service at 1-888-231-3473 to add SRMS membership.

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The SRMS has produced material and resources that are available on our website including:

- ❖ The “What is a Survey?” series for non-specialists, free of charge
- ❖ The SRMSNET Mailing List
- ❖ List of other related associations
- ❖ Survey Analysis Software (under *Links and Resources*)
- ❖ Universities and Laboratories
- ❖ ...and much more.

For more information, including links to specific officers, check out the SRMS website at: [ww2.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html](http://ww2.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/index.html) or there is also a link from the ASA website at [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org).