The Publications Committee of the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) announces a search for a new editor of its journal, the International Journal of Public Opinion Research, for a term starting in January 2008. The Committee will be accepting applications and nominations for this position immediately and until it is filled.

The International Journal of Public Opinion Research, founded by Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann, Seymour Martin Lipset and Robert M. Worcester in 1989, is one of the leading journals in the field of public opinion research. Its decidedly international orientation makes the journal unique in the field of empirical social research. According to a recent study published in the Journal of Communication, IJPOR is the only "classic" communication journal that can be described as "truly international." The journal's long-standing Managing Editor, Wolfgang Donsbach, has decided to step down from the post at the end of this year, prompting the search for a new Managing Editor.

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The Managing Editor organizes the peer review system, decides on the content of each issue, and ensures that the journal is professionally edited and published on time. The Managing Editor thus plays a key role in determining the journal's orientation and quality and hence its academic reputation as well. We are looking for a person who will maintain and continue to promote the journal's outstanding academic quality and international orientation in the years to come. Editors are appointed for a term of 3 years which can be renewed. As is customary,
with academic journals, the position of managing editor is an honorary post. However, Oxford University Press and WAPOR do provide limited financial support to help cover the cost of the editorial assistance, supplies and other expenses associated with editing the journal.

Individuals interested in applying for this position or nominating another individual should contact:

Dr. Thomas Petersen
Chair, WAPOR Publications Committee
Institut fü r Demoskopie Allensbach
Radolfzellerstrasse 8
78476 Allensbach
Germany
tpetersen@ifd-allensbach.de

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******************************************************************************

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******************************************************************************
Hmmm.

Comments: To: "Murray, Patrick" <pdmurray@MONMOUTH.EDU>, AAPORNET@ASU.EDU

MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

More to the point, suppose we postulate that sampling error =3D zero, =
i.e. that each poll is a 100% accurate estimate of the mood of the =
country. Then simply calculating the mean and standard deviation, and =
using 1.96 x sd to establish the upper and lower bounds of the true =
value of the mean, those upper and lower bounds become 45% and 34%, =
which in turn would mean that the obtained results all fall within the =
expected random -- i.e. not statistically different from chance -- =
variation.=20
Factoring in sampling error simply expands the region of =
non-significance. If the sampling error is +/- 3%, then the range of =
non-significant variation is expanded to and upper limit of 47% and a =
lower limit of 33%.
In other words, over a seven-month period, if you had to make a guess as =
to the proportion of respondents who answered in the affirmative, 40% =
would be your best guess.

From: AAPORNET on behalf of Murray, Patrick
Sent: Tue 7/31/2007 12:05 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: A Polling Mystery: Same Old Question, Different Answer. =
Hmmm.

Fascinating. Looking at the recent trend for CBS/NYT on "Iraq was right
thing to do":
42% 7/07
35% 5/07
44% 4/07
After holding steady for a few months, there was a slight increase in April right before the May reading of 35%, which was an all time low for the poll. This 9 point drop - being "intuitive" - apparently didn't cause as much concern as the 7-point increase from May to July. For the sake of argument, assume that the May number is an outlier, July's result is 2 points lower than April and only 3 points higher than March. There is a reason why we report the margin of sampling error, isn't there? :)

Patrick Murray
Polling Institute
Monmouth University

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Leo Simonetta
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2007 11:26 AM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: A Polling Mystery: Same Old Question, Different Answer. Hmmm.

A Polling Mystery: Same Old Question, Different Answer. Hmmm.
New York Times

THE war in Iraq is the single most important continuing news issue right now. Public opinion about the war is a critical part of that story. That's why when a finding about the war in a New York Times poll could not be easily explained, the paper went back and did another poll on the very same subject. It turns out the poll had gotten it right. Support for the initial invasion of Iraq, as measured by a question The New York Times/CBS News Poll has asked since December 2003, increased modestly compared with two months ago.

snip

eview/29elder.html&tntemail1=3D3D
OR
http://tinyurl.com/3b8jwt

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I think this counts the sampling variance twice - first as part of the empirical variance, then again as the theoretical value.

More to the point, suppose we postulate that sampling error = zero, i.e. that each poll is a 100% accurate estimate of the mood of the country. Then simply calculating the mean and standard deviation, and using 1.96 x sd to establish the upper and lower bounds of the true value of the mean, those upper and lower bounds become 45% and 34%, which in turn would mean that the obtained results all fall within the expected random -- i.e. not statistically different from chance -- variation. Factoring in sampling error simply expands the region of non-significance. If the sampling error is +/- 3%, then the range of non-significant variation is expanded to an upper limit of 47% and a lower limit of 33%. In other words, over a seven-month period, if you had to make a guess as to the proportion of respondents who answered in the affirmative, 40% would be your best guess.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/07</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/07</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>4/07</td>
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<td>2/07</td>
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OR
http://tinyurl.com/3b8jwt

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August 3, 2007
For Young Earners in Big City, a Gap in Women's Favor By SAM ROBERTS

Young women in New York and several of the nation's other largest cities who work full time have forged ahead of men in wages, according to an analysis of recent census data.

The shift has occurred in New York since 2000 and even earlier in Los Angeles, Dallas and a few other cities.

Economists consider it striking because the wage gap between men and women nationally has narrowed more slowly and has even widened in recent years among one part of that group: college-educated women in their 20s. But in New York, young college-educated women's wages as a percentage of men's rose slightly between 2000 and 2005.

The analysis was prepared by Andrew A. Beveridge, a demographer at Queens College, who first reported his findings in Gotham Gazette, published online by the Citizens Union Foundation. It shows that women of all educational levels from 21 to 30 living in New York City and working full time made 117 percent of men's wages, and even more in Dallas, 120 percent. Nationwide, that group of women made much less: 89 percent of the average full-time pay for men.

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Reply-To: Colleen Porter <colleen_porter@COX.NET>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Colleen Porter <colleen_porter@COX.NET>
Subject: Re: Online surveys

Sorry to be late chiming in, but I've been traveling a bit the last few weeks.

I enjoyed reading the many thoughtful comments about online surveys, but one point that did not seem to be mentioned was the human subjects implications of offering a "Prefer Not to Answer" choice as a response option.

We keep telling IRBs that one way survey research is different from clinical trials is that with the latter, one is either enrolled or withdrawn, never in-between (since few clinical or experimental studies allow the refusal of parts of the protocol).

But with surveys, it has been standard practice that a respondent can participate in the study even though choosing to skip over some items. The introductory language I typically use for telephone and mail surveys says something like, "You may choose not to answer any question you don't want to answer or stop at any time…"

However, if the questionnaire makes any or all items "response required" and thus creates an all-or-nothing environment (either by intentional design or inadvertent programming shortcomings), then we have changed this essential feature of survey research.

It might even be something for the standards committee to consider, because the current AAPOR IRB Statement (http://www.aapor.org/irb_statement.asp) includes the following: "Respondents have
significant defenses against becoming embarrassed by answering a survey question. They can refuse to answer if they wish to do so."

Just one more consideration to throw into the pot, along with worrying about deadlines, budget, staffing, question wording....

Colleen K. Porter
Gainesville, FL

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A client has just asked me to cost out a brief survey of physicians in his state to ask their views on a medical-related policy issue. Can anyone advise me on approaches for sampling and contacting physicians? Or can anyone suggest a vendor that specializes in surveys in the medical field? Thanks

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310/558-4761 (phone)
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paulg@gsvresearch.com

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The AMA masterfile, a list of physicians not limited to AMA members, is considered to be the most complete and accurate listing of physicians currently practicing in the United States

http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2673.html

I believe there are a few sources to purchase - one is listed below, with more details


-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Paul Goodwin
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2007 5:36 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: a survey of physicians

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Date: Fri, 3 Aug 2007 17:12:27 -0400
Reply-To: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Subject: Re: a survey of physicians
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU, Paul Goodwin <paulg@GOODWINSIMON.COM>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
A close to comprehensive list of the sample population should be able to be compiled by acquiring and de-duping lists of licensed physicians registered with the state, insurance providers operating in the state, and membership lists available from the American Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association. List brokers often sell such compiled lists, but with list brokers you may have some issues separating out purely research physicians from practitioners if this is important to you.

Once you have developed or acquired your compiled list of the sample population, you may sample as you see fit (e.g., simple random sampling).

The most advisable method of contacting physicians and soliciting their input would depend on the data collection methods and procedures you might plan. Please feel free to contact me off list.

Regards,
Jonathan

Jonathan E. Brill, Ph.D.
General Manager, ORANJ BOWL(sm) Panel Research Program
Associate Director, Research Call Center & Panel Research
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School of Osteopathic Medicine
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42 East Laurel Road, UDP Suite 2300
Stratford, New Jersey 08084
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E-mail: brillje@umdnj.edu
www.oranjbowl.info

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>>> Paul Goodwin <paulg@GOODWINSIMON.COM> 8/3/2007 17:36 >>>
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We've worked with ePocrates, and they have a huge panel of physicians including some very good specialist samples. I'll provide you with contact info offline...

Cheers,

Mark Cameron | President & CEO | Techneos Systems Inc.
M: +1.778.837.8156 | Vancouver, BC, Canada | www.techneos.com |
mcameron@techneos.com

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From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Paul Goodwin
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Date:         Mon, 6 Aug 2007 09:21:58 -0500  
Reply-To:     "Smith, David W" <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>  
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>  
From:         "Smith, David W" <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>  
Subject:      Re: Mandatory questions in a survey  
In-Reply-To:  <AAPORNET%200708032100007012.B113@LISTS.ASU.EDU>  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

Colleen is right on this.

While an IRB probably would permit "response required" questions, a  
survey must permit the respondent to terminate the interview at that  
point in order to be approvable. Otherwise, the survey violates a  
respondent's autonomy.

Since this would increase the missing data rates for this and all  
subsequent items, it is to the benefit of any investigator using a  
survey to allow respondents to refuse to answer any particular item.

Also, telling a respondent that a response is mandatory when you have  
already told the respondent that all responses are voluntary is simply  
inappropriate. As an IRB member, I would insist that this language be  
changed. The autonomy of the respondent, throughout the research, is one  
of the fundamental considerations in IRB approval.

There may be several possible options, depending on the importance of  
the item and its pertinence to subsequent items. In some cases, all
subsequent items apply only to people who give a certain response.

Note that even in a clinical trial, participants can decline to answer particular questions in an interview, as well as terminate his or her participation at any time. There is usually a clause in the protocol and in the consent form that permits the investigator to terminate a respondent's participation also. This can be done for a number of reasons, but if a respondent won't allow data collection, for example, by not responding to interviews, maintaining contact, or coming on time for appointments, then it becomes difficult to evaluate the intervention and it seems to me that termination by the investigator might be appropriate. I do not know how often this happens.

Regards,

David Smith

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Biostatistics Division
San Antonio Campus
University of Texas School of Public Health
smithd2@uthscsa.edu
(210) 562-5512

----------------------------------------------------

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_______________________________________________
Date:         Mon, 6 Aug 2007 10:20:32 -0500
Reply-To:     "Smith, David W" <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         "Smith, David W" <SmithD2@UTHSCSA.EDU>
Subject:      Re: A survey of physicians
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MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

Every state has a list of licensed physicians. The licensure status of
every physician is a matter of public record. If you are interested only
in a single state, I would start, and probably finish, with the
licensure boards (allopathic and osteopathic) of that state. Also talk
to the staff of the state associations.

This doesn't mean you can get an electronic list of physicians in each
state. I reviewed this about a year ago using web sources. I could find
a route to obtain a list of licensed physicians in about half the
states. More might be possible, but I did this, part time, in about
three days.

The charges varied tremendously. Alaska is not only free, its list is in
an Excel spreadsheet that you can download. Texas usually charges $160,
but I got it free as a result of being a faculty member. I think they
would have thrown in nurses and physician assistants for the same price.
They might give it to any nonprofit at no charge, but I didn't have to
ask. They did advise me that it was a little old, since they only update
the electronic list every three months. I estimated the total cost for
the states I could find on the web at a little under $5000. Mississippi
appears to have a statute that forbids mass-mailing to its licensed
physicians, but I don't recall exactly what their web site claimed.
Other states may have similar laws.

The AMA master file of physicians is quite pricey (over $10,000 the last time I checked), I have heard one user say that it was outdated, and there are strong restrictions on its use. The original purpose of their list was to cross-check licenses, sometimes in several states, particularly as older physicians died, to prevent some unlicensed person to start using a dead physician's license.

Do talk to the providers of general telephone lists. They have lists of physicians just by spending a lot of time with telephone lists.

Eventually, you will need to use the licensure lists for your state, however. These licensure lists can have a lot of useful information which you will need, particularly the address. There may be many kinds of licenses for physicians you don't want to include, such as interns and residents. Specialty is often indicated. If you only want primary care practitioners, then you can choose the specialties of Family Practice, Internal Medicine, and Gynecology to restrict your sample to.

They often have indicators of inactive status, both retired and for other reasons. (I had a colleague from Kansas who worked for WHO in Geneva. He used this status while overseas since it was a much lower annual cost.)

Disciplinary experience such as suspensions might be shown. An office location outside the state of interest might indicate that someone practices occasionally in the state. However, some specialties practice at numerous hospitals, one surgeon told me he had privileges at 16, and in border cities such as Kansas City or St. Louis, you might want to include physicians whose office is within a certain distance of the city.

You should also get a list of osteopaths. They are usually licensed by a different board and their list could be in a different place, both physically and electronically.

There are several simple things and expensive things you can do to improve your response rate. I once did two successive surveys of one specialty. The first got a response rate of about 50% and the second got a rate of about 75%.

We mailed out the questionnaires several times for both surveys. For the second, we hired a person to do nothing but followup with the specialist's office staff, usually the manager. Our theory was that good relations with a capable person, trusted by the physician, would move the questionnaires to the top of physicians' piles fairly effectively. The person we hired had previously been a telemarketer and first class schmoozer directed at a specific goal.

Physicians have been accustomed to using electronic response methods for at least 30 years. They frequently respond to insurance companies' requests for information this way. Even 30 years ago the companies would have the physicians call in to a central number and record information
either digitally or orally from a paper questionnaire that was mailed to them. They could do this during their own down time or at the end of the day. Physicians love their PDAs. I would find out how insurance companies do things today and set up something similar, particularly offering multiple options.

Visit the staff at the state medical and osteopathic societies. Ask for their endorsement of your survey. You probably won't get it, but you can get their good will which will help when some members call them. Ask if the associations can refer calls to a single staff member, whom you can interact with. Consider offering to debrief association staff and a few officers when the results are in. Take some ads in the professional magazines announcing your survey and telling physicians why they should cooperate. Send them an advance letter on the best stationery you can find, even if their responses are electronic. Send them a thank you letter afterwards. Offer to share some interesting results with respondents.

Give respondents an easy way to tell you that your survey no longer applies to them, eg, by putting a big check box on a paper survey that says they are retired or inactive in the state you are sampling and asking them to return it.

Consider paying respondents a fee. Find out what insurance companies pay for information about specific cases and consider this as a guide. (Ask a couple of physicians this.) At $30 per respondent (only a guess) this would add some tens of thousands of dollars to your costs, but it might be money well spent.

Change all your Don't Know/Not Sure response categories for professional questions to Undecided. Physicians, especially surgeons, are never ignorant or unsure, but they may not have made their minds up yet.

We got some of this from Dillman, but I don't remember what or how much.

Regards,

David Smith

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Biostatistics Division
San Antonio Campus
University of Texas School of Public Health
smithd2@uthscsa.edu
(210) 562-5512

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Subject: a survey of physicians
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Dear Colleagues,

Am I remembering correctly that in 2006, the New York Times went to great pains to try and "explain" the difference between online surveys that did not use a probability sample, and a survey whose sample was selected through random digit dial, and other probability sample methods? And, that the paper claimed they would only report on the latter?

Well, low and behold, today they published a Harris Interactive survey on American's support for banning cell phone texting in the car. I was a little suspicious of the short description of the methodology: "The poll surveyed 2,049 U.S. adults from June 29 to July 3, giving the survey a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points."

When I went to the release from which the story was concocted, I found the following description of the study methodology:
"This survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Interactive via its QuickQuery omnibus on behalf of Pinger between June 29 and July 3, 2007 among 2,049 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

With a pure probability sample of 2,049, one could say with a ninety-five percent probability that the overall results would have a sampling error of +/- 3 percentage points. Sampling error for data based on sub-samples would be higher and would vary. However, that does not take other sources of error into account. This online survey is not based on a probability sample and therefore no theoretical sampling error can be calculated."

Is anyone else disturbed by the inaccuracy of reporting demonstrated by the NYT? What does AAPOR, as a professional association, do to try and remedy inaccuracies in reporting, if anything? Is there an "official position" and/or process for handling situations such as these?

Thank you,
Melissa

Melissa Marcello
President
Pursuant, Inc.
2141 P Street NW
Suite 105
Washington, DC 20037
d. 202.887.0070, ext. 11
f. 800.567.1723

Please visit our Website at www.pursuantresearch.com
We have had no IRB objection to including "I choose not to answer this question" as an option on web surveys.

Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
Office for Social Research
321 Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-2639

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Smith, David W
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2007 10:22 AM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: Mandatory questions in a survey

Colleen is right on this.

While an IRB probably would permit "response required" questions, a survey must permit the respondent to terminate the interview at that point in order to be approvable. Otherwise, the survey violates a respondent's autonomy.

Since this would increase the missing data rates for this and all subsequent items, it is to the benefit of any investigator using a survey to allow respondents to refuse to answer any particular item.

Also, telling a respondent that a response is mandatory when you have already told the respondent that all responses are voluntary is simply
inappropriate. As an IRB member, I would insist that this language be changed. The autonomy of the respondent, throughout the research, is one of the fundamental considerations in IRB approval.

There may be several possible options, depending on the importance of the item and its pertinence to subsequent items. In some cases, all subsequent items apply only to people who give a certain response.

Note that even in a clinical trial, participants can decline to answer particular questions in an interview, as well as terminate his or her participation at any time. There is usually a clause in the protocol and in the consent form that permits the investigator to terminate a respondent's participation also. This can be done for a number of reasons, but if a respondent won't allow data collection, for example, by not responding to interviews, maintaining contact, or coming on time for appointments, then it becomes difficult to evaluate the intervention and it seems to me that termination by the investigator might be appropriate. I do not know how often this happens.

Regards,

David Smith

David W. Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Biostatistics Division
San Antonio Campus
University of Texas School of Public Health
smithd2@uthscsa.edu
(210) 562-5512

From:    Colleen Porter <colleen_porter@COX.NET>
Subject: Re: Online surveys

Sorry to be late chiming in, but I've been traveling a bit the last few weeks.

I enjoyed reading the many thoughtful comments about online surveys, but one point that did not seem to be mentioned was the human subjects implications of offering a "Prefer Not to Answer" choice as a response option.

We keep telling IRBs that one way survey research is different from clinical trials is that with the latter, one is either enrolled or withdrawn, never in-between (since few clinical or experimental studies allow the refusal of parts of the protocol).

But with surveys, it has been standard practice that a respondent can participate in the study even though choosing to skip over some items.
The introductory language I typically use for telephone and mail surveys says something like, "You may choose not to answer any question you don't want to answer or stop at any time..."

However, if the questionnaire makes any or all items "response required" and thus creates an all-or-nothing environment (either by intentional design or inadvertent programming shortcomings), then we have changed this essential feature of survey research.

It might even be something for the standards committee to consider, because the current AAPOR IRB Statement (http://www.aapor.org/irb_Statement.asp) includes the following: "Respondents have significant defenses against becoming embarrassed by answering a survey question. They can refuse to answer if they wish to do so."

Just one more consideration to throw into the pot, along with worrying about deadlines, budget, staffing, question wording....

Colleen K. Porter
Gainesville, FL

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set aapornet nomail
On your return send this: set aapornet mail
Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

I would like to clarify that the story Melissa Marcello referenced as being published by The New York Times was not in fact in the newspaper or written by a New York Times reporter. The Reuters story that Melissa was referring to was a wire story in the wires section of the NYT web site. The wire stories from the AP and Reuters appear on the web site through an automatic feed in a section apart from the rest of the news stories.
Melissa is correct that The Times did institute a set of Polling Standards for reporters and editors to comply with when writing stories for the newspaper. We do the best we can through education of our reporters and editors to make sure that our standards are enforced, but still, sometimes things slip through the cracks.

Megan Thee
The New York Times
News Surveys

At 08:38 AM 8/7/2007, Melissa Marcello wrote:
>Dear Colleagues,
>
>Am I remembering correctly that in 2006, the New York Times went to great pains to try and "explain" the difference between online surveys that did not use a probability sample, and a survey whose sample was selected through random digit dial, and other probability sample methods? And, that the paper claimed they would only report on the latter?
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>Well, low and behold, today they published a Harris Interactive survey on American's support for banning cell phone texting in the car. I was a little suspicious of the short description of the methodology: "The poll surveyed 2,049 U.S. adults from June 29 to July 3, giving the survey a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points."
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> and/or process for handling situations such as these?
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> Thank you,
> Melissa
> 
> Melissa Marcello
> 
> President
> 
> Pursuant, Inc.
> 
> 2141 P Street NW
> 
> Suite 105
> 
> Washington, DC 20037
> 
> d. 202.887.0070, ext. 11
> 
> f. 800.567.1723
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> Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu
Dear All,

I was just informed that the piece that I read on the New York Times' Web site, and referred to earlier today, was actually a Reuter's wire story, not content that originated at the New York Times. Reuter's did not accurately describe the poll, and the New York Times did not write the content.

A thank you for the AAPORnetter who helped clear this matter up.

Sincerely,

Melissa Marcello

Melissa Marcello
President
Pursuant, Inc.
2141 P Street NW
Suite 105
Washington, DC 20037
d. 202.887.0070, ext. 11
f. 800.567.1723

Please visit our Website at www.pursuantresearch.com
RTI International, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit corporation with a distinguished history in scientific research and technology development. We are active in programs and projects worldwide, with more than 2,500 individuals working in 40 countries. Our activities support commercial, industrial, and academic endeavors in health and pharmaceuticals, economic and social development, advanced technology, education and training, surveys and statistics, democratic governance, and the environment. RTI offers a friendly, fast-paced, and intellectually stimulating work environment.

Job Description

The Research Computing Division (RCD) at RTI International is seeking candidates to fill the position of Director, Center for Survey Technology. The Director will manage an organization of approximately 100 staff involved in developing innovative systems for surveys using varied data collection methodologies and technologies.

Responsibilities

The job responsibilities are:
* Expanding RCD's survey computing business by proactively engaging in business development with current and prospective clients, leading proposal efforts, and determining other strategies for expanding current markets and developing new research markets.
* Leading projects within the survey technology arena.
* Contributing to RTI International's scientific stature through
publications and formal presentations at conferences and scientific meetings.
* Leading in the areas of career development, performance management and evaluation, mentoring, technical reviews and quality control.
* Contributing to RCD as a member of the senior management team.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have:
* M.S. in Computer Science, Mathematics or other technical discipline.
* 15 years experience in survey technology with increasing responsibilities.
* 5 years experience leading work sponsored by government agencies (e.g., Department of Health and Human Sciences and National Institute of Health.)
* Experience leading a medium to large-sized technology organization.
* Experience with Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) is preferred.

If you have questions, pls contact Pat Smith at RTI (pcs@rti.org).

Or, please visit our website at: www.rti.org/careers to apply for job opening 10782.

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On your return send this: set aapornet mail
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Date: Wed, 8 Aug 2007 07:26:07 -0400
Reply-To: Reg_Baker@MARKETSTRATEGIES.COM
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Reginald Baker <Reg_Baker@MARKETSTRATEGIES.COM>
Subject: ESOMAR Panel Conference
Comments: To: aapornet@asu.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"

ESOMAR is hosting a conference on online panels October 38-30 in Orlando. You can find the details on the ESOMAR Web site:


Reg Baker
Chief Operating Officer
An additional technical twist to the thread on mandatory/voluntary items in online surveys below: allowing item nonresponse or termination of an interview at any point seems a must, but since many web surveys use some kind of server-side processing and store answers every time a respondent hits "next page", I wonder what researchers would typically do with partial responses when a web survey respondent has to break off in the face of a mandatory question they don't want to answer? Or break off for any reason, for that matter.

One practice would be to tell respondents at the beginning of the questionnaire that their answers won't be used unless they check "yes" to some kind of informed consent confirmation question at the end. I guess the same issue comes up in phone surveys when respondents break off without saying "and don't use my answers!"

> Date: Tue, 7 Aug 2007 09:29:21 -0400
> From: "Ehrlich, Nathaniel" <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
> Subject: Re: Mandatory questions in a survey
> 
> We have had no IRB objection to including "I choose not to answer >this >question" as an option on web surveys.

> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
> Research Specialist
> Michigan State University
> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
> Office for Social Research
> 321 Berkey Hall
> East Lansing, MI 48824
> 517-353-2639
> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Smith, >David W
> Sent: Monday, August 06, 2007 10:22 AM
> To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
> Subject: Re: Mandatory questions in a survey
> Colleen is right on this.

> While an IRB probably would permit "response required" questions, a
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> by not responding to interviews, maintaining contact, or coming on time
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> and it seems to me that termination by the investigator might be
> appropriate. I do not know how often this happens.

> Regards,

> David Smith

-------------------------------------------------------------------------
Carl Ramirez
Sr. Design Methodologist
Center for Design, Methods & Analysis
U.S. Government Accountability Office
Phone: (202) 512-3721
Fax: (202) 512-3938
Email: ramirezc@gao.gov

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-------------------------------------------------------------------------
Would you like to get to know some of the best minds in the business in a laid back and supportive environment? Are you interested in learning more visual design in mixed mode surveys? How about being part of an engaging discussion on coverage issues raised by cell phones and Internet phones? If so, the annual SAPOR conference is just the place for you! Our abstract deadline has been extended to _*August 17th*_ so there's still time to submit a paper or poster presentation! This year's conference packs a lot of bang for the buck! Plus, if you register early you get a discount on your conference costs!

We are extremely pleased with the fantastic professionals who are participating in the conference this year. Dr. Michael Link, a Senior Survey Methodologist at CDC, will deliver this year's keynote address. Dr. Link is directly involved with the BFRSS and addressing coverage issues raised by cell and Internet phone use. This year our short course, entitled "What happens when modes are mixed? Considering aural and visual communication when designing surveys in a mixed mode environment", will be taught by Dr. Don Dillman and Dr. Leah Christian. The instructors will discuss the impact of new emerging technologies on survey research practices.

The Southern Association of Public Opinion Research will hold its 26th Annual Conference at the University Club on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina on October 4-5th. Last year's attendees represented 23 universities and 24 survey research/polling organizations. Below is the 2007 call for conference participation. Please contact the 2007 Conference Chair, Kelly Foster by email (kfoster@cvioig.uga.edu), or visit our website (http://www.survey.uga.edu/sapor) for online submission, registration and information.

*Call for Conference Participation   26th Annual conference .October 4-5, 2007 . Raleigh, North Carolina*

SAPOR is seeking proposals in all areas of opinion and survey research which will be of interest to its members. Proposals on any topic related to public opinion and survey research will be considered particularly those that reflect this year's conference theme...

*Emerging Technologies: Impact on Survey Research, Public Opinion, and Society*
New and emerging technologies have changed the way those in the field of public opinion research conduct their business. Many researchers are taking advantage of the increased utilization of the internet and cell phones, among other technologies, to design alternative approaches to gathering data. We welcome submissions that broadly address how these emerging technologies impact society and research and specifically the impact they have on the field of survey research and public opinion. We encourage participation from all sectors engaged in data gathering including academia, government, private sector, and non-profit. Graduate student participation is highly encouraged and is rewarded with the James W. Prothro Student Paper Competition which recognizes outstanding student-authored research.

*Proposal Submission Process*
Proposals for the conference should be submitted electronically either through the SAPOR website (http://www.survey.uga.edu/sapor) or by email to the SAPOR Conference Committee Chair, Kelly Foster (kfoster@cviog.uga.edu). Abstracts for papers and posters should be no more than 300 words and should be submitted by August 17, 2007 for full consideration. Proposals should have the name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address of the principal author.

*Conference Participation*
If you are willing to serve as a discussant for one of the sessions, please visit the SAPOR website or email the Conference Committee Chair. In addition, we are seeking topics of interest (as well as interested parties) for roundtable discussions. These roundtable discussions provide an intimate setting in which to discuss current issues in public opinion research. All ideas and suggestions are welcome!

--
Kelly N. Foster, M.S.
Research Professional II, Survey Research Unit
Carl Vinson Institute of Government
The University of Georgia
201 North Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA 30605-5482
Office: 706-542-2495
Fax: 706-542-9301
www.cviog.uga.edu

--

Kelly N. Foster, M.S.
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201 North Milledge Avenue
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I am doing an evaluation of a public health brochure and would appreciate hearing from folks who have done that kind of work before, particular any tips for success or warnings of the pitfalls.

(This survey will only be used for patients who have received a copy of the brochure, so the needle-in-the-haystack issue that we often face in measuring the effectiveness of public communication campaigns is not so much a concern.)

Muito obrigada!

Colleen Porter
Gainesville, FL
Campbell and Stanley's Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research, a work that never seems to go out of date. Be sure to ask those in the test condition how much time they spent with the brochure.

James P. Murphy, Ph.D.
J.P. MURPHY & COMPANY
Post Office Box 150
Princeton, NJ 08542
610 408 8800
www.jpmurphy.com
jpmurphy@jpmurphy.com

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Colleen Porter
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2007 11:40 AM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: brochure evaluation survey?

I am doing an evaluation of a public health brochure and would appreciate hearing from folks who have done that kind of work before, particular any tips for success or warnings of the pitfalls.

(This survey will only be used for patients who have received a copy of the brochure, so the needle-in-the-haystack issue that we often face in measuring the effectiveness of public communication campaigns is not so much a concern.)

Muito obrigada!

Colleen Porter
Gainesville, FL

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Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
By coincidence, I was just about to send a researcher in another field (genealogy) the Department of Labor study conducted in 2006 on the frequency of volunteering in the United States. As part of another survey effort, I had found the study a while ago and now was sending it to him. The press release and statistical tables can be found on the web at:

http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm

No doubt the wording style is included somewhere in the press release's text or tables.

In addition, the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) conducted a similar study in 2003, and highlights of that study can be found at:


Hope these references provide some standard wording styles, and best of luck,

Milton Goldsamt

Milton R. Goldsamt, Ph.D.
Consulting Research Psychologist & Statistician
Silver Spring, MD
miltrgold@comcast.net

On Jul 24, 2007, at 9:17 AM, Miriam L. Gerver wrote:

> Hi,
> 
> Do any of you know whether there is a standard way to ask about frequency of volunteering? I feel like there must be standard response categories (i.e., every day, 2-3x/week, once a week, etc.), but can't find anything. I'm working on an online survey so I can have more response categories than a standard telephone interview.
> 
> Thanks,
> Miriam Gerver
>

---
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Senior Research Associate
Job Description:

Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), a private, nonprofit research and evaluation firm based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, seeks a Senior Research Associate to support a team of researchers working on behavioral health prevention research and evaluation projects.

Responsibilities include: Research design, supervision of junior staff, monitoring the implementation of research protocols, statistical analysis, and technical writing.

This position has project management responsibilities, including planning, directing and coordinating complex project activities to ensure that goals and objectives are completed within prescribed time frames, staffing requirements and funding parameters. Individuals with professional experience in the field of substance abuse prevention research and evaluation and knowledge of state and federal-level reporting requirements are strongly encouraged to apply.

Minimum Qualifications:

Masters degree in a related field with 6 to 8 years experience;

Experience designing and conducting quantitative research projects in behavioral sciences;

Experience with state and national data sets;

Statistical training;

Strong writing skills;

Strong presentation and oral skills;
SPSS or other statistical software experience.

Preferred Qualifications:

Ph.D. in a related field with 3 to 4 years of experience;

Extensive experience with data processing applications such as SPSS and=

other statistical software;

Familiarity with advanced multivariate models;

Evidence of project management experience.

Please send cover letter and resume/CV to:
Leanne Candura
Human Services Research Institute
2336 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02140
lcandura@hsri.org

No phone calls please- email contact only.

----------------------------------------------------
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Date:         Thu, 9 Aug 2007 06:35:38 -0700
Reply-To:     Rob Daves <rob_daves@YAHOO.COM>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         Rob Daves <rob_daves@YAHOO.COM>
Subject:      Re: Harris Interactive survey featured in the NYT
Comments: To: Megan Thee <thee@NYTIMES.COM>, AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Colleagues...

The Times is to be applauded for having gui=

delines about the the use of polls. And Megan is right about how things sl=

ip through the cracks in newspapers and other news organizations. But adde=
d to that is the slippery concept of "news judgment" that allows editors to=

bend those rules. =0A=0A If the campaign trail is abuzz with the fi=
Findings of a new poll -- no matter how well or poorly it's done, or what the newspaper's polling unit or style book committee has in place for quality control, many editors are likely to say "let's run it." The reasons are many, and unfortunately have nothing to do with the validity of the poll or the quality of the findings in general. They have everything to do with the fear of getting beat by the competition, the fact that the information is out in the political arena already, the fact that it's interesting, and the fact that it could affect contribution and volunteer levels. I've even had editors tell me that they ran the results of a questionable poll with findings that are favorable to Candidate A because they ran a questionable poll in the past that was favorable to Candidate B -- all in the sake of another journalistic canon, fairness.

Right now AAPOR is working with the Poynter Institute for Media Studies to help train journalists about polls. And that's a Good Thing. But no matter how much training is provided, we can't forget that polls are the crack cocaine of the campaign trail, and the newest one -- no matter how well or poorly done -- is going to get attention.

Maybe the cracks are narrower at the Times, and its editors ignore the guidelines less frequently than editors in other news organizations. But unfortunately findings from polls that we might judge as unacceptable have a much lower threshold to meet in most newsrooms than on AAPORnet.

Just a few thoughts going into the 2008 elections.

All best wishes...

Rob    
--------------------
Robert P. Daves  
Past President, American Association for Public Opinion Research  
5412 Hampshire Drive  
Minneapolis MN 55419  
612-822-0085  
rob_daves@yahoo.com

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Megan THEE <thee@NYTIMES.COM> 
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU 
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2007 10:25:19 AM 
Subject: Re: Harris Interactive survey featured in the NYT

I would like to clarify that the story Melissa Marcello referenced as being published by The New York Times was not in fact the newspaper or written by a New York Times reporter. The Reuters story that Melissa was referring to was a wire story in the wires section of the NYT website. The wire stories from the AP and Reuters appear on the website through an automatic feed in a section apart from the rest of the news stories.

Melissa is correct that The Times did institute a set of Polling Standards for reporters and editors to comply with when writing stories for the newspaper. We do the best we can through education of our reporters and editors to make sure that our standards are enforced, but sometimes things slip through the cracks.

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This survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Interactive via its QuickQuery omnibus on behalf of Pinger between June 29 and July 3, 2007 among 2,049 adults...
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---

Date: Thu, 9 Aug 2007 09:29:23 -0700
Reply-To: "Margaret R. Roller" <rmr@ROLLERRESEARCH.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Margaret R. Roller" <rmr@ROLLERRESEARCH.COM>
Subject: Re: brochure evaluation survey?
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

I am in the middle of a similar study (a newsletter that actually reads more like a brochure) and have done others. I have found that a two-phase, qual-quant approach is the most effective. The qualitative phase really enables the researcher to uncover the nuances of design and understand what people really mean when they something like "it is easy to read." From t=
he qual I can design a useful quant interview that incorporates the issues red-flagged in the initial phase. A two-pronged design here works togethe= er well to make sense of each 'prong'.

--
Margaret R. Roller
Roller Marketing Research
rmr@rollerresearch.com

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Date: Fri, 10 Aug 2007 11:29:04 -0500
Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject: Job Opportunity
Comments: To: Aapornet@asu.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Position Title: Research Sample Coordinator

Salary Range: $40,000 - $50,000

Opinion Research Corporation, a member of the infoUSA family of companies, was established in 1938 as a global market research and consulting firm. We provide critical business information and consulting services to facilitate the decision-making process of executive management. Our experience spans 106 countries on 6 continents, with 21 global offices and 8 phone centers worldwide. We have a prestigious public and private client roster which includes:

- Both US Fortune 100 and Financial Times Global 100 companies
- Virtually every US Federal Government agency
- International development organizations and nonprofits
- CNN, the most trusted name in news (CNN/Opinion Research Corp. Poll)
We are currently seeking a Research Sample Coordinator in our Maumee, Ohio location.

Opinion Research Corporation is seeking a Research Sample Coordinator to work with our sample providers and internal staff. This position is responsible for the budgeting and procurement of sample for ORC market research surveys. The Research Sample Coordinator will assist in the evaluation of vendors and projects, educating internal personnel regarding sampling and circulation of sampling information.

Specifically, the Research Sample Coordinator will work closely with the Research Directors and Sample Providers to competitively budget projects, resolve any issues during the budgeting/procurement phase, and provide information to Technical Services Management and Research.

Requirements
Qualified candidates will have a Bachelor's degree in project management, marketing, business administration or related field. At least 2 years prior market research experience - preferably in the sampling and/or project management arena. Demonstrated experience in relationship building, strong problem solving and a client orientation required. Must have strong organizational and communication skills with the ability to maintain good time management while prioritizing and delivering against multiple deadlines.

Skills and Qualifications:

* Successful experience managing multiple projects simultaneously
* Strong attention to detail and results oriented - Strong analytical and problem solving abilities
* Well organized, good time management, with the desire to work hard to see all projects to completion
* Knowledge of Internet search engines
* PC literacy and comfort working with the Internet
* Ability to work in self-disciplined environment
* Ability to translate client business needs into successful projects
* Strong verbal, interpersonal and written communication skills
* Proven track record of providing valuable insights and innovative solutions
Responsibilities

Project Scope/Feasibility

* Review project specs and clarify as necessary=20
* Coordinate the budgeting and procurement of sample=20
* Investigate feasibility/cost for project (determine incidence when unknown - experience).=20
* Investigate targeting (when representative sample not needed) - web panels or internet searches=20

Bid Acquisition of Sample

* Prepare target specifications for vendors (standardized format)=20
* Send bids to vendors and respond to vendor questions/issues=20
* Review bids, determine feasibility and best placement across vendors.=20
* When unfeasible, look for additional/specialty vendors (internet searches)=20
* Provide pricing/feasibility to Budget Request staff=20

Project Start-up

* Attend internal kick-off meeting for projects - compare original requests with final requirements.=20
* Review sample files received from vendor/client - perform quick sense check=20
* Inform web vendors of upcoming projects and general schedule through field period.=20

In Field

* Project monitoring=20
* Track project status to ensure schedule and quotas/targets are being met.=20
* Communicate with internal clients and vendors as necessary - reply to questions/concerns=20
* Inform project manager when quotas met, request data review and OK to close web=20

Miscellaneous
* Investigate new sample sources
* Track vendor history and pricing - for future reference
* Prepare and distribute sampling information to educate internal personnel

Please send your resume and salary requirements to: hrres@opinionresearch.com or fax to 609-419-1904, Attn: Human Resources.

EOE M/F/D/V

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Advertising Age - August 07, 2007 =0Ahttp://adage.com/http://adage.com/ =0A=0AARF Puts Online Research Under Microscope =0AContradictory Results, Professional Respondents Prompt Foundation to Set Standards =0ABy Jack Neff =0A=0APublished: August 07, 2007 =0ABATAVIA, Ohio (AdAge.com) -- Growing doubts about the validity of online market research have prompted the Advertising Research Foundation to form a council to draft new standards aimed at stemming erosion of client credibility. =0A=0AARF's Online Research Quality Council will hold its first meeting Sept. 10. =0A=0AOnline research is more than a decade old, and its relative speed and lack of expense has made it a growing force, but its spotty validity increasingly has become an industry embarrassment. =0A=0ADiametrically opposed results=0ALast September, for example, at a roundtable hosted by the Institute for International Research, Kim Dedeker, VP-consumer and market knowledge for Procter & Gamble Co., said =
two online surveys from the same provider conducted a week apart delivered diametrically opposed results. P&G is the world's biggest buyer of survey research, spending $200 million annually with 600 vendors. (Some at that conference criticized marketers for inviting the decline in research quality as their purchasing departments squeezed costs out of contracts.)

ComScore's research, conducted as part of an effort to sell a panel of nonprofessional online respondents, showed that 0.25% of the online population accounts for 32% of responses in other online surveys, while less than 5% account for more than half of the responses.

"Reports of the failure of online studies to replicate when repeated are becoming more common," the ARF said in a statement. "The influence on results of the 'heavy online survey responder' is worrisome, but has not yet been studied in a disciplined and objective manner."

The newly formed Online Research Quality Council will hold its first meeting Sept. 10 and aim to establish a set of industry standards for evaluation by early April, when the ARF holds its annual convention in New York.

An advisory board of marketers, but the ARF named only one in its statement, Coca-Cola Co.'s Stan Sthanathan, VP-knowledge and insights. "The rigor and discipline that characterized sampling plans of the 1970s and '80s is missing in the online era," Mr. Sthanathan said in the ARF statement. "The 'good, fast, cheap ... pick any two' syndrome has jeopardized the client credibility of online access panels," ARF President-CEO Robert Barocci said in the statement. "This trend, combined with the rise of online communities and blogs, has increased the rate of individuals conducting research online without applying statistical methodologies or research techniques essential to quality."

Mark David Richards

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Date: Fri, 10 Aug 2007 12:15:48 -0500
Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject: Job Opportunity
Comments: To: Aapornet@asu.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
JOB DESCRIPTION

A leading strategic consulting and advertising firm with offices in Washington, DC, and New York has an immediate need for a Research and Data Analyst for its rapidly growing public opinion research division in the company's Washington, DC office, working on corporate, political and issue advocacy research.

Skills required include descriptive statistics, cross tabulation, and advanced quantitative analysis in SPSS. Primary responsibilities include: conducting data manipulation, crosstabulation, and analysis on all quantitative projects and providing technical advice on statistical and methodological issues to research division.

Analyst will also be involved in development, execution, and analysis of quantitative and qualitative research projects, including developing new business presentations, writing questionnaires, developing qualitative discussion guides, and creating presentations summarizing research findings.

Must be able to manage multiple highly visible projects simultaneously, meet aggressive deadlines without sacrificing product quality, have excellent written and oral communications skills, and the ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

Advanced degree or certificate in survey methodology required; advanced degree preferred. Two to five years relevant experience required.

Please submit a cover letter with reference to the job title and resume to apply@gloverparkgroup.com or Human Resources, The Glover Park Group, 3299 K Street NW Suite 500, Washington, DC 20007.
Today's mail brought a large envelope with a letter telling me how important my opinion is to the DNC. Thirteen questions on everything from 'Which of the following issues is the most important to you?' to asking me for my opinion on Iraq, abortion, environment, etc.

'Question 14. To help make progress on issues discussed in this survey, will you join the DNC as a contributing member today?'

When I went to their web site to try to do the survey on-line using the provided url, it directed me right to the contribution page. No survey on their site for my 'very important opinion'.

I'm annoyed.

--
Joyce Rachelson, VP, PRC
Director of Product Sales
*C**/f/MC* Research Software
915 Broadway, Suite 609
New York, NY 10010
(212) 777-5120 Phone
(212) 777-5217 Fax

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Joyce,
I am the AAPOR Standards Chair, and, after I received a similar mailing, I sent the DNC a letter warning them not to engage in fund raising under the guise of a survey. Obviously, they did not take my letter seriously.
Frugging is now specifically covered by our Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. If you would like to file a formal complaint against the DNC, please go to our website and fill out the complaint form. You can send it to our secure email site that is listed on the form.

I would love to see this practice ended not only by the DNC but by all the other organizations that misuse survey research in this way.

Charlotte

> From: Joyce Rachelson <j.rachels@EARTHLINK.NET>
> Date: 2007/08/10 Fri PM 01:23:48 EST
> To: AAPORNENET@ASU.EDU
> Subject: I've just been frugged by the DNC
>
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Joyce

steehc@bellsouth.net wrote:

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Date:         Fri, 10 Aug 2007 15:28:50 -0400
Reply-To:     "Goldenberg, Karen - BLS" <Goldenberg.Karen@BLS.GOV>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         "Goldenberg, Karen - BLS" <Goldenberg.Karen@BLS.GOV>
Subject:      Re: I've just been frugged by the DNC
Comments: To: steehc@BELLSouth.NET, AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
In-Reply-To:  A<20070810184819.974097EF24B@bcnet2.asu.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

The DNC has been frugging for many years. I complained about a FRUG mailing from them at least 10 years ago. Since they're still at it, it obviously it works as a fund-raiser. Sadly, AAPOR hasn't succeeded in stopping the practice.
I'm a little surprised that the online version gives up even the pretense of the survey, though.
Karen Goldenberg

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Charlotte G. Steeh
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2007 2:48 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: I've just been frugged by the DNC

Joyce,
I am the AAPOR Standards Chair, and, after I received a similar mailing, I sent the DNC a letter warning them not to engage in fund raising under the guise of a survey. Obviously, they did not take my letter seriously. Frugging is now specifically covered by our Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. If you would like to file a formal complaint against the DNC, please go to our website and fill out the complaint form. You can send it to our secure email site that is listed on the form.

I would love to see this practice ended not only by the DNC but by all the other organizations that misuse survey research in this way.

Charlotte

> From: Joyce Rachelson <j.rachels@EARTHLINK.NET>
> Date: 2007/08/10 Fri PM 01:23:48 EST
> To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
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this is not only a DNC issue -- I get many of these types of mail from charitable foundations, institutions, etc. It is extremely prevalent.

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu]On Behalf Of Joyce Rachelson
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2007 12:05 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: I've just been frugged by the DNC

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> >> Date: 2007/08/10 Fri PM 01:23:48 EST
> >> To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
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> >>
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A well-known persuasion ploy: In persuasion research we know this as the
foot-in-the-door effect. It is used with regularity by salespeople,
telemarketers, and now the DNC.

Rick Perloff

At 03:28 PM 8/10/2007 -0400, Goldenberg, Karen - BLS wrote:
> The DNC has been frugging for many years. I complained about a FRUG
> mailing from them at least 10 years ago. Since they're still at it, it
> obviously it works as a fund-raiser. Sadly, AAPOR hasn't succeeded in
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> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Charlotte G. Steeh
> Sent: Friday, August 10, 2007 2:48 PM
> To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
> Subject: Re: I've just been frugged by the DNC
>

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Richard M. Perloff
Director and Professor
School of Communication
Cleveland State University
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
216-687-4631

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---
Date:     Fri, 10 Aug 2007 16:19:34 -0400
Reply-To: Patrick Glaser <pglaser@CMOR.ORG>
Sender:   AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:     Patrick Glaser <pglaser@CMOR.ORG>
Subject:  Re: I've just been frugged by the DNC
Comments: To: joycer@cfmc.com, AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
In-Reply-To: <46BCB6D4.6030201@earthlink.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Thanks Joyce,

Please forward any related correspondence you've received. Our Government Affairs department would be happy to follow-up.

Patrick Glaser
Director of Respondent Cooperation
CMOR...Shielding the Profession
Ph:212.480.2464
Fx:860.682.1010

Mailing Address:
110 National Drive, 2nd Floor
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CMOR sent the DNC correspondence regarding this issue on June 5, when a member of ours complained about the "2007 Grassroots Survey of Democratic Leaders" fundraising letter.

The DNC responded shortly thereafter that the Committee thinks this is a legitimate means of fundraising and a commonly accepted practice.

CMOR will be meeting soon with staff from the DNC in hopes of better explaining the damage their fundraising arm is doing to the accuracy of their own research, as well as to the survey and opinion research profession as a whole.

Sincerely,
Howard Fienberg
Director of Government Affairs
CMOR
hfienberg@cmor.org
1111 16th St. NW, Suite 120
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 775-5170
Fax: (202) 775-5172
http://www.cmor.org
http://www.youropinioncounts.org

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Patrick Glaser
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2007 4:20 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: I've just been frugged by the DNC

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Patrick Glaser
Director of Respondent Cooperation
CMOR...Shielding the Profession
Ph:212.480.2464
Fx:860.682.1010

Mailing Address:
110 National Drive, 2nd Floor
Glastonbury, CT 06033-1212

www.cmor.org
www.youropinioncounts.org

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Joyce Rachelson
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2007 3:05 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: I've just been frugged by the DNC

I copied CMOR on it and I will follow up by going to the website.

Now if I can just get all the candidates to stop calling me using Predictive Dialers and recorded messages life would be much better.

Joyce

steehc@bellsouth.net wrote:
> Joyce,
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>> Date: 2007/08/10 Fri PM 01:23:48 EST
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>> Subject: I've just been frugged by the DNC
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'The Fourth question, the one that stuck out the most was: 'Which of the following issues is the most important to you?" ...thirteen questions... Iraq, abortion, environment, etc.

When I went to their web site to try to do the survey on-line using the provided url, it directed me right to the contribution page. No survey on their site for my 'very important opinion'...

I'm annoyed.

--
Joyce Rachelson, VP, PRC
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*C**/fMC* Research Software
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On your return send this: set aapornet mail Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET.
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--
No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.476 / Virus Database: 269.11.8/941 - Release Date: 8/7/2007
4:06 PM

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Problems?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu

-------------------------------------------------------------------------
Date:         Fri, 10 Aug 2007 17:47:43 -0400
Reply-To:     joycer@cfmc.com
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         Joyce Rachelson <j.rachels@EARTHLINK.NET>
Organization: CfMC Research Software
Subject:      Re: I've just been frugged by the DNC
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
In-Reply-To:  <003401c7db9655d1ae71051200a8c0@MRAPC077>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

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> as a whole.
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> Sincerely,
> Howard Fienberg
> Director of Government Affairs
> CMOR
> hfienberg@cmor.org
> 1111 16th St. NW, Suite 120
> Washington, DC 20036
> (202) 775-5170
> Fax: (202) 775-5172
> http://www.cmor.org
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From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Patrick Glaser
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2007 4:20 PM
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To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: I've just been frugged by the DNC

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-------------------------------------------------------------------------
Date:         Mon, 13 Aug 2007 10:23:22 EDT
Reply-To:     JAnnSelzer@AOL.COM
What is it called when an automated phone call opens with a survey, then turns out to be a voter identification tool for a candidate? They say it is a "political survey." I didn't participate, but I heard it go through its paces on my answering machine, which I also thought odd. It was as though it was recording my non-response into their dataset and moving to the next question. JAS

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company
520 42nd Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
515.271.5700

This e-mail address if for purposes of this list. Otherwise, contact me at JASelzer@SelzerCo.com


In a message dated 8/10/2007 5:14:36 P.M. Central Daylight Time, j.rachels@EARTHLINK.NET writes:

That's the one I got. I've forwarded it to Patrick Glasser.

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-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Patrick Glaser
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2007 4:20 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: I've just been frugged by the DNC

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----------------------------------------------------
J. Ann, would you mind sharing some more information on this survey? I can't speak to the technical aspects of an automated dialing announcing device (ADAD) that can't figure out when it is speaking to an answering machine... However, I am curious to know more about the survey itself and how you determined it was a voter identification tool.

Based on the limited information you stated, there is nothing obviously illegal or unethical about the survey, but CMOR would need more information before making any grand pronouncements on this case.

Sincerely,
Howard Fienberg
Director of Government Affairs
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Washington, DC 20036
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Fax: (202) 775-5172
http://www.cmor.org
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-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of J. Ann Selzer
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2007 10:23 AM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: I've just been frugged by the DNC

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**************************************** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL
at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

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Good morning,
I am working with a collaboration of universities regarding the
development of a four year nursing degree program in a region that
currently only offers a two-year program. For one aspect of this
analysis, the universities want to develop a survey to conduct with
nurses currently working in the field regarding their readiness /
desire to complete to a four year degree. Has anyone seen or done any
assessments on this topic (that may or may not be related to nursing
specifically) that I might be able to view as we move forward?
Thanks,
David Jones
Wright State University
Bonus Minutes and Complementary Cases: New Programs for the 2008 ANES Survey

August 13, 2007

The American National Election Studies is pleased to announce two new programs: Bonus Minutes and Complementary Cases. Scholars can use these opportunities to enhance their own research agendas while making important contributions to the ANES user community.

* Bonus Minutes Overview *

For the first time, ANES will allow interested persons to purchase space on the 2008 national face-to-face election survey. This version of the largest and longest-running ANES data collection is a two-wave panel that will be conducted in the months immediately before (September, October) and after (November, December) the 2008 presidential election. All interviews are conducted face-to-face in respondents' homes. This study will be the newest addition to the ANES time-series that now covers over 50 years of elections. To learn more about the ANES time series, visit:
http://www.electionstudies.org/studypages/cdf/cdf.htm
and
http://www.electionstudies.org/nesguide/nesguide.htm

People who purchase this space can, subject to the proposal review procedures described below, guarantee that topics and questions of their choosing are covered on the 2008 ANES survey. Given the extensive range of questions that the ANES normally includes, this opportunity provides for scholars a direct means for evaluating how particular items interact with existing items in a high-quality election survey.

* Bonus Minutes Program Details *

Up to 25 minutes of time will be available for sale.

For researchers who are formally affiliated with colleges, universities, or governmental agencies, the cost of a two-minute module is $35,000. Additional minutes can be purchased at a price of $15,000 each. For all other persons, the cost of a two-minute module is $58,000. Additional minutes can be purchased at a price of $29,000 each. As ANES is strictly non-partisan, it cannot consider proposals from partisan organizations (i.e., organizations that attempt to intervene in the processes ANES is attempting to study).

Proceeds from the Bonus Minutes program will be used to benefit the entire ANES user community. After covering the necessary survey and administrative costs of the Bonus Minutes program, ANES will use the proceeds to expand the length of the pre-election survey (whose content will be determined by the entire user community through the Online Commons) and to improve data quality by pursuing activities such as vote validation. In short, while purchasers of Bonus Minutes will be able to secure a place for questions of interest to them, their contributions will help to produce outcomes that benefit all ANES users.
This program will not displace questions that would otherwise appear on the 2008 ANES. Our grant from NSF pays for sixty minutes of interview time before and after the election. The Bonus Minutes program allows us to extend the post-election portion of the interview beyond our current capacity.

All questions administered through the Bonus Minutes program will be made available to all ANES users on an equal basis. This program does not provide exclusive or privileged access to ANES data to anyone. Purchasing Bonus Minutes simply reserves a place for the proposer's desired content will appear on the 2008 ANES.

Final timings for contractual purposes will be determined in a pre-test to be conducted in the summer of 2008. At that point, the Bonus Minute purchaser and ANES will agree to the final set of questions. In the event that proposed questions take more than the time purchased, the number of questions will have to be reduced. Should the proposed questions take far less than the time purchased under the Bonus Modules program, additional questions will be permitted. Generally speaking, 3 to 4 brief questions can be asked and answered per minute. More complicated questions can take substantially longer. ANES can provide data on question timing from previous surveys.

To minimize the administrative costs of this program, we cannot accept proposals for Bonus Minutes that are less than two minutes in length, only whole additional minutes will be sold, and we cannot accept proposals that ask questions of only part of our sample -- all Bonus Minute questions will be asked to all respondents.

We expect that Bonus Minutes questions will appear at or near the end of the 2008 study's post-election wave. The purpose of this placement is to ensure that Bonus Minutes content will not interfere with responses to questions being placed on the survey through normal ANES means. In rare instances, we will consider proposals for inclusion in the pre-election wave, but such proposals must be determined by ANES to pose no harm to the Time Series.

The number of cases cannot be guaranteed, but here are our current estimates. At present, ANES is scheduled to conduct hour-long face-to-face interviews in the homes of a nationally representative sample of Americans before and after the election. The survey is targeting a sample of 1500-1800 respondents for the pre-election interview. In addition, and thanks to a cooperative agreement with scholars from the University of Washington, we will also conduct interviews with a substantial oversample of the Latino population. The survey is targeting 350 additional Latino voters. As is always the case with large surveys, the actual number of cases we will achieve depends on a number of factors. Our Complementary Cases program may lead to an increase in the total number of cases. Moreover, we remain interested in partnerships with federal agencies and scholarly teams (such as the one we have with the University of Washington) that may further increase the total number of cases.
* Details on How to Make a Bonus Minutes Proposal *

Proposals for Bonus Modules will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Each proposal must have two components: a financial component and a scientific component. The financial component must provide details on how the proposal will be funded. Both documents must be provided to ANES at "anes-proposals@electionstudies.org". The scientific component will be posted on the Online Commons and should be considered a public document. The financial component will be reviewed by the ANES Board of Overseers, Principal Investigators, staff and other survey personnel as needed for evaluation and as required under federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements, but it will not be otherwise distributed and will not be a public document.

Each proposal's scientific component must propose wording for all questions. It must also follow the format of proposals to the ANES Online Commons. This means that proposals are limited to ten pages with font no smaller than 12 point, one-inch margins, and double spacing. Scholars may submit multiple proposals. Scholars who wish to alert people to detailed materials to support their arguments may do so in the text of their proposal. All references must include a URL for a publicly-accessible website.

As a general matter, the criteria for inclusion for Bonus Minutes questions are quite broad. ANES prefers to receive Bonus Minutes proposals that are relevant to questions of voting and elections. The rationale underlying the proposal should be of high scientific quality and questions should be useful to a wide range of ANES users. Questions need not be about the elections specifically. Questions about a range of economic, sociological, psychological or related topics are welcomed. However, ANES will not accept any proposal that is seen to damage the integrity of the study in any way.

We will use the Online Commons to seek public comment on the scientific component of the proposal and its value to ANES users for a period of no less than 60 days. Then, we will refer the proposal to the Board of Overseers. Upon soliciting advice from the Board and the User Community, the Principal Investigators will render a decision on the proposal's suitability for the ANES. Based on the review and public comment, ANES may alter question wording to improve the value of the data to the ANES user community. As ANES retains the right to reject proposals for any reason, including question wording concerns, we encourage proposers to use the Online Commons as a means for soliciting advice about optimal wording.

After the review, a proposal is either rejected or it is considered provisionally accepted. Final acceptance requires payment in full and all requisite IRB approvals.

IRB approval is required for final acceptance. Such approval must come from several sources. First, the IRBs of Michigan, Stanford, and RTI International (the survey firm with whom we are working) must approve all ANES studies. The ANES staff will work with applicants who receive provisional acceptance to gain IRB approval at these institutions.
Moreover, the home institution(s) of university-based researchers may require proposers to solicit their own IRB's approval prior to seeking funding or paying for Bonus Minutes. Please check with your home institution in advance of compiling a proposal. For final acceptance, ANES will need documentation of your home institution's IRB approval or documentation that your home institution does not require its own IRB review.

In the event that more proposals are provisionally accepted than can be administered, priority will go to proposals that achieve final acceptance first. Provisional acceptance does not constitute a guarantee of content inclusion. That guarantee comes only after final acceptance is achieved.

Once our capacity for adding modules is exhausted, the Bonus Modules initiative for the 2008 ANES will end. Otherwise, the deadline for Final Acceptance is June 30, 2008. If full payment for a provisionally accepted Bonus Minutes module is not received by this date, the questions cannot be included. To maximize the likelihood of meeting the deadlines described above, we recommend that Bonus Minutes proposals be submitted no later than January 15, 2008.

* The Complementary Cases Program *

ANES is also interested in working with scholars who are interested in expanding the size of the respondent pool. These proposals can target a particular subpopulation or they can seek to increase the sample size as a whole.

The Complementary Cases initiative has the potential to provide innovative scholars who are interested in the views of specific Americans with an opportunity to obtain high quality data on their views at a relatively low cost. Subject to the conditions stated above, Complementary Cases can provide a "win-win" situation. Scholars who succeed in getting their sample added to the ANES win, because they get an oversample of their desired population without having to pay the fixed costs of conducting their own face-to-face study. The ANES user community wins because the data are made available to everyone on an equal basis and are collected in a way that enhances the value of the base study.

The procedures for submitting a Complementary Cases proposal parallel those described for the Bonus Minutes program. Each proposal must have two components: a financial component and a scientific component. The financial component must provide details on how the proposal will be funded. The scientific component must describe the target population and a rationale for including an expanded sample of such persons. Both documents must be provided to ANES at "anes-proposals@electionstudies.org". The proposal review and acceptance policies are as stated above with one exception. The deadline for Final Acceptance of a Complementary Cases proposal is March 31, 2008. To maximize the likelihood of meeting this deadline, we recommend that Bonus Minutes proposals be submitted no later than December 1, 2007.
The cost per case will depend on the kind and number of additional cases requested. It should be noted that requests to oversample very small or hard to reach groups are likely to be prohibitively expensive. Moreover, it takes considerable time and effort to obtain cost estimates from the survey firms with which we work. So we cannot consider Complementary Cases proposals that will be impossible to implement or that are not attached to a credible funding source.

* Bonus Minutes and Complementary Cases Program History *

The Bonus Minutes and Complementary Cases programs arise from two factors. The first factor is the National Science Foundation's desire to have the ANES "serve as a 'docking station' for substantive modules submitted by researchers who may not be part of the ANES project team." Such programs provide opportunities for scholars with special needs to advance their own research agendas while augmenting ANES data for everyone else.

The second factor is economies of scale. Conducting a nationally representative face-to-face survey entails paying the large fixed costs required to get ANES interviewers to the doorsteps of randomly selected Americans. Fixed costs also come from questionnaire design, computer programming (to allow dynamic interviews to be conducted via laptops in a range of settings), and sampling framework development and evaluation that must be completed before the first interview is attempted. Also fixed are the costs of extensive training to ensure that the interviews are conducted in a standardized manner, the costs of housing interviewers for the weeks when the 2008 study will be in the field, and payments that survey respondents receive for agreeing to participate in an interview. Once these fixed costs are paid, however, it is possible to add extra questions to the interviews and expand the sample at costs that are low relative to the fixed cost.

We are excited to have the opportunity to introduce these new programs. We look forward to working with you on using the Bonus Minutes and Complementary Cases programs expand and enhance upcoming ANES surveys.

Sincerely,
Jon A. Krosnick and Arthur Lupia
ANES Principal Investigators

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Date:         Mon, 13 Aug 2007 14:50:19 -0500
Reply-To:     wcarter@UCHICAGO.EDU
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         Woody Carter <wcarter@UCHICAGO.EDU>
Subject: Urgent need for field work help in Manhattan (museum intercepts)
The best laid plans...

In any case, we just learned we need to hire to cover intercepts (self-administered questionnaire) at a museum on the upper East Side. Our supervisor will be there throughout to train and share the work.

The dates: August 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 and (if necessary) 29 and 30 during the hours the museum is open (usually 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

If you have any ideas re this impossible staffing situation, please let me know.

Woody Carter

----------------------------------------------------
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Date:         Mon, 13 Aug 2007 23:13:08 -0500
Reply-To:     Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject:      Job Opportunity
Comments: To: aapornet@asu.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press has immediate openings for survey researchers in its Washington, DC office.

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. The Center for the People & the Press has a staff of approximately ten researchers, and works closely with research staff in the Pew Global Attitudes Project, Pew Social Trends Project, PewResearch.org editorial staff, and other Centers under the Pew Research Center umbrella.
Openings are available at various levels of experience. We encourage applications from recent college graduates (BA, MA or PhD) with a strong interest in polling, data management, and statistical analysis. We are also seeking applications from individuals with more extensive training and/or experience in the polling field. All positions require an affinity for quantitative data analysis and either clearly established quantitative skills or a strong desire to develop those skills. The Center places the highest value on attention to detail, including exacting standards to maintain the accuracy and impartiality in all work products.

Job description and primary job responsibilities will vary depending on experience and training, but include data management and quality control, participation in questionnaire development, assisting with report production and distribution, data analysis, responding to external requests for information, and assisting with the overall administrative needs and workflow of the Center. Solid news judgment and interest in public affairs and current events are highly valued, and strong writing and communication skills are essential. All Center projects are collaborative efforts, and researchers will work in a team environment with opportunities for both individual and collective contributions to the research output of the organization.

Interested applicants should send a complete résumé and cover letter to careers@pewresearch.org with the subject line "People & the Press Job Listing". Please attach your resume and cover letter as MSWord or Adobe PDF documents, with a text copy of your cover letter in the body of the e-mail.

We will begin reviewing applications on August 27th, and applications should be submitted no later than September 9th to receive full consideration. We are an equal opportunity employer. Because of recruiting volume, we are only able to contact those selected for interviews.

For more information about careers at the Pew Research Center go to http://pewresearch.org/careers.
Can anyone point me to recent and interesting polls on negative campaigning. We've all seen polls that say people do not like it; but is there more to that story? Thanks! JAS

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company
520 42nd Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
515.271.5700

This e-mail address if for purposes of this list. Otherwise, contact me at JASelzer@SelzerCo.com


************************************************************************ Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

************************************************************************

I have a client that is concerned that the web version of the paper survey he designed must be formatted to look EXACTLY the same. I can get it the web
Is there any literature/personal experiences regarding using mixed mode (paper and web) and effects on responses due to formatting differences?

I need a quick response if possible. Please respond to me directly at
draughon.research@insightbb.com

Thanks! Kat Draughon

Dr. Katherine "Kat" Draughon
Draughon Research, LLC
www.draughonresearch.com
draughon.research@insightbb.com

Dear all

I am curious as to how other people define "opinion leaders" in their projects. Seems to recall that Roper has a definition--does anyone know what it is?

thank you
Masahiko
On behalf of Megan Comfort and myself, many thanks to those who responded to our inquiry from July 9th re: asking participants to endorse how they perceive others' views of their race/ethnicity. The following is a summary of the resources suggested to us.

1) Optional module 13 in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Questionnaire (http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/questionnaires/pdf-ques/2006brfss.pdf), which has a question about how others identify the participant's race and several related questions.

2) Vickie Mays and Susan Cochran at UCLA. A recent article of theirs that looked particularly relevant is:

Race, Race-Based Discrimination, and Health Outcomes Among African Americans. 
Mays, Vickie M. 

Abstract: Persistent and vexing health disadvantages accrue to African Americans despite decades of work to erase the effects of race discrimination in this country. Participating in these efforts, psychologists and other social scientists have hypothesized that African Americans' continuing experiences with racism and discrimination may lie at the root of the many well-documented race-based physical health disparities that affect this population. With newly emerging
methodologies in both measurement of contextual factors and functional neuroscience, an opportunity now exists to cleave together a comprehensive understanding of the ways in which discrimination has harmful effects on health. In this article, we review emerging work that locates the cause of race-based health disparities in the external effects of the contextual social space on the internal world of brain functioning and physiologic response. These approaches reflect the growing interdisciplinary nature of psychology in general, and the field of race relations in particular. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2007 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Lance M. Pollack, PhD
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tel: 415-597-9302
fax: 415-597-9213
e-mail: Lance.Pollack@ucsf.edu
First thoughts Posted: Tuesday, August 14, 2007 9:13 AM by Domenico Montanaro
Categories: First Glance, 2008
From Chuck Todd, Mark Murray, and Domenico Montanaro


*** Flying Blind: NBC/WSJ pollster Peter Hart (D) tells First Read that the revision of the primary calendar -- moving Iowa forward to the first few days in January -- is really the most important political event that has happened in the past few months.

SNIP

Perhaps most significant of all is that no one will know who's up and who's down right before Iowa. No self-respecting polling company, he says, does polling between the 20th and 25th of December.

SNIP

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Director of Research
Art & Science Group, LLC
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Baltimore MD  21209

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The manager of our phone room - found this the other day on the Attorney General for Minnesota's web site - indicating that organizations exempt from do not call lists - must keep their own do not call list that individuals can request to be put on and if you call them once they have requested to be on the list - the fine can be up to $11,000.

//"Stopping Calls from Exempt Companies and Organizations. Even if the company or organization contacting you is exempt from the National Do Not Call Registry, you may still request that it place you on its own “do not call” list. The newly amended federal law requires companies to honor your request for privacy. Companies that violate this law and continue to call you may be subject to a fine of up to $11,000."/
http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Phone/ReducingCalls.asp

--
Todd Rockwood, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Division of Health Policy and Management
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Date: Wed, 15 Aug 2007 15:05:13 -0400
Reply-To: Howard Fienberg <hfienberg@CMOR.ORG>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Howard Fienberg <hfienberg@CMOR.ORG>
Subject: Re: Do not call lists and exempt organizations
In-Reply-To: <46C342BF.70803@umn.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Todd,

Although CMOR recommends that all survey and opinion researchers implement their own internal do not call lists as a best practice, the federal Telemarketing Sales Rule and other regulations DO NOT require companies and entities that are outside of the scope of the national Do Not Call Registry (like survey and opinion research) to have such lists. The upcoming telephone component of the CMOR Compliance Guide contains a lot of suggestions on model clauses and considerations to use when developing your internal do not call list -- you can get more information at http://www.cmor.org/cg.

CMOR will be reaching out to the Minnesota Attorney General to discuss this issue with them shortly, in order that they may better understand the nature of research, the practices of the research profession, and the limitations of the law.

In conclusion -- researchers SHOULD have their own internal do not call lists, but are not REQUIRED to have them.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this message is for guidance and informational purposes only. It is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice. CMOR advises all parties to consult with private legal counsel regarding the interpretation and application of any laws to your business.
Sincerely,
Howard Fienberg
Director of Government Affairs
CMOR
hfienberg@cmor.org
1111 16th St. NW, Suite 120
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 775-5170
Fax: (202) 775-5172
http://www.cmor.org
http://www.youropinioncounts.org

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNENET [mailto:AAPORNENET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Todd Rockwood
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2007 2:15 PM
To: AAPORNENET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Do not call lists and exempt organizations

The manager of our phone room - found this the other day on the Attorney General for Minnesota's web site - indicating that organizations exempt from do not call lists - must keep their own do not call list that individuals can request to be put on and if you call them once they have requested to be on the list - the fine can be up to $11,000.

"Stopping Calls from Exempt Companies and Organizations. Even if the company or organization contacting you is exempt from the National Do Not Call Registry, you may still request that it place you on its own "do not call" list. The newly amended federal law requires companies to honor your request for privacy. Companies that violate this law and continue to call you may be subject to a fine of up to $11,000."

http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Phone/ReducingCalls.asp

--
Todd Rockwood, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Division of Health Policy and Management Academic Director, Center for Survey Research in Public Health University of Minnesota 420 Delaware St SE, MMC 729 Minneapolis, MN 55455 v. 612.625.3993, f. 612.624.4408

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Date: Wed, 15 Aug 2007 15:09:15 -0400
Yes, we have been keeping a database of such entries since New York enacted a statewide DNC list. The calling software we use can be directed to check each dial against the list maintained for every project conducted.

We are very much exempt, but must nevertheless take care. What is critical in MN is also the case in NY.

John Healy  
Manager, Polling Center  
NYSUT  
800 Troy-Schenectady Road  
Latham, NY 12110-2455  
(518) 213-6000  
x.6680  
jhealy@nysutmail.org

>>> "Todd Rockwood" <rockw001@UMN.EDU> 08/15/07 2:15 PM >>>
The manager of our phone room - found this the other day on the Attorney General for Minnesota's web site - indicating that organizations exempt from do not call lists - must keep their own do not call list that individuals can request to be put on and if you call them once they have requested to be on the list - the fine can be up to $11,000.

"Stopping Calls from Exempt Companies and Organizations. Even if the company or organization contacting you is exempt from the National Do Not Call Registry, you may still request that it place you on its own do not call list. The newly amended federal law requires companies to honor your request for privacy. Companies that violate this law and continue to call you may be subject to a fine of up to $11,000."

http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Phone/ReducingCalls.asp

--
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Academic Director, Center for Survey Research in Public Health  
University of Minnesota  
420 Delaware St SE, MMC 729  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
v. 612.625.3993, f. 612.624.4408
Date:       Wed, 15 Aug 2007 20:46:53 +0100
Reply-To:   Joe Stead <Joe.Stead@IPSOS-MORI.COM>
From:       Joe Stead <Joe.Stead@IPSOS-MORI.COM>
Subject:    Re: Do not call lists and exempt organizations
Comments:   To: rockw001@UMN.EDU, AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64

VGhpcyBoYXMgYmVlbiBsZWdp2c2xhdGlviBpbiB0aGUgVGUgVUGzm9yIHVmbHgWGUgGr8g

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Dear colleagues, please find below a conference call which might interest quite a number of you

Peter Mohler

*SECOND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

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_15th September 2007_ *

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A wide variety of disciplines including sociology, political science,
marketing, media, communication science, economics, education, health,
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Research activities from developed and emerging countries around the world;

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these disciplines, such as: family and gender research, social networks,
election studies, research in fragile states and among disaster-stricken
populations, health care assessment, labor and income research,
organizational research;

Key methodological topics including: study design, question design,
process quality control and assurance, survey error, multilingual
issues, data collection methods and modes, sampling and weighting,
analys and testing, data documentation and distribution.

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*To Tell The Truth To Pollsters*
* Aug. 15, 2007*
*--------------------------------------------------------*
*(CBS) **By Kathy Frankovic, CBS News director of surveys*
Do people lie to pollsters?

After the wrong prediction in 1948 election, the editors of The New Yorker magazine thought people did =97 and that they should. "The total collapse of the public opinion polls," they wrote, "shows that the country is in good health .... (A)lthough you can take a nation's pulse, you can't be sure that the nation hasn't just run up a flight of stairs =85 (W)e are proud of America for clouding up the crystal ball, for telling one thing to a poll-taker, another thing to a voting machine. This is an excellent land."

There have been campaigns to lie to pollsters. In the early 1980s, Chicago newspaper columnist Mike Royko told people to do it before the Illinois primary. But when CBS News conducted a short poll in the Chicago area to see whether readers would take his advice, many people said they read the column, and enjoyed what Royko had to say, but also that they wouldn't take his advice seriously. And in fact, that year's primary election poll was quite accurate.

Lying takes more mental effort than telling the truth. Telling one lie usually means you need to tell more lies. It's much easier not to say anything, or just hang up the phone =97 which might help explain why response rates to polls have dropped over the years. If people take the time to answer a pollster's questions, they usually try to tell the truth!

However, some answers to poll questions may not be lies, but they also may not quite be the truth. They may be the product of faulty recall, or of misremembered memories. Respondents answer the questions they are asked, but if a question requires too much effort, they may do just enough thinking to come up with a reasonable answer. Survey psychologists call this "satisficing." (a combination of "satisfying" and "sufficing").

Some survey questions do require a detailed recall of events. For surveys involving expenditures, researchers will ask respondents to look at their financial records, and NOT to rely only on their memories. People who study victimization or consumer behavior know that reports of events (such as a crime, or a major purchase) can be put in the wrong time period. People may "telescope" their memory of an event, thinking that what happened a long time ago happened more recently. And different people do conceptualize time differently. As a political scientist and pollster, for example, I often think in terms of four-year presidential election cycles, so sometimes I say "last year" when I mean 2004.

It's also true that people sometimes base their responses to questions on what they think the interviewer wants to hear. In the 1980s, some respondents, asked about their support for feminist issues, told different
things to male and female interviewers. And sometimes black and white interviewers have gotten different answers when they have asked about some African-American candidates and about racial attitudes.

Then there are times when people give a false answer to a question because they think that telling the truth could leave the wrong impression. For example, people who attend church most Sundays might very well tell an interviewer that they went to church "last Sunday," even if they didn't, reasoning that, if the interviewer had asked that question last week, it would have been true.

Just as people think of themselves as "church-goers," they also think of themselves as "voters," especially when asked about politics and elections. It's not that they lie about voting =97 rather, they like to think of themselves as people who vote. And some of those who misreport voting in one election have voted in the past, though not necessarily in the election the pollster has asked about.

Finally, questions about past elections may become assessments of current feelings, not reports of actual past votes. One spectacular change in vote reporting took place between 1960 and 1964. Right after the close election of 1960, the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan found an evenly divided electorate, much like the actual nationwide results. Two years later, however, 56 percent of voters said they had voted for John F. Kennedy and just 43 percent said they voted for Richard Nixon. In 1964, after JFK's 1963 assassination, his narrow victory of 1960 had turned into a 28-point landslide in voters' memories: 64 percent of those interviewed said they had voted for JFK, while only 36 percent admitted voting for Nixon.

Voters have had a roller coaster ride with their memories when it comes to the current president, too! Immediately after the 2000 election, voters reported their 2000 vote accurately in a CBS News Poll. It was a close election and a close poll result. In the latest CBS News Poll, self-reports of the 2004 vote give President Bush a 6-point lead over John Kerry, only slightly inflated from the actual outcome.

But as George W. Bush's approval rating soared to 90 percent following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Bush also gained votes. Al Gore's narrow victory in the national tabulated vote turned into an apparent 16-point Bush landslide in the January 2002 CBS News Poll. That caused one producer to say to me: "Why couldn't this have been the result? We wouldn't have had to spend 35 days after the election figuring out who won!"

By Kathy Frankovic
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Date: Thu, 16 Aug 2007 10:22:22 -0400
Reply-To: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Subject: Re: Do not call lists and exempt organizations
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU, Joe Stead <Joe.Stead@IPSOS-MORI.COM>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-Disposition: inline
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

I don't understand why this would bother you at all. Failure to honor a
specific request not to call a household is a violation of human subjects
protections guaranteed by the CFR under the principle of respect for persons.
Therefore any ethical researcher would honor such specific requests for a
reasonable period of time regardless of any state establishing such a law.

The interesting question then is not whether to comply with such a request,
but rather what constitutes a reasonable period of time to honor such a
request. The guideline I have established for our research call center at the
New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging is that we maintain do not call
lists and honor such requests for two years. After two years, we remove the
number from our internal do not call list and allow it to be called again
(potentially). The rationale for this telephone number "reactivation" is that
people do not maintain their phone numbers indefinitely. They move and their
numbers change, or they die and their numbers are abandoned and eventually
reassigned to another party, so it is unreasonable for us to be obligated to
remove a telephone number from the universe of telephone numbers permanently
(unless, of course, it becomes legislated that telephone numbers may not
reassigned to other parties). Indeed, permanent assignment to the do not call
list would violate the right of a new owner of the number to have the
opportunity to participate in our research. Surely the rights of all
potential respondents, not just the few who ask to be removed from our list,
must be protected equally.
Regards,
Jonathan

Jonathan E. Brill, Ph.D.
General Manager, ORANJ BOWL(sm) Panel Research Program
Associate Director, Research Call Center & Panel Research
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>>> Joe Stead <Joe.Stead@IPSOS-MORI.COM> 8/15/2007 15:46 >>>
This has been legislation in the UK for some time, part of EU Data Protection/Privacy legislation.

In the UK we are also exempt from the national DNC list, called TPS here.

We find around 1-2 are added each day, but bear in mind we are 400 stations.

We also find that these tend to be vocal complainants and 'hard core refusers' however we are exploring with telcos ways of clearing our lists once telephone numbers are reassigned - otherwise they will stay there.

Joe

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
Subject: Do not call lists and exempt organizations

The manager of our phone room - found this the other day on the Attorney General for Minnesota's web site - indicating that organizations exempt from do not call lists - must keep their own do not call list that individuals can request to be put on and if you call them once they have requested to be on the list - the fine can be up to $11,000.
"Stopping Calls from Exempt Companies and Organizations. Even if the company or organization contacting you is exempt from the National Do Not Call Registry, you may still request that it place you on its own "do not call" list. The newly amended federal law requires companies to honor your request for privacy. Companies that violate this law and continue to call you may be subject to a fine of up to $11,000."

http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Phone/ReducingCalls.asp

--
Todd Rockwood, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Division of Health Policy and Management
Academic Director, Center for Survey Research in Public Health
University of Minnesota
420 Delaware St SE, MMC 729
Minneapolis, MN 55455
v. 612.625.3993, f. 612.624.4408

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Date:         Thu, 16 Aug 2007 10:19:27 -0400
Reply-To:     David Ginsburg <david_ginsburg@CHOICEHOTELS.COM>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         David Ginsburg <david_ginsburg@CHOICEHOTELS.COM>
Subject:      Corporate Social Responsibility Research Expertise
We are contemplating research to assist in development of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) engagement. I would be interested in any recommendations of vendors who have expertise and/or have generated positive experiences conducting research in this area. Our populations of interest will be employees, franchise owners and consumers.

David Ginsburg
Director, Consumer Information Systems
Choice Hotels International
(301) 592-5000

Re: Royko. His issue was an early network exit poll call in the 1980 general election. Here is a sample of his writing.

Chicago Tribune, Mar 15, 1984. Headline: ÔMake my day; tell a little lie.Ó Excerpt: ÔNext Tuesday, many of you will be voting in the Illinois Democratic primary. The eyes of the nation will be upon us, as the anchormen love to say. Some of you will come out of your polling places and be grabbed by exit pollsters working for one of the networks. They will ask you who you voted for and why. Be polite. Talk to them. But lie. DonÕt give them one honest answer. If you voted for Mondale, say you voted for Hart. If you voted for Hart, say you voted for Mondale. Or if Glenn is still in the race, say you voted for him. When they ask you why you voted for Hart, say it is because he is so mature and serious that he reminds you of your grandfather. Or say you voted for Mondale because he reminds you of Johnny Travolta.Ó

Royko wrote a similar column asking readers to lie to exit pollsters just before the 1984 general election. Headline: ÔSmall lie for poll, leap for mankind.Ó

For the record, there was no noticeable effect in either the Cook County primary or general exit polls; i.e., 0%-1% on estimates for president.
Nick Panagakis

------------------- Original message -------------------
From: Pat Lewis <plewis@AAPOR.ORG>
> *To Tell The Truth To Pollsters
> * *Aug. 15, 2007*
> ----------------------------------------
> *(CBS) **By Kathy Frankovic, CBS News director of surveys*  
> >
> > Do people lie to pollsters?
> >
> > After the wrong prediction in 1948 election, the editors of The New Yorker 
> > magazine thought people did — and that they should. "The total collapse of 
> > the public opinion polls," they wrote, "shows that the country is in good 
> > health .... (A)lthough you can take a nation's pulse, you can't be sure that 
> > the nation hasn't just run up a flight of stairs ... (W)e are proud of America 
> > for clouding up the crystal ball, for telling one thing to a poll-taker, 
> > another thing to a voting machine. This is an excellent land."
> >
> > There have been campaigns to lie to pollsters. In the early 1980s, Chicago 
> > newspaper columnist Mike Royko told people to do it before the Illinois 
> > primary. But when CBS News conducted a short poll in the Chicago area to see 
> > whether readers would take his advice, many people said they read the 
> > column, and enjoyed what Royko had to say, but also that they wouldn't take 
> > his advice seriously. And in fact, that year's primary election poll was 
> > quite accurate.
> >
> > Lying takes more mental effort than telling the truth. Telling one lie 
> > usually means you need to tell more lies. It's much easier not to say 
> > anything, or just hang up the phone — which might help explain why response 
> > rates to polls have dropped over the years. If people take the time to 
> > answer a pollster's questions, they usually try to tell the truth!
> >
> > However, some answers to poll questions may not be lies, but they also may 
> > not quite be the truth. They may be the product of faulty recall, or of 
> > misremembered memories. Respondents answer the questions they are asked, but 
> > if a question requires too much effort, they may do just enough thinking to 
> > come up with a reasonable answer. Survey psychologists call this 
> > "satisficing." (a combination of "satisfying" and "sufficing").
> >
> > Some survey questions do require a detailed recall of events. For surveys 
> > involving expenditures, researchers will ask respondents to look at their 
> > financial records, and NOT to rely only on their memories. People who study 
> > victimization or consumer behavior know that reports of events (such as a 
> > crime, or a major purchase) can be put in the wrong time period. People may 
> > "telescope" their memory of an event, thinking that what happened a long 
> > time ago happened more recently. And different people do conceptualize time 
> > differently. As a political scientist and pollster, for example, I often 
> > think in terms of four-year presidential election cycles, so sometimes I say
"last year" when I mean 2004.

It's also true that people sometimes base their responses to questions on what they think the interviewer wants to hear. In the 1980s, some respondents, asked about their support for feminist issues, told different things to male and female interviewers. And sometimes black and white interviewers have gotten different answers when they have asked about some African-American candidates and about racial attitudes.

Then there are times when people give a false answer to a question because they think that telling the truth could leave the wrong impression. For example, people who attend church most Sundays might very well tell an interviewer that they went to church "last Sunday," even if they didn't, reasoning that, if the interviewer had asked that question last week, it would have been true.

Just as people think of themselves as "church-goers," they also think of themselves as "voters," especially when asked about politics and elections. It's not that they lie about voting — rather, they like to think of themselves as people who vote. And some of those who misreport voting in one election have voted in the past, though not necessarily in the election the pollster has asked about.

Finally, questions about past elections may become assessments of current feelings, not reports of actual past votes. One spectacular change in vote reporting took place between 1960 and 1964. Right after the close election of 1960, the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan found an evenly divided electorate, much like the actual nationwide results. Two years later, however, 56 percent of voters said they had voted for John F. Kennedy and just 43 percent said they voted for Richard Nixon. In 1964, after JFK's 1963 assassination, his narrow victory of 1960 had turned into a 28-point landslide in voters' memories: 64 percent of those interviewed said they had voted for JFK, while only 36 percent admitted voting for Nixon.

Voters have had a roller coaster ride with their memories when it comes to the current president, too! Immediately after the 2000 election, voters reported their 2000 vote accurately in a CBS News Poll. It was a close election and a close poll result. In the latest CBS News Poll, self-reports of the 2004 vote give President Bush a 6-point lead over John Kerry, only slightly inflated from the actual outcome.

But as George W. Bush's approval rating soared to 90 percent following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Bush also gained votes. Al Gore's narrow victory in the national tabulated vote turned into an apparent 16-point Bush landslide in the January 2002 CBS News Poll. That caused one producer to say to me: "Why couldn't this have been the result? We wouldn't have had to spend 35 days after the election figuring out who won!"

By Kathy Frankovic
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_________________________________________
*Feedback*  *Terms of Service*
(Please see the announcement below. Apologies for the duplicate posting; due to server networking difficulties, the original announcement was not delivered to all addresses.)

*****=20

If you weren't able to attend AAPOR or ICES-III this year or are interested in measurement issues related to health insurance, then the DC-AAPOR Summer Conference Encore is just for you!

We've invited a select number of presenters from this year's AAPOR and ICES-III conferences to present their papers locally. You don't need to be a member of DC-AAPOR to attend. Please note the addition of Anne Kearney and John Sommers' ICES-III paper since the last announcement.

Title: Methodological Issues in Measuring Health Insurance Coverage=20
Medicaid Underreporting in the CPS: Results from a Record Check Study
Joanne Pascale, U.S. Census Bureau
The Medicaid program covers roughly 38 million people in the U.S., and the research community regularly studies the effectiveness of the program. Though administrative records provide information on enrollment status and history, the data are 3 years old before they can be used for analysis, and they do not offer information on certain characteristics of Medicaid enrollees, such as their employment status, health status and use of health services. Researchers generally turn to surveys for this type of rich data, and the Current Population Survey (CPS) is one of the most common sources used for analysis. However, there is a fairly substantial literature that indicates Medicaid is underreported in surveys when compared to counts from records.
Recently an inter-agency team of researchers was assembled to address the Medicaid undercount issue in the CPS. Records on enrollment in 2000-2001 were compiled from the Medicaid Statistical Information System (MSIS) and matched to the CPS survey data covering the same years. This matched dataset allows researchers to compare data on known Medicaid enrollees to survey data in which those same enrollees were (or were not) reported to have been covered by Medicaid. This kind of "truth source" enables a rich analysis of the respondent and household member characteristics associated with Medicaid misreporting. In the CPS a single household respondent is asked questions about coverage status for all other household members, and one possible source of misreporting is the relationship between the household respondent and the other household members for whom he or she is reporting. Recent research from cognitive testing of the CPS suggests that the household respondent may be more likely to report accurately about another household member if they both share the same coverage. This paper explores whether the hypothesis suggested by cognitive testing is evident in the records data. Other variables are also considered, such as recency and duration of coverage and demographics of both respondents and people for whom they are reporting.

Finding Low-Income Telephone Households and People Who Do Not Have Health Insurance: Using Auxiliary Sample Frame Information for a Random Digit Dial Survey
Timothy Triplett, Urban Institute
This paper describes the results of oversampling low-income areas in Massachusetts by separating telephone numbers into high, medium and low-income strata based on census tract information for each telephone exchange's 100 banks of numbers. The purpose of this sample design was to obtain a representative sample of adults without health insurance living in low (less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL))
and medium (between 300 and 500 percent FPL) income families while still being able to produce reliable overall estimates. The oversampling of the low and medium income strata did increase the number of interviews completed with adults who do not have health insurance as well as increase the number of interviews done with adults living at or below 300 percent FPL. The oversampling of low-income areas eliminated the need to screen households based on income; however, it did not eliminate the need to screen households to find uninsured adults. This paper will compare the expectations of the oversampling with the actual results. Then look at the effect the oversampling had on the precision of the survey estimates by isolating the affect the oversampling had on the overall survey design effects. Finally, this research will conclude with what the optimal sampling strategy should have been given the actual incidence rates in each strata and the impact the oversampling had on the overall survey design effect.

Switching from Retrospective to Current-Year Data Collection in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey - Insurance Component=20
Anne Kearney, U.S. Census Bureau=20
The MEPS-IC is a national survey of approximately 44,000 establishments and governments that produces national and state-level estimates of insurance availability and costs through employers. Under the current design, MEPS-IC collects data retrospectively (i.e., respondents are asked to report data for the year prior to the current calendar year). We researched the ramifications of collecting data from the current calendar year, making the resulting estimates timelier. In order to switch to current-year data collection, we have to address frame and nonresponse adjustment and post stratification issues, as the data used in these operations will be one year older than under the retrospective design. We will present the methodology used to address and overcome some of these obstacles and make recommendations on the feasibility of switching to a current-year design.
InterMedia, a global research, evaluation and consulting firm specializing in the field of media and communications has a great entry-level opportunity for qualified individuals who are eager to learn and highly motivated in pursuing a career in qualitative and quantitative research. We are seeking a Research Assistant who will be responsible for providing support to the Research and Analysis Unit and the Project Management staff in all stages of the survey data processing to include data management, retrieval and archiving. The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

* Bachelors degree with a minimum of 1-2 years work experience in SPSS data processing/programming;
* Solid knowledge of SPSS programming;
* Some knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite;
* Working knowledge of graphic and other presentation software, desirable;
* Strong analytical and writing skills;
* Good planning and organizational skills;
* Good customer service skills;
* Ability to work positively within a team environment.

InterMedia offers an excellent compensation and benefits package, a casual and friendly work environment, and a convenient downtown DC location. We invite qualified candidates to email their cover letters and resumes to RAU-HR@intermedia.org or fax to 866-500-4095.

EOE/M/F/V/D
Thank you to everyone who responded quickly and with great information regarding formatting paper and web surveys.

The basic consensus is

a) Yes - the formatting for the paper & web versions needs to be as similar as possible.

b) It’s impossible to get the formatting to be exactly the same, especially because how the web version looks depends on the individual computer screen.

c) Buy & read Don Dillman’s 2nd edition of Mail and Internet Surveys - especially the appendix. This was suggested by at least 1/2 of the responses, but not the response from Don himself.

If you would like the full list of responses and the papers that were sent to me about topic, please email me and I’d be happy to share.

Thank you again AAPORites! You always come through with good advice.

Kat Draughon (draughon.research@insightbb.com)

Dr. Katherine "Kat" Draughon

Draughon Research, LLC
www.draughonresearch.com
draughon.research@insightbb.com
Dear All:

This position has been authorized, a new Assistant Professor position in demography will soon be announced.

QUEENS COLLEGE, City University of New York. The Department of Sociology seeks to hire a tenure-track Assistant Professor beginning Fall 2008. Candidates must show promise of excellence in research, including, a well-defined research program and some scholarly publications, as well as excellence in and commitment to teaching. Candidates must have a Ph.D. in hand at time of appointment. The department will consider highly qualified candidates in a wide variety of specialties, especially candidates focusing on race and ethnic difference and inequality, family, sexuality, health, media, or deviance. Applicants should send (1) curriculum vitae, (2) samples of scholarly writing, (3) statement outlining research and teaching interests, and (4) three current confidential letters of reference to Andrew A. Beveridge, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Sociology, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367-1597. We especially welcome electronic application, including the reference letters. Please address them to andrew.beveridge@qc.cuny.edu. In addition to offering a BA degree in sociology to several hundred majors, the department (with over 25 full-time and numerous part-time faculty members) offers an MA with a concentration in social research. Appointment to the Doctoral Faculty at the Graduate Center of CUNY is open to professors at all ranks, upon review of publication record. Queens College, located in Flushing, New York has a diverse student body of 18,000 students, and is one of the Senior Colleges in the CUNY system. More information is available at www.qc.cuny.edu. Closing Date is October 15, 2007.

Andrew A. Beveridge
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252A Powdermaker Hall
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Date:         Tue, 21 Aug 2007 10:16:51 -0500
Reply-To:     Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
The Council of American Survey Research Organizations (CASRO) has announced a call for papers for their upcoming Panel Conference in February. If you are interested, more information can be found at: http://www.casro.org/techform/2007-panelconf.cfm

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Job posting

Research Associate/Analyst - Slover Linett Strategies Inc.

About Us

Slover Linett Strategies is a Chicago-based audience research and planning firm for cultural and educational organizations nationwide. We help museums, orchestras, universities and other mission-driven enterprises take a fresh look at their relationship with their constituents-current and potential-through qualitative and quantitative research. We also help their staffs and boards turn that insight into action through facilitated planning or visioning processes designed to articulate clear, compelling principles for identity and growth. We are a small, intellectually creative consultancy that has developed long-term relationships with leading local and national nonprofit institutions. Our Chicago clients include the University of Chicago, the Art Institute, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Chicago Public
Radio. Ongoing national engagements include the Walters Art Museum (Baltimore), the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Job Description

The Research Associate/Analyst will work on all aspects of our qualitative and quantitative audience research projects, which primarily entail focus groups, interviews and surveys (mail, phone, web, and on-site intercepts). These studies are sometimes part of a larger, multi-mode research effort designed to inform strategic change and sometimes part of a single-mode, ongoing program to track audience trends and changes over time.

The Research Associate/Analyst will work closely with the firm's senior associates in areas such as:

* helping design research projects (defining objectives, prioritizing research questions, design of questionnaire/focus group discussion guide, sampling/recruiting methodology);
* managing elements of those research projects (logistics, timelines, vendors, etc.);
* analyzing and interpreting data (for quantitative research projects this would include data cleaning, weighting, statistical analysis using a broad range of techniques, and developing appropriate graphs, tables, and diagrams; for qualitative research projects it would include reviewing transcripts and identifying key themes);
* writing research reports in both bulleted and narrative text formats.

The majority of the research projects will be quantitative in nature, requiring a prior knowledge of statistics and SPSS.

The Research Associate/Analyst will participate in client meetings as appropriate and may travel occasionally for client meetings and conferences. The Research Associate/Analyst will also participate in other office-related tasks, which are shared by all members of the team.
Qualifications

The ideal candidate will be a smart, energetic, and positive-spirited person with excellent research, analytical, and writing skills. A Masters involving statistical analysis or equivalent experience with quantitative research is desired, as is expertise with SPSS. Candidates should also be proficient with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Knowledge of the nonprofit cultural sector is a plus.

The ideal candidate will also:

* possess a positive, can-do attitude and relish new challenges;
* be extremely well organized;
* have a love of the arts and the nonprofit sector generally;
* be a quick learner and able to work flexibly and independently;
* enjoy the casual, creative atmosphere of this small business;
* be able to maintain a big-picture view of each project even while getting the details right;
* be comfortable presenting research findings to clients and at conferences.

Compensation

Salary will be commensurate with experience. In addition, we offer a competitive benefits package of vacation, holidays, sick days, health insurance, disability insurance, a retirement plan, and profit sharing.

We are currently looking to hire people in two positions:

* a full-time employee (to work in our office)
* a freelance part-time contractor (would range from 10-30 hours per week, not in our office)

To Apply

Please e-mail a brief cover note and resume to Cheryl Slover-Linett at cheryl@sloverlinett.com. We are not looking for writing or report samples at this time. Please, no phone calls. We look forward to
hearing from you.

=20

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=========================================================================
We are seeking an all-around coordinator and entry-level researcher to assist our growing team and learn the ins and outs of the nonprofit world and the research profession. The Research Coordinator will play a wide range of supporting and analytical roles in all aspects of our business, which include qualitative and quantitative audience research and strategy consulting. He or she will have client contact by phone and in meetings, as appropriate. Occasional travel will be required, for example to out-of-town focus groups or survey sites, conferences, etc.

The Research Coordinator will be a core member of the Slover Linett team and will participate in staff meetings, brainstorming sessions, off-site retreats, etc. He or she will work closely with the firm's partners, associates, and analysts in two broad areas:

Research

The Research Coordinator will be a "researcher in training," supporting the firm's research analysts and associates in conducting all aspects of our research work. Duties will include:

* Conducting interviews (intercept, scheduled phone, or scheduled face-to-face)
* Editing/proofing reports and other client communications
* Formatting and coding open-ended survey responses
* Updating slides and graphs for new versions of quantitative tracking reports
* Programming and testing online survey instruments prior to fielding
* Soliciting bids from online or telephone research vendors and managing the working relationship
* Cleaning and preparing survey data for analysis
* Maintaining project timelines and coordinating other staff on priorities, deliverables, etc.
* Managing logistics and materials for qualitative research projects, observing focus groups to take notes and begin the interpretation process

Administration
The Research Coordinator will also function as an "office manager" to increase and maintain the overall efficiency of our operations and support the full team in its day-to-day tasks. Duties will include:

* Helping to maintain a database of contacts and email recipients in the sectors we serve, and helping maintain and update our website

* Transcribing white-boards and chalkboards after brainstorming sessions and other project meetings

* Keeping the inventory of office supplies up to date and organized

* Scheduling messenger and Kinko's pickups and occasionally driving to Kinko's or the post office

* Ordering and arranging weekly lunches for Friday's content discussion, and helping buy and set up food and drinks for the Friday afternoon happy hour

* Keeping the printers filled with paper

* Watering the office plants

Qualifications

The candidate must be well organized, possess strong analytical skills, and be an excellent writer. Previous work with statistical data is a plus but not required; we're looking for someone who wants to learn and grow in this field. Candidates should be well-versed in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel and be able to quickly learn basic functions of a Windows-based statistical software package such as SPSS. A Bachelor's degree and a minimum of two year's work experience is required.

The ideal candidate will also:

* possess a positive, can-do attitude and relish new challenges;

* love the arts and/or nonprofit sectors;

* be a quick learner and able to work flexibly and independently;

* enjoy the casual, creative, and sometimes intense atmosphere of this small business;

* be able to maintain a big-picture view of each project even
while getting the details right.

Compensation

Salary will be commensurate with experience. In addition, we offer a competitive benefits package of vacation, holidays, sick days, health insurance, disability insurance, a retirement plan, and profit sharing.

Hours

This is a full-time position. Although hours can be somewhat flexible, we work during regular business hours and occasionally also in the evenings or on weekends (e.g. to attend focus groups or meet project deadlines).

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Date: Tue, 21 Aug 2007 11:35:56 -0700
Reply-To: Phil Trounstine <phil.trounstine@SJSU.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Phil Trounstine <phil.trounstine@SJSU.EDU>
Subject: Voxco
Comments: To: AAPORNET@asu.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"

Friends and colleagues --

After considerable investigation, we at the Survey and Policy Research Institute at San Jose State decided to switch software and install Voxco's web-based system because it seems so easy to use, reliable and flexible (for writing surveys, setting quotas in cluster sampling, managing sample, altering wording on the fly, producing reports, etc.) . We had already installed new Dell computers. After the training and live testing on a small number of machines, we launched a project on all 30 stations, only to find that the dialer Voxco had given us (that was supposed to be compatible with our standard-issue Dell modems) was crashing Internet Explorer constantly, rendering us unable to complete the project with our new Voxco software. We re-installed our very old WinCATI software and finished part of the job in-house but had to farm out 40% of the job to
another call center to get it done.

Has anyone else had a similar experience with Voxco's web-based system (we use an internal Windows-based network)? If so, what modems are you using? Does it seem to you that Voxco should share our cost for having to farm out the project?

I should say, Voxco is currently testing modems and has pledged to send us new ones at their cost when they finally have one that works seamlessly. But that seems too little too late after paying my supervisor, techs, crew AND an outside call center to complete 1,000 interviews.

Phil Trounstine  
Director  
Survey and Policy Research Institute  
at San Jose State University

----------------------------------------------------
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----------------------------------------------------

It seems to me that it is a bit foolhardy to launch an application live to field work, without previous testing, because the application seems or is described to be "easy to use, reliable and flexible" If this is paired with a set of new computers the risk factor is then much higher. I don't have any advice to give in terms of correcting the situation now, however a large part of the blame seems to me to lie in the operations risks taken.

Michel Rochon

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Phil Trounstine
Sent: August 21, 2007 2:36 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Voxco

Friends and colleagues --

After considerable investigation, we at the Survey and Policy Research Institute at San Jose State decided to switch software and install
Voxco's web-based system because it seems so easy to use, reliable and flexible (for writing surveys, setting quotas in cluster sampling, managing sample, altering wording on the fly, producing reports, etc.) We had already installed new Dell computers. After the training and live testing on a small number of machines, we launched a project on all 30 stations, only to find that the dialer Voxco had given us (that was supposed to be compatible with our standard-issue Dell modems) was crashing Internet Explorer constantly, rendering us unable to complete the project with our new Voxco software. We re-installed our very old WinCATI software and finished part of the job in-house but had to farm out 40% of the job to another call center to get it done.

Has anyone else had a similar experience with Voxco's web-based system (we use an internal Windows-based network)? If so, what modems are you using?
Does it seem to you that Voxco should share our cost for having to farm out the project?

I should say, Voxco is currently testing modems and has pledged to send us new ones at their cost when they finally have one that works seamlessly.

But that seems too little too late after paying my supervisor, techs, crew AND an outside call center to complete 1,000 interviews.

Phil Trounstine
Director
Survey and Policy Research Institute
at San Jose State University

Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html

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He does note in the first paragraph that they trained and tested it on a small number of machines.

--
Leo G. Simonetta
Director of Research
Art & Science Group, LLC
6115 Falls Road, Suite 101
Baltimore MD  21209

> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNERT [mailto:AAPORNERT@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Michel Rochon
> Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2007 3:20 PM
> To: AAPORNERT@ASU.EDU
> Subject: Re: Voxco
> > It seems to me that it is a bit foolhardy to launch an
> > application live to field work, without previous testing,
> > because the application seems or is described to be "easy to
> > use, reliable and flexible" If this is paired with a set of
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> From: AAPORNERT [mailto:AAPORNERT@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Phil Trounstine
> Sent: August 21, 2007 2:36 PM
> To: AAPORNERT@ASU.EDU
> Subject: Voxco
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Date:         Tue, 21 Aug 2007 15:28:39 -0400
Reply-To:     Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Subject:      Re: Voxco
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU, Phil Trounstine <phil.trounstine@SJSU.EDU>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Phil:

My shop, the Research Call Center at the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging, runs Voxco Interviewer VCC (VCC = Virtual Call Center, the web-based version of Interviewer for Windows) running under a Windows 2003 Server SQL/case control server with networking support provided by a dedicated Windows 2003 IIS web server. These are both connected to Voxco's Pronto 3 telephony server (i.e., a predictive dialer) running in non-predictive, non-autodial, manual mode. The dialer is connected directly to analog phone lines (Verizon) with a dedicated PRI/PBX, not ATAPI compliant modems in the interviewer station computers. Your installation sounds like it is technologically much simpler than ours - indeed, I am surprised that you have a dialer and not letting the control software feed cases to the stations directly if you are using voice modems - but if I can be of any help, please call.

Regards,
Jonathan

Jonathan E. Brill, Ph.D.
General Manager, ORANJ BOWL(sm) Panel Research Program
Associate Director, Research Call Center & Panel Research
NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING
School of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
42 East Laurel Road, UDP Suite 2300
Stratford, New Jersey 08084
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E-mail: brillje@umdnj.edu
www.oranjbowl.info

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>>> Phil Trounstine <phil.trounstine@SJSU.EDU> 8/21/2007 14:35 >>>
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Phil Trounstine
Director
Survey and Policy Research Institute
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Job Announcement: Survey Specialist -Bilingual

=20

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. is inviting survey professionals with Spanish language skills to join us in working on important studies of social policy. Mathematica is a nationally recognized research organization that conducts social policy studies on health care, disability, education, welfare, nutrition, and related topics. Our mission is to improve public well-being by bringing the highest standards of quality, objectivity, and excellence to bear on the work we do for our clients, which include federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as private foundations.

=20

We currently have an opening for a bilingual (Spanish/English) survey specialist in our Princeton, NJ office. As a survey specialist, you would join our staff of research professionals who conduct a range of research projects in the areas of Medicare reform evaluations, disability studies, fatherhood, welfare reform, child development, education and well-being. Examples of our work include the national evaluation of the Early Head Start (EHS) program; the National Survey of Recent College Graduates; a study of employment support interventions in California for people with HIV and autoimmune disorders; several international development evaluations; a random assignment evaluation of preschool curricula; and evaluations of interventions aimed at strengthening relationships, supporting healthy marriages, and improving child well-being.

=20

As a survey specialist, you would work in a multidisciplinary setting that includes staff with doctoral and masters-level degrees in psychology, education, economics, public policy, sociology, demography, and survey methodology. We encourage and provide support for staff to engage in professional development activities, and continued training. We offer our employees a stimulating, team-oriented work environment, competitive salaries, and a comprehensive benefits package, as well as the advantages of employee ownership.

=20

Duties of the position:=20

=20

* Develop survey instruments, prepare training materials, and conduct pretests

* Manage data collection efforts by training interviewers and supervising field staff, and assist in project management

* Assist in writing and budgeting proposals

* Monitor project expenditures and perform project management functions

* Participate in qualitative data collection activities such as focus groups and site visits

Qualifications of the position:

* Master's degree in a social science or related discipline or equivalent experience

* Minimum of one year of survey research work experience, preferably in social policy

* Excellent oral and written communication skills

* Fluency in Spanish

* Familiarity with CATI and experience with spreadsheets or other PC programs preferred

* Willingness to travel occasionally

To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, transcript (unofficial is acceptable), contact information for three references, writing sample, and salary requirements to our employment website at http://careers.mathematica-mpr.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=3D50652. Visit our website at www.mathematica-mpr.com. We are an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.
For those of you who have expressed concerns based on my mention of a "dialer" problem with Voxco, I should make it clear that our problem stems from Voxco's TAPI module of their CATI software that is not working with our modems -- NOT Voxco's Pronto dialer, which we do not have and about which I have heard no complaints.

Also, we had run two surveys with our new computers on our network using our old software and we tested the Voxco software on half a dozen stations before we went live with this project. It was when we went live with 30 stations that the crashing began.

Phil Trounstine  
Survey and Policy Research Institute  
San Jose State University  

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Thanks for the second guess but we weren't "foolhardy" at all. We had already run two surveys with the new computers and our network. And we had tested the Voxco software on the network. At some point, you have to launch a project, which is when the problems arose.

"Michel Rochon" <mrochon@surveysampler.com>  
08/21/2007 PM 12:21  
To  
"Phil Trounstine" <phil.trounstine@SJSU.EDU>, <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>  
cc
Subject
RE: Voxco

It seems to me that it is a bit foolhardy to launch an application live to field work, without previous testing, because the application seems or is described to be "easy to use, reliable and flexible". If this is paired with a set of new computers the risk factor is then much higher. I don't have any advice to give in terms of correcting the situation now, however a large part of the blame seems to me to lie in the operations risks taken.

Michel Rochon

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNENET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Phil Trounstine
Sent: August 21, 2007 2:36 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Voxco

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Date: Tue, 21 Aug 2007 15:47:50 -0500
Reply-To: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Mike Flanagan <MFlanagan@GOAMP.COM>
Subject: Job Opportunity No. 3
Comments: To: aapornet@asu.edu
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Job Announcement: Survey Specialist

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. is inviting survey professionals to
join us in working on important studies of social policy. Mathematica is
a nationally recognized research organization that conducts social
policy studies on health care, disability, education, welfare,
nutrition, and related topics. Our mission is to improve public
well-being by bringing the highest standards of quality, objectivity,
and excellence to bear on the work we do for our clients, which include
federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as private
foundations.

We currently have an opening for a survey specialist in our Princeton,
NJ office. As a survey specialist, you would join our staff of research
professionals who conduct a range of research projects in the areas of
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As a survey specialist, you would work in a multidisciplinary setting that includes staff with doctoral and masters-level degrees in psychology, education, economics, public policy, sociology, demography, and survey methodology. We encourage and provide support for staff to engage in professional development activities, and continued training. We offer our employees a stimulating, team-oriented work environment, competitive salaries, and a comprehensive benefits package, as well as the advantages of employee ownership.

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Date:         Tue, 21 Aug 2007 13:36:48 -0700
Reply-To:     John D Rogers <jdrogers@SFSU.EDU>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         John D Rogers <jdrogers@SFSU.EDU>
Subject:      Re: Voxco
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Comments: cc: Michel Rochon <mrochon@SURVEYSAMPLER.COM>
In-Reply-To:  <0BA5A3ACC0EAB94E9BA0B59E5DB4B6CA5865E5@exchangeasde.ASDE.local>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"

I think Phil is aware of the risks taken and their consequences.

I don't know much about Voxco, but have never heard of a vendor sharing this type of cost voluntarily. I would check the contract and documented communications very carefully, and consult with your purchasing department or even your university's attorney about your options. Sometimes the front line staff are not well acquainted with policies that can tilt the playing field to the state's advantage, and a little prodding or independent research is needed. The one time I started going down this road I did not get very far. It's possible that there are issues with your phone system; if claims were made that the technology would work with any telephone system and that proves to be untrue, that might offer some leverage. It seems to me that the cost to press the issue will quickly exceed the costs to be recovered, and the best strategy will be to adjust and move on.

I'm sorry to hear of this difficult experience. Good luck in resolving the technical problems and putting this behind you.

John

-------------------------------------------

John D. Rogers, Ph.D.
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We are revising one of our questionnaires and our editor says we should be using "sex" in describing our breakouts. For example, if we tell respondents that we are requesting the "number of researchers by sex, race, and employment status," we should be using "sex" as the biological characteristic. She explained that "gender" should be reserved for things like gender studies or other behavioral assessments of the difference between the sexes.

I asked our staff about usage and found that three of our surveys avoid the issue altogether by saying "Are you male or female?" Somehow, I'd rather not say "number of researchers by male/female, race, and employment status."

Our population is university administrative staff, and I wondered whether we should be using the word "sex" or "gender" in our questionnaire. We are currently using "gender" in the glossary and the web site descriptions and "sex" in the questionnaire for the same phrases, so I want to make them consistent at the very least.

Which is the politically correct term in today's world of survey research? Thanks for any light you can shed.

(fran)
Fran Featherston
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230
703-292-4221
ffeatherston@nsf.gov
Fran:

This question gave me a chuckle since I remember asking this same question to my first boss at the very beginning of my research career when I began writing survey research reports. I was told to use the word "gender, because we study behavior" and was encouraged to investigate the matter to learn why "gender" is more correct than "sex" in social research. My boss was technically quite correct. My findings...

In common non-scientific parlance, the words are typically treated as synonyms. "Gender" is the word used by those who either (1) think of that word before thinking of the word "sex", (2) wish to avoid using the word "sex" (for some reason that need not be speculated upon here) or (3) have some kind of neurotic fascination with language so they insist upon being very precise about their diction (presumably understanding the scientific distinction between the two words).

In truly dispassionate scientific terms, sex and gender are clearly different (though certainly related) constructs.

In addition to referring to the activity related to reproduction, "sex" is the biological term dividing higher order animals into categories based on the composition of chromosome pairs. If you have two X chromosomes in your 23rd pair, you are female; if you have an X and a Y in your 23rd pair, you are normal male; if you have some other combination or abnormality such as XXY or XYY, then you have a biological defect and are classified as belonging to males suffering from a biological sex syndrome. (For example, If I remember my high school biology correctly, males who are XXY suffer from what is known as Klinefelter's Syndrome.)

"Gender," on the other hand, refers to social identity and the manner in which one presents one's biological sex. Typically, one's gender and sex match, but not always. Behavioral scientists tend to think in terms of gender being predictive of psycho/social behavior and, for this reason, the word "gender" rather than "sex" is typically used when talking about social behavioral phenomena. For example, a biologically male transvestite might choose to identify as female in a survey.

Still, for the purpose of reporting, I think your editor is nitpicking and the use of either sex or gender is fine because the world will understand what you mean. In terms of asking the question in a survey, I think the approach "Are you male or female?" is not only clear, but it might even be best because the wording seems more unlikely to offend respondents across the board than any other tactic of asking the question that I can imagine.

Regards,
Jonathan
Jonathan E. Brill, Ph.D.
General Manager, ORANJ BOWL(sm) Panel Research Program
Associate Director, Research Call Center & Panel Research
NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING
School of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
42 East Laurel Road, UDP Suite 2300
Stratford, New Jersey 08084
Telephone (direct): 856.566-6727
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E-mail: brillje@umdnj.edu
www.oranjbowl.info

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>>> "Featherston, Fran A." <ffeather@NSF.GOV> 8/22/2007 09:40 >>>

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(fran)
Fran Featherston
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230
703-292-4221
ffeatherston@nsf.gov
CBS has launched a new game show based on polling data called Powers of Ten hosted by Drew Carey. Respondents are presented a poll question and asked to guess the distribution of responses. The questions are written by the show producers and fielded by Rasmussen (no details on the method used). Though it is new it is quite successful. It is produced, with high production values, by the same people who produced "So You Want to Be a Millionaire." More details can be found at: http://www.cbs.com/primetime/powerof10/community/index.php?ep=3 Airs again tonight at 8 pm.

Looks like they have to be headed for a law suit. To ultimately win 10 million dollars one has to guess the exact poll result. Surely someone who guesses within the margin of error but not the exact number will take them to court. Are there AAPORITES out there ready to be expert witnesses on the meaning of margin of error?
Of interest may be a couple of columns I wrote on the "Power of 10", the first entitled: "Pollsters eager to find out more about 'Power of 10"


http://blogs.usatoday.com/gallup/2007/08/more-on-the-pow.html

Frank Newport
Gallup

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Steven Kull
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2007 2:08 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: New CBS Game Show Based on Polling

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The question also reminded me of an early work experience. I was working in the employment office of Hydro Quebec in Montreal. The printed questionnaire which we used, utilized Sex as the question to identify gender. One young woman upon seeing the question answered NO in big bold letters.

Michel Rochon  

-----Original Message-----  
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jonathan Brill  
Sent: August 22, 2007 12:13 PM  
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU  
Subject: Re: Gender or Sex?  

Fran:  

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In truly dispassionate scientific terms, sex and gender are clearly different (though certainly related) constructs.

In addition to referring to the activity related to reproduction, "sex" is the biological term dividing higher order animals into categories based on the composition of chromosome pairs. If you have two X chromosomes in your 23rd pair, you are female; if you have an X and a Y in your 23rd pair, you are normal male; if you have some other combination or abnormality such as XXY or XYY, then you have a biological defect and are classified as belonging to males suffering from a biological sex syndrome. (For example, If I remember my high school biology correctly, males who are XXY suffer from what is known as Klinefelter's Syndrome.)

"Gender," on the other hand, refers to social identity and the manner in which one presents one's biological sex. Typically, one's gender and sex match, but not always. Behavioral scientists tend to think in terms of gender being predictive of psycho/social behavior and, for this reason, the word "gender" rather than "sex" is typically used when talking about social behavioral phenomena. For example, a biologically male transvestite might choose to identify as female in a survey.

Still, for the purpose of reporting, I think your editor is nitpicking and the use of either sex or gender is fine because the world will understand what you mean. In terms of asking the question in a survey, I think the approach "Are you male or female?" is not only clear, but it might even be best because the wording seems more unlikely to offend respondents across the board than any other tactic of asking the question that I can imagine.

Regards,
Jonathan

Jonathan E. Brill, Ph.D.
General Manager, ORANJ BOWL(sm) Panel Research Program
Associate Director, Research Call Center & Panel Research
NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING
School of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
42 East Laurel Road, UDP Suite 2300
Stratford, New Jersey 08084
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E-mail: brillje@umdnj.edu
www.oranjbowl.info

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>>> "Featherston, Fran A." <ffeather@NSF.GOV> 8/22/2007 09:40 >>>

We are revising one of our questionnaires and our editor says we should be using "sex" in describing our breakouts. For example, if we tell respondents that we are requesting the "number of researchers by sex, race, and employment status," we should be using "sex" as the biological characteristic. She explained that "gender" should be reserved for things like gender studies or other behavioral assessments of the difference between the sexes.

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Somehow, I'd rather not say "number of researchers by male/female, race, and employment status."

Our population is university administrative staff, and I wondered whether we should be using the word "sex" or "gender" in our questionnaire. We are currently using "gender" in the glossary and the web site descriptions and "sex" in the questionnaire for the same phrases, so I want to make them consistent at the very least.

Which is the politically correct term in today's world of survey research? Thanks for any light you can shed.

(fran)
Fran Featherston
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230
703-292-4221
ffeatherston@nsf.gov

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And wasn't the old story that "gender" was popularized by Ruth Bader Ginsburg who doesn't like to say "sex"?

Nancy Belden
Belden Russonello & Stewart
1320 19th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036
202.822.6090

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Michel Rochon
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2007 4:23 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: Gender or Sex?

The question also reminded me of an early work experience. I was working in the employment office of Hydro Quebec in Montreal. The printed questionnaire which we used, utilized Sex as the question to identify gender. One young woman upon seeing the question answered NO in big bold letters.

Michel Rochon

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Jonathan Brill
Sent: August 22, 2007 12:13 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: Gender or Sex?

Fran:

This question gave me a chuckle since I remember asking this same question to my first boss at the very beginning of my research career when I began writing survey research reports. I was told to use the word "gender, because we study behavior" and was encouraged to
investigate the matter to learn why "gender" is more correct than "sex" in social research. My boss was technically quite correct. My findings ...

In common non-scientific parlance, the words are typically treated as synonyms. "Gender" is the word used by those who either (1) think of that word before thinking of the word "sex", (2) wish to avoid using the word "sex" (for some reason that need not be speculated upon here) or (3) have some kind of neurotic fascination with language so they insist upon being very precise about their diction (presumably understanding the scientific distinction between the two words).

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(fran)
Fran Featherston
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Arlington, VA 22230
703-292-4221
ffeatherston@nsf.gov
My company may be hired to do a quantitative study of African-American women on subjects related to media use. Our client, who we have worked with several times in the past, is interested in possibly retaining a consultant on the project who specializes in quant work with African-Americans (preferably women, but a specialty in the population generally would suffice). There is no precise definition of "specialize" but of course papers or articles authored, commentary in the media on the subject, or a relevant client list would all be great.

Any recommendations would be appreciated. Please reply to me directly:

Shelley West
swest@pollingcompany.com

Thanks.
And then there is the old story of how Dorothy Parker filled out a questionnaire:

Q. Sex_________?
A. "Occasionally."

On a chicken farm one of the jobs is "sexing chickens." Maybe they could hire a social-constructionist sociologist who could "gender the chickens." Would they get more hens that way?

Allen Barton
allenbarton@mindspring.com

> [Original Message]
> From: Nancy Belden <nancybelden@BRSPOLL.COM>
> To: <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
> Date: 8/22/2007 5:26:11 PM
> Subject: Re: Gender or Sex?
> 
> And wasn't the old story that "gender" was popularized by Ruth Bader Ginsburg who doesn't like to say "sex"?
> 
> Nancy Belden
> Belden Russonello & Stewart
> 1320 19th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036
> 202.822.6090
> 
> --
I worked with one research director, who is gay, lives in San Francisco, and maybe that has something to do with it, and who insisted we ask "What is your gender?"  
Male  
Female  
Other"

This would typically get about 7% other. I made the change to not having it a required question (this was an online survey), and deleting 'other' from the values. It then got about .5% item non-response. (btw, I like that suggestion of asking 'Are you male or female?

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I'm sure there were quite a few sociologists on the list who were okay with that.

Leora

---

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen Barton [mailto:allenbarton@MINDSPRING.COM]  
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2007 5:35 PM  
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU  
Subject: Re: [AAPORNET] Gender or Sex?

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 Reply-To: Colleen Porter <colleen_porter@COX.NET>
 Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
 From: Colleen Porter <colleen_porter@COX.NET>
 Subject: Re: Gender or Sex?
 Comments: cc: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
 In-Reply-To: <200708230153.17N1N6Qd007156@lists.asu.edu>
 Mime-Version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v752.2)
 Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; delsp=yes; format=flowed
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I agree with those who have noted that behavioral scientists see Sex and Gender as discrete but related constructs.

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Colleen Porter
Gainesville, FL

On Aug 22, 2007, at 9:57 PM, Leora Lawton wrote:

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(510) 548-6174; fax (510) 548-6175; cell (510) 928-7572
www.techsociety.com
Yahoo Messenger: leora_lawton

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Subject: Re: [AAPORNET] Gender or Sex?

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Date:         Thu, 23 Aug 2007 08:40:51 +0100
Reply-To:     Joe Stead <Joe.Stead@IPSOS-MORI.COM>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         Joe Stead <Joe.Stead@IPSOS-MORI.COM>
Subject:      Transgender
Comments: To: colleen_porter@COX.NET, AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="utf-8"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64

SGksDQoNCiRoaXZlbGV0dXJlIGFob3JlIHRvIHJpbiB0byBhY2NvdW50IG1lc3NhZ2VuZGluZ3MgY3Vyc2lvbiBvbmUgZG9iZSB0aGlzIGRvZ3MgaXMgIGFkZCBhZ2UgZGVjaW5zIHRvIHJpZ2UgY29udGVudCBhY2NvdW50IERvIHN0b3JlIHVzIGRvZ3MgaXMgd29ybGdvIGFkZSBhZ2UgY29udGVudCBhY2NvdW50IGN0cmVl

View the document's original content as text.
Hi everyone

I would highly recommend the website www.gaydata.org. The site was developed by Dr. Randall Sell, a faculty member at the Drexel University School of Public Health, who presented at the New England chapter of AAPOR a couple of years ago.

Randy has worked with National Center for Health Stats and other US survey organizations to develop measures of sexual orientation and behavior. He has been doing research and testing in these issues since we were grad students together more than a decade ago.
Hi,

The recent discussion on sex/gender has prompted me to ask for advice.

A number of clients (government) in the UK have asked us to add the option of transgender to our gender question on a telephone survey. Currently we do not read out our gender question but the interviewer codes m/f.

This would lead to the interviewer having to ask the respondent their gender reading out all codes.

Does anyone have any experience of this?

Thanks

Joe

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
Sent: Thu Aug 23 03:14:18 2007
Subject: Re: Gender or Sex?

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Date:         Thu, 23 Aug 2007 09:04:38 -0400
Reply-To:     "Featherston, Fran A." <ffeather@NSF.GOV>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         "Featherston, Fran A." <ffeather@NSF.GOV>
Subject:      Sex not gender seems to be the consensus for this context
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Comments: cc: "Oliver, Julia D." <joliver@nsf.gov>
In-Reply-To: A<169260F6-A8D2-4267-A987-4D5797A0E37D@cox.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Dear AAPORNET colleagues:

I am so very grateful for those of you who replied to me both on the listserv and offline. The consensus is to follow the "experts" and use the biological term, "sex" rather than the behavioral term, "gender" when asking people to assign personnel to male/female categories. In addition, it will **not** be seen as politically incorrect by this population according to one of our members who works in the university environment.

Many of you seem to like the idea of avoiding the issue for individuals by asking "Are you male or female?" so I'm glad we could publicize that option. Since the survey I'm discussing asks for aggregated data from universities, I hope we will be immune to the the issue of offering an "other" category. Thanks for bringing up this issue, though, so I'll be sensitive to any mentions of it in my future site visits.

I cannot express how wonderful it is to have this group to back up the recommendation I will now make for our survey.

Sincere thanks to all of you out there in AAPORNET cyberspace,

(fran)

Fran Featherston
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230
703-292-4221
ffeatherston@nsf.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Colleen Porter
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2007 10:14 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: [AAPORNET] Gender or Sex?

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In my studying of the intersection of public opinion and public policy, I was asked - are there policy areas in which policy implementations or options are in peril because they are against public opinion? We could think of historical examples of busing, but I was wondering if the AAPOR community could think of some.

Also, last year I asked the listserv about literature about public opinion and public policy and several people were interested. I've posted my current bibliography for anybody who is interested at http://members.cox.net/wkay/

Look at the work of Eric Plutzer on the relationship between decisions made by school boards and local public opinion, as recently reviewed in POQ.

James P. Murphy, Ph.D.
In my studying of the intersection of public opinion and public policy, I was asked - are there policy areas in which policy implementations or options are in peril because they are against public opinion? We could think of historical examples of busing, but I was wondering if the AAPOR community could think of some.

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Dr. Gallup once recalled being asked, "Sir, are your respondents
broken down by sex?" and he didn't have a ready answer.

I suggested, "Yes, but black coffee fixes them up."

Phil Meyer

Allen Barton wrote:
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> Q. Sex_________?
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> On a chicken farm one of the jobs is "sexing chickens." Maybe they could
> hire a social-constructionist sociologist who could "gender the chickens."
> Would they get more hens that way?
> 
> Allen Barton
> allenbarton@mindspring.com

>> [Original Message]
>> From: Nancy Belden <nancybelden@BRSPOLL.COM>
>> To: <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
>> Date: 8/22/2007 5:26:11 PM
>> Subject: Re: Gender or Sex?
>> 
>> And wasn't the old story that "gender" was popularized by Ruth Bader
>> Ginsburg who doesn't like to say "sex"?
>> 
>> Nancy Belden
>> Belden Russonello & Stewart
>> 1320 19th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036
>> 202.822.6090
>> 
>> --
>> 
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I work in County government and in local government the influence of public opinion on policy options is a daily reality. The opinion polls are seldom the source of this influence; it is the newspapers reporting on the opinion of the public that drives the process.

I don't have any data to share or direct you to but I have lots of anecdotal information that I am happy to share. For example: There is a current local health issue we are having regarding an over population of pigeons that are creating a serious public health problem. A solution was established to reduce the population and use the pigeons that were eliminated to feed other animals (a human assisted food chain). There was public outcry to "save" the pigeons that is going to narrow the public health department's options for keeping the community safe. (We may end up having to bus the pigeons.) I don't know how many community members value the lives of pigeons over their own health, I am guessing a few hundred at most, but they are now going to have a disproportionate effect on the public health decision for a community with 263,242 people in it.

Ginger Fisher, M.A.
Employee Relations Analyst III
County Administrative Office
County of San Luis Obispo
1055 Monterey St. Suite D430
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93408
(805)781-4691
gfisher@co.slo.ca.us

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---
Date: Thu, 23 Aug 2007 09:00:20 -0700
Reply-To: Richard Rands <rrands@CFMC.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Richard Rands <rrands@CFMC.COM>
Subject: Re: Of Polls and Policy
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
In-Reply-To: <005401c7e593$2282f730$6801a8c0@Ward>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed
This is a recent case in California:

SACRAMENTO, California (Reuters) - A bill that would have made California the first U.S. state to mandate neutering and spaying of dogs and cats was withdrawn by its author on Wednesday in the final legislative stages after fierce opposition from dog breeders.

Assemblyman Lloyd Levine had the support of animal rights activists who said mandated sterilization would cut the number of dogs and cats placed and put down in California's animal shelters.

But breeders had described the bill, which passed the state Assembly last month, as "horrific" and warned it would wipe out their industry.

With little enthusiasm for his bill in a state Senate committee, Levine, a Democrat from Southern California, sidelined his legislation. Levine said he would reintroduce the bill next year.

"It was clear that there were some problems with the bill as was constituted. The number one problem was I didn't have the votes to move it forward," Levine said.

American Kennel Club President Dennis Sprung, said in a statement that Levine's decision marked an important victory for dog breeders.

"Today's developments ensure that their fundamental rights and liberties remain intact," Sprung said.

(Reporting by Jenny O'Mara in Sacramento, California)

At 10:37 AM 8/23/2007 -0400, Ward Kay wrote:
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> ----------------------------------------------------
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Lance M. Pollack, PhD
University of California, San Francisco
Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)
50 Beale Street, Suite 1300
San Francisco, CA 94105
tel: 415-597-9302
fax: 415-597-9213
email: Lance.Pollack@ucsf.edu

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Featherston, Fran A.
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2007 6:05 AM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Sex not gender seems to be the consensus for this context

Dear AAPORNET colleagues:

I am so very grateful for those of you who replied to me both on the listserv and offline. The consensus is to follow the "experts" and use the biological term, "sex" rather than the behavioral term, "gender" when asking people to assign personnel to male/female categories. In addition, it will **not** be seen as politically incorrect by this population according to one of our members who works in the university...
Many of you seem to like the idea of avoiding the issue for individuals by asking "Are you male or female?" so I'm glad we could publicize that option. Since the survey I'm discussing asks for aggregated data from universities, I hope we will be immune to the the issue of offering an "other" category. Thanks for bringing up this issue, though, so I'll be sensitive to any mentions of it in my future site visits.

I cannot express how wonderful it is to have this group to back up the recommendation I will now make for our survey.

Sincere thanks to all of you out there in AAPORNENET cyberspace,

(fran)
Fran Featherston
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230
703-292-4221
ffeatherston@nsf.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNENET [mailto:AAPORNENET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Colleen Porter
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2007 10:14 PM
To: AAPORNENET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: [AAPORNENET] Gender or Sex?

A lot of the recent NIH documents actually use a slash

Sex/Gender

which is at least a few letters shorter than Race/Ethnicity, which is also becoming popular.

I agree with those who have noted that behavioral scientists see Sex and Gender as discrete but related constructs.

Best,
Colleen

Colleen Porter
Gainesville, FL

On Aug 22, 2007, at 9:57 PM, Leora Lawton wrote:

> ---------------------- Information from the mail header
> ----------------------
> Sender: AAPORNENET <AAPORNENET@asu.edu>
> Poster: Leora Lawton <lawton@TECHSOCIETY.COM>
> Subject: Re: Gender or Sex?
> -------------------------------
> > I worked with one research director, who is gay, lives in San Francisco, and maybe that has something to do with it, and who
> insisted we ask "What is your gender?  
> Male 
> Female 
> Other"  
>  
> This would typically get about 7% other. I made the change to not 
> having it a required question (this was an online survey), and 
> deleting 'other' from the values. It then got about .5% item 
> non-response. (btw, I like that suggestion of asking 'Are you male or 
> female?')  
>  
> Also, this question reminded me of a similar discussion many years ago 
> on another listserv FAMILYSCI. One word refers more to a 
> sociobiological fact (which should be 'sex') whereas the other to 
> sociological roles and constructs (which should be 'gender'). At any 
> rate, a psychologist on the list insisted that gender was the correct 
> word for behavioral surveys and then inexplicably (to me) wrote: 
> "Sociologists can have 'sex' but psychologists will take 'gender'" 
>  
> I'm sure there were quite a few sociologists on the list who were okay 
> with that.  
>  
> Leora  
>  
> Dr. Leora Lawton 
> TechSociety Research 
> "Custom Social Science and Consumer Behavior Research" 
> 2342 Shattuck Avenue PMB 362, Berkeley, CA  94704  
> (510) 548-6174; fax (510) 548-6175; cell (510) 928-7572 
> www.techsociety.com Yahoo Messenger: leora_lawton 
>  
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Allen Barton [mailto:allenbarton@MINDSPRING.COM] 
> Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2007 5:35 PM 
> To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU 
> Subject: Re: [AAPORNET] Gender or Sex?  
>  
> And then there is the old story of how Dorothy Parker filled out a 
> questionnaire: 
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> Q. Sex_________?  
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> To: <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
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>
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I'll add, only because I didn't see it mentioned, that gender, in social science literature, often refers to a continuous variable (masculine-feminine) and sex to a dichotomous variable (with of course the rare exception for those who have had sex-change surgery). But, because the word "sex" is used to refer to male/female and to an act, it has become polite to use "gender" to mean male/female. I don't know that it has anything to do with political correctness. JAS

J. Ann Selzer, Ph.D.
Selzer & Company
520 42nd Street
Des Moines, Iowa  50312
515.271.5700

This e-mail address if for purposes of this list. Otherwise, contact me at JASelzer@SelzerCo.com


In a message dated 8/23/2007 11:10:02 A.M. Central Daylight Time, Lance.Pollack@UCSF.EDU writes:

I just wanted to add that sometimes we opt for "gender" over "sex" as a practical matter of convenience and clarity. Large bodies of research (e.g., research into AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections and diseases) require assessments of sexual behavior. Good assessments operationalize the term for the respondent ("By sex we mean ....") to promote uniformity of meaning and accuracy of more detailed responses (numbers of partners, frequency, behaviors engaged in, etc.). As suggested already, we normally finesse the issue by asking whether the respondent/partner is male or female, but if we do need to make a reference then we use gender to avoid confusion with the subject matter, which is sex, for which we have a specific operational definition. We find it is clarifying for the readers of our articles as well by avoiding phrases like "the sex of the respondent's last sex partner".
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National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22230  
703-292-4221  
ffeatherston@nsf.gov  

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>> To: <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
>> Date: 8/22/2007 5:26:11 PM
>> Subject: Re: Gender or Sex?
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****************************************************************************** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

******************************************************************************
Date:        Thu, 23 Aug 2007 16:06:21 GMT
Reply-To:   mayur <mayur@TECHNOMETRICA.COM>
Sender:      AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:        mayur <mayur@TECHNOMETRICA.COM>
Subject:     Two Job Openings
Comments:    To: aapornet@asu.edu
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
  boundary="----------Boundary-00=_TK6XUEHF8G0LHUOPEI34"

----------Boundary-00=_TK6XUEHF8G0LHUOPEI34
Two Openings North NJ Market Research/Survey Research Firm:

1) Senior Lead Statistician Ph.D. in Marketing/Management =
Science/Statistics or Masters with work experience in sampling, syndicated =
studies, and modeling.

2) Junior Analyst B.S./Masters in Mathematics/Statistics/Management =
Science/Sociology/Psychology. Fresh graduates OK. Will train.

Good salary commensurate with qualification and experience.=20

Interested persons may please send resume to mayur=40technometrica.com.

Raghavan Mayur
President
TechnoMetrica Market Intelligence
690 Kinderkamack Road
Oradell, NJ 07649
201-986-1288 (work)
201-803-6491 (mobile)
mayur=40technometrica.com=

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My favorite was a question on a survey of Sociology graduate students:

"Please indicate which category best characterizes your sex:

___ Female
___ Male

My favorite was a question on a survey of Sociology graduate students:
I recently filled out a medical history questionnaire in which one of the questions was "Are you male or female?______" I was tempted to answer "yes."

Norval D. Glenn
Stiles Professor in American Studies
Department of Sociology
University of Texas at Austin

On Thu, 23 Aug 2007, Philip Meyer wrote:

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Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
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Date: Fri, 24 Aug 2007 10:00:36 -0400
Reply-To: rys3@COLUMBIA.EDU
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: "Robert Y. Shapiro" <rys3@COLUMBIA.EDU>
Subject: Re: Of Polls and Policy
Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>
In-Reply-To: <EC15B06368AA4419321FF62159CB1C01294BFD@sscnt03-2.ssc.msu.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII; format=flowed

Nat Ehrlich's comments should jog our memories (how soon we forget?) about the purpose of The American Soldier project and other New Deal and World War II era efforts that brought together all manner of academic surveyors and attitude researchers, which directly or indirectly affected the
continuation or establishment of NORC and later the ISR/SRC at Michigan (more indirect involving the eventual personnel). See Jean Converse's terrific history:


Also, for example, articles by political scientist David Truman and Sec. of Agriculture and VP Henry Wallace (in POQ!) are also work a quick look


Bob

Robert Y. Shapiro, NYAAPOR President
Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Political Science
Columbia University
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730 International Affairs Building
New York, N.Y. 10027
phone: (212) 854-3944
fax: (212) 222-0598
e-mail: rys3@columbia.edu

On Fri, 24 Aug 2007, Ehrlich, Nathaniel wrote:

> Going way back to the 1940s, I recall a poll of U.S. Army personnel were
> overwhelmingly opposed to allowing African-Americans (called Negroes in
> that time) to serve as equals (cooks, waiters, etc. were OK) in the
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> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
> Research Specialist
> Michigan State University
> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
> Office for Social Research
> 321 Berkey Hall
> East Lansing, MI 48824
> 517-353-2639
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ward Kay

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Also, last year I asked the listserv about literature about public opinion and public policy and several people were interested. I've posted my current bibliography for anybody who is interested at http://members.cox.net/wkay/

The poll which may have influenced Truman and his advisers the most was the Stouffer survey shortly after VE day of soldiers who served in integrated companies toward the end of the war. See The American Soldier, v. 1, 586-599. The white soldiers and especially the enlisted men who had experienced combat in companies which included platoons of black soldiers overwhelmingly favored including black platoons in combat companies (although they rejected including blacks in the same platoons with whites).
The combat experience had a major effect on white soldiers' attitudes toward blacks, but not to the point of favoring really close integration. Truman's policy moved to that point, but the Stouffer data suggested that actual experience with black soldiers changed some very prejudiced attitudes.

Allen Barton

> [Original Message]
> From: Ehrlich, Nathaniel <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
> To: <AAPORNERT@ASU.EDU>
> Date: 8/24/2007 9:33:42 AM
> Subject: Re: Of Polls and Policy
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> East Lansing, MI 48824
> 517-353-2639
> 
> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNERT [mailto:AAPORNERT@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ward Kay
> Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2007 10:38 AM
> To: AAPORNERT@ASU.EDU
> Subject: Of Polls and Policy
> 
> In my studying of the intersection of public opinion and public policy,
> I was asked - are there policy areas in which policy implementations or options are in peril because they are against public opinion? We could think of historical examples of busing, but I was wondering if the AAPOR community could think of some.
> 
> Also, last year I asked the listserv about literature about public opinion and public policy and several people were interested. I've posted my current bibliography for anybody who is interested at http://members.cox.net/wkay/
> 
> -----------------------------------
We've recently begun looking at several options to code open ended questions from a variety of survey instruments and would like to solicit input and feedback from the group.

I have three questions that I'm trying to answer:

1) How do software solutions compare to human coders in terms of validity, reliability and cost?

2) Does anyone have experience with ClaraBridge, ClearVoice or the Nielsen Buzzmetrics tool and would they be willing to share those experiences?

3) Can anyone recommend other software solutions, e.g. I believe that SPSS has a tool to code unstructured data?

I will compile the responses and share with those who are interested.

Thanks so much,

JH
John Huffman
(302) 432-4501 O
(302) 218-3981 C
Hi John.
Most of our clients who do large volumes of verbatim question coding use a product called Ascribe from Language Logic in Cincinnati.

www.languagelogic.info

Language Logic
35 East 7th Street, Suite 620
Cincinnati, OH 45202
513.241.9112
513.241.5833 fax

Richard Rands

At 09:16 AM 8/24/2007 -0700, John Huffman wrote:
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> 
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> 
> Thanks so much,
> 
> JH
I've also heard great things about Language Logic. Many of our customers use them, and others in my company have viewed Ascribe and felt it was very strong.

Cheers,
Mark Cameron

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Richard Rands
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2007 10:15 AM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: Software Coding Tools

Hi John.

Most of our clients who do large volumes of verbatim question coding use a product called Ascribe from Language Logic in Cincinnati.

www.languagelogic.info

Language Logic
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> (302) 218-3981 C
> 
> ---------------------------------
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> mail, news, photos & more.
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A potential client just called about doing a survey of high school students in Los Angeles County. I suspect there are companies that specialize in this that could help me, and I further suspect I will be hearing from you very shortly. The client wants to do a combination of online and intercept surveys (which for starters sounds awfully complicated) but I am sure I can talk her into some other alternative if preferable. Anyhow, I would be interested in hearing from vendors who have experience with the methodological issues as well as legal issues associated with research with teens. The client is private sector, not a government agency.

Thanks

--
Paul Goodwin
Goodwin Simon Victoria Research
P.O. Box 366
Culver City, CA 90232
310/558-4761 (phone)
310/558-0539 (fax)
310/210-8984 (cell)
paulg@gsvresearch.com

----------------------------------------------------
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That same series of surveys which were conducted by Stouffer et al starting in January 1942 were instrumental in influencing 1) the establishment of the GI bill for education, and 2) the order and process by which the troops were demobilized from the various WWII theaters.

Linda Bourque
At 07:36 AM 8/24/2007, Allen Barton wrote:
The poll which may have influenced Truman and his advisers the most was the Stouffer survey shortly after VE day of soldiers who served in integrated companies toward the end of the war. See The American Soldier, v. 1, 586-599. The white soldiers and especially the enlisted men who had experienced combat in companies which included platoons of black soldiers overwhelmingly favored including black platoons in combat companies (although they rejected including blacks in the same platoons with whites). The combat experience had a major effect on white soldiers' attitudes toward blacks, but not to the point of favoring really close integration. Truman's policy moved to that point, but the Stouffer data suggested that actual experience with black soldiers changed some very prejudiced attitudes.

Allen Barton

> [Original Message]
> From: Ehrlich, Nathaniel <Nathaniel.Ehrlich@SSC.MSU.EDU>
> To: <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
> Date: 8/24/2007 9:33:42 AM
> Subject: Re: Of Polls and Policy
>
> Going way back to the 1940s, I recall a poll of U.S. Army personnel were overwhelmingly opposed to allowing African-Americans (called Negroes in that time) to serve as equals (cooks, waiters, etc. were OK) in the Armed Services. I can't recall the figure exactly, but over 90% of enlisted men said they would refuse an order from a black officer. Nonetheless, President Truman was determined to change that and signed Executive Order 9981 on 26 July 1948. End of discussion.
>
> Nat Ehrlich, Ph.D.
> Research Specialist
> Michigan State University
> Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
> Office for Social Research
> 321 Berkey Hall
> East Lansing, MI 48824
> 517-353-2639
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Ward Kay
> Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2007 10:38 AM
> To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
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The American public's reactions to our government's use of force abroad provides a number of examples since WWII (e.g., Korea, Vietnam) where changes in policy could reasonably be attributed partly at least to public resistance expressed in polls. One might argue, in fact, that our present policy in Iraq is in peril due largely to changes in public opinion on the war since 2003 and the approach of a national election.

Al Richman
Alvin Richman
3914 Morrison St NW
Washington, DC 20015
202-362-6226
RichmanAl@gmail.com
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> attitudes.
>
> Allen Barton

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> >> To: <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
> >> Date: 8/24/2007 9:33:42 AM
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Archives: http://lists.asu.edu/archives/aapornet.html. Please ask authors before quoting outside AAPORNET. Unsubscribe?-don't reply to this message, write to: aapornet-request@asu.edu
I have been trying to log on to the members only page on the AAPOR site. When I try to rest my password it sends me an e-mail without any link like it says in the body of the e-mail. Does anyone have any suggestions?

Thanks,

Dan

----------------------------------------------------
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I have a question about smoking research. Please reply to me directly.

Michael Koger, Sr.

mkoger1@bigred.unl.edu

----------------------------------------------------
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I am very sad to have to report that Morris Axelrod, an AAPOR honorary life member, passed away July 10th at age 90. Morrie received his PhD in 1953 from Michigan when the ISR and SRC were being formed. He took a rigorous
approach to survey quality and research ethics, and transmitted those values to generations of students. He was an early director of the Detroit Area Study, and later moved to Combined Jewish Philanthropies to direct a study of the Jewish population of greater Boston. After that, he became director of the survey research practicum of the Joint Center for Urban Studies of Harvard & M.I.T., and then spent the last stage of his career founding and directing the Survey Research Laboratory at Arizona State University.

He was also an early leader of the Field Directors Conference, and did much to ensure its longevity and growth into the current International Field Directors and Technologies Conference.

Morrie was known for his love of good food, and could always be relied upon to lead conference attendees out for a memorable dining experience. He called these ethnogastronomic experiences and brought his survey and analytic skills into play, surveying diners he'd gather for evenings out and analyzing their opinions.

He was committed to peace and social justice, supporting the ACLU and becoming the first man to join the Maricopa County League of Woman Voters.

Morrie was also a lifelong supporter of Consumers Union, referring to Consumer Reports as the family bible.

Morrie is survived by Zelma, his wife of 64 years; by his daughters, Beatrice, of Tempe, AZ; Miriam, of Ganeshpuri, India; and Karen (Robert Adams) of Northampton, MA; by his beloved grandchildren Rose and Neal Axelrod Adams; and his brother Bernard (Sara) Axelrod of West Lafayette, IN.

Those wanting to contact Morrie's family may do so at his old address, axelrod@asu.edu.

A celebration of his life is planned for December 2007. Contributions in Morrie's name can be made to the ACLU of Arizona, P.O. Box 17148, Phoenix, AZ 85011-0148, or Consumers Union, Tribute & Memorial Gifts, 101 Truman Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703; or, go out and enjoy a good ethnogastronomic experience in his memory.

Shapard Wolf
shapwolf@msn.com

-------------

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Date: Mon, 27 Aug 2007 12:39:24 -0400
Reply-To: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Jonathan Brill <brillje@UMDNJ.EDU>
Subject: Re: Smoking research
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU, "Sr. Michael Koger" <mkoger1@BIGRED.UNL.EDU>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-Disposition: inline

This posting seems to be missing something important - i.e., the question.

If there is no question, to what is it we are expected to reply?

Regards,
Jonathan

Jonathan E. Brill, Ph.D.
General Manager, ORANJ BOWL(sm) Panel Research Program
Associate Director, Research Call Center & Panel Research
NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING
School of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
42 East Laurel Road, UDP Suite 2300
Stratford, New Jersey 08084
Telephone (direct): 856.566-6727
Fax (research group): 856.566-6874
E-mail: brillje@umdnj.edu
www.oranjbowl.info

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>>> "Michael Koger, Sr." <mkoger1@BIGRED.UNL.EDU> 8/24/2007 19:53 >>>
I have a question about smoking research. Please reply to me directly.

Michael Koger, Sr.

mkoger1@bigred.unl.edu

---------------------------------------------------------------------
IRS Warns of New E-mail Scam Offering Cash for Participation in ÒMember Satisfaction SurveyÓ


WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today issued a consumer alert regarding a new, two-step e-mail scam that falsely promises recipients they will receive $80 for participating in an online customer satisfaction survey.

In the scam, an unsuspecting taxpayer receives an unsolicited e-mail that appears to come from the IRS. The e-mail contains a URL linking to an online ÒMember Satisfaction Survey.Ó

We have seen many e-mail scams using the IRS name, IRS Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support Linda Stiff said. ÒThe IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers through e-mail. Taxpayers should always use caution when they receive unsolicited e-mails.Ó

In this case, the e-mail notifies the recipient that he or she has been randomly selected to participate in a survey. In return, the IRS will credit $80 to the taxpayer's account. There are references to the IRS in the ÒfromÓ line and the ÒsubjectÓ line of the e-mail. The link to the survey and a copyright statement at the bottom of the e-mail also reference the IRS. The survey form features the IRS logo.

In addition to standard customer satisfaction survey questions, the survey requests the name and phone number of the participant and also asks for credit card information. Once the fraudsters have a name and phone number, they will presumably call the participant and attempt to retrieve other financial...
information.

The apparent objectives of this scam are to use the participant's name and financial data to withdraw funds from the taxpayer's bank account, run up charges on a credit card or take out loans in the taxpayer's name.

Tricking victims into revealing private personal and financial information over the Internet, telephone or other means is a practice known as "phishing."

IRS Never Sends Unsolicited E-mail

Taxpayers should be aware that the IRS does not send unsolicited e-mail. Additionally, the IRS never asks taxpayers for PIN numbers, passwords or similar secret access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts.

Recipients of questionable e-mail that appears to come from the IRS should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the e-mail. Instead, the e-mail should be forwarded to phishing@irs.gov.

The IRS and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration work with the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) and various Internet service providers and international CERT teams to have the phishing sites taken offline as soon as they are reported.

Since the establishment of the mail box last year, the IRS has received more than 30,000 e-mails from taxpayers reporting almost 400 separate phishing incidents. To date, investigations by TIGTA have identified host sites in at least 55 different countries, as well as in the United States.

Other fraudulent e-mail scams try to entice taxpayers to click their way to a fake IRS Web site and ask for bank account numbers. Another widespread e-mail scam tells taxpayers the IRS is holding a refund for them—frequently $63.80—and seeking financial account information. Still another email claims the IRS's "anti-fraud commission" is investigating their tax returns.

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Date:         Wed, 29 Aug 2007 12:50:14 +0200
Reply-To:     Edith de Leeuw <edithl@XS4ALL.NL>
Sender:       AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:         Edith de Leeuw <edithl@XS4ALL.NL>
Subject:      data collection modes in cross cultural and cross national research
Comments: To: nosmo@nic.surfnet.nl, WAPOR@UNL.EDU, AAPORNET@ASU.EDU,
SRSMNET@LISTSERV.UMD.EDU
Comments: cc: harkness@zuma-mannheim.de
Mime-Version: 1.0
Dear friends and colleagues

There will be a conference on comparative survey methods in Berlin, June 2008. The organizers are very interested in data collection modes and mixed modes in cross-national, cross-cultural contexts. Emphasis should be given to methodological challenges in the widest sense. If there are enough papers on this topic the organizers have promised to create a thematic session around this. Abstracts can still be submitted, I have copied the relevant information on the conference and on how to submit abstracts below. I should add that several journals will have special editions culled from conference papers, the venue is quite spectacular, and Berlin a wonderful city, especially in June unter die Linden.

Warm regards,

Edith de Leeuw (with apologies for cross-posting)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SURVEY METHODS IN MULTINATIONAL, MULTIREGIONAL, AND MULTICULTURAL CONTEXTS
June 25 - 29, 2008

To submit your abstract now and for more information go to http://www.cdsi-workshop.org (click "Events")
The conference website will open in September (www.3mc2008.de).

VENUE
Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, Berlin, Germany

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
- Researchers involved in comparative survey research
- Survey research practitioners and survey methodologists
- Data users and consultants
- Planners and decision-makers for cross-national contexts

KEY FEATURES
- Special focus on methodological aspects of comparative, cross-population research
- Conference papers and presentations
- Plenary keynote speakers
- Workshops and training courses
- Round tables
- Conference proceedings
- State-of-the-art edited Wiley volume for participants
Queens College, City University of New York. The Department of Sociology seeks to hire a tenure-track Assistant Professor beginning Fall 2008. Candidates must show promise of excellence in research, including, a well-defined research program and some scholarly publications, as well as excellence in and commitment to teaching. Candidates must have a Ph.D. in hand at time of appointment. The department will consider highly qualified candidates in a wide variety of specialties, especially candidates focusing on race and ethnic difference and inequality, family, sexuality, health, media, or deviance. Applicants should send (1) curriculum vitae, (2) samples of scholarly writing, (3) statement outlining research and teaching interests, and (4) three current confidential letters of reference to Andrew A. Beveridge, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Sociology, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367-1597. We especially welcome electronic application, including the reference letters. Please address them to andrew.beveridge@qc.cuny.edu. In addition to offering a BA degree in sociology to several hundred majors, the department (with over 25 full-time and numerous part-time faculty members) offers an MA with a concentration in social research. Appointment to the Doctoral Faculty at the Graduate Center of CUNY is open to professors at all ranks, upon review of publication record. Queens College, located in Flushing, New York has a diverse student body of 18,000 students, and is one of the Senior Colleges in the CUNY system. More information is available at www.qc.cuny.edu.
Closing Date is October 15, 2007.

Andrew A. Beveridge  
Prof of Sociology Queens College and Grad Ctr CUNY Chair Queens College  
Sociology Dept  
Office: 718-997-2848  
Email: andrew.beveridge@qc.cuny.edu  
252A Powdemaker Hall  
65-30 Kissena Blvd  
Flushing, NY 11367-1597  
www.socialexplorer.com

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Date: Wed, 29 Aug 2007 16:19:13 -0400  
Reply-To: Phillip Downs <pd@KERR-DOWNS.COM>  
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>  
From: Phillip Downs <pd@KERR-DOWNS.COM>  
Subject: Public opinoin surveys for court cases  
Comments: To: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@asu.edu>  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I have a client who is interested in public opinions research to be used in  
court cases. I did just enough of this type of research years ago to know  
that it's a little different than corporate or non-profit public opinion  
studies. Are there recognized experts in this area among the AAPOR group,  
and/or is there someone who specializes in this type of opinion research who  
may wish to joint venture. thanks, Phillip

Phillip Downs, Ph.D.

Senior Partner | Kerr & Downs Research  
Professor of Marketing | Florida State University  
800.564.3182 | 850.906.3112 (f)

-------------------------------------------------------------------------
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Date: Wed, 29 Aug 2007 19:18:38 EDT  
Reply-To: AmyRSimon@AOL.COM
I've been asked to review some potential legislation to ban "push polls." I'm wondering if anyone knows of a model bill out there I could reference for approaches on how to ban large volume negative persuasion calls without inadvertently banning legitimate research calls.

Thank you for any direction on this front.

Amy Simon

Hi All -

Are any AAPOR-ites following this? Is this an issue AAPOR should get involved in? (See article below)

Tresa Undem
Vice President
Lake Research Partners
1726 M ST NW, Suite 500
WDC, 20036
202.776.9066
Statute forbids issue-oriented polls
Florida Today, 8/28/2007
View article on <http://www.lobbytools.com/go.cfm?11165628> Florida Today

Florida elections officials will begin enforcing a law which changesthe state's "rules of political engagement": campaigns can't ask voters about the issues.

For example, political committees that push or want to defeat ballot initiatives, such as changing Florida's property tax structure, can't survey voters to find out how they feel about the issue.

A lawyer for the Department of State's Division of Elections issued the advisory opinion last week, at the request of a political committee that wanted to know if it could co-sponsor such polls with other groups, and if so, how to report the costs.

"Truthfully, no one ever posed the question before, but the law is very clear," said Sterling Ivey, spokesman for the department.

Though the opinion applies only to polls by political committees, it refers to a statute that, if read the same way, also would stop political parties and, beginning in January, electioneering organizations from surveying voters on issues.

Campaign finance records show that since January 2006, more than $3.2 million has been spent on polling, the bulk of which was paid for by political parties and special interest groups.

No one was more surprised than those seeking the advice.

"We were simply asking about how do we go about cooperating with another political committee," said Jon Kislak, chairman of Florida Red and Blue, one of several committees opposed to a ballot initiative to ban gay marriage.

"We got an answer that political committees for decades in Florida have operated contrary to law."

Florida Red and Blue's question on cooperation is moot, said Assistant General Counsel Gary Holland, because the state's polling law only mentions candidate polls. By their omission, issue-oriented polls are not allowed, he wrote.

That opinion caused an uproar Monday across the political spectrum.

"It's pretty clearly unconstitutional," said John Stemberger, the Orlando lawyer who chairs Florida4Marriage.org. The organization is nearing the 611,000 petition signatures needed to put a constitutional ban on same-sex marriages on the 2008 ballot.

"It burdens the First Amendment without any compelling state interest," =
Stemberger said. "I wonder if it is a mistake."

"It doesn't make a whole lot of common sense," said former Senate President John McKay, who led a 2005 ballot initiative to plug holes in the state's sales tax base.

Enforcement of the opinion is left to the state elections commission, Ivey said. In the interim, he said the Elections Division is not offering further opinion as to whether the Legislature intended to stop asking voters about issues.

"We only answer the question that was addressed to us," he said. "I'm sure that omission will be squarely fixed next year."

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Date: Thu, 30 Aug 2007 07:37:53 -0400
Reply-To: LaToya Rembert-Lang <lrembert@CMOR.ORG>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: LaToya Rembert-Lang <lrembert@CMOR.ORG>
Subject: Re: model "push poll" legislation?
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
In-Reply-To: <d66.125b9cc4.340758ce@aol.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Amy,

CMOR has created the term 'political telemarketing' to describe the context of 'push polls'. Political telemarketing is a telemarketing technique conducted under the guise of a legitimate poll. Such calls are placed by campaign workers or telemarketers hired by campaigns. They contain derogatory and damaging statements about a candidate and are specifically designed to "push" a voter away from one candidate and toward another.

CMOR has worked with Florida and Nevada in order to assist with the development of their political telemarketing legislation. We were instrumental in drafting model language that has been included in the text of Florida and Nevada which is the current law. CMOR has also assisted with the development of Pennsylvania's political telemarketing legislation which
is currently still in the legislative review process.

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Pennsylvania legislation: http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billnbr=0479&pn=0765

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Best,
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Contact Phone: 202.775.5171
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-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Amy Simon
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2007 7:19 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: model "push poll" legislation?

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Thank you for any direction on this front.

Amy Simon

 homemade 808

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Date: Thu, 30 Aug 2007 10:19:44 -0400
Tresa is correct. This is definitely a matter for the organization!!

Best Regards

Paul

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@asu.edu] On Behalf Of Tresa Undem
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2007 10:07 PM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Florida forbids issue-oriented polls

Hi All -

Are any AAPOR-ites following this? Is this an issue AAPOR should get involved in? (See article below)

Tresa Undem
Vice President
Lake Research Partners
1726 M ST NW, Suite 500
WDC, 20036
202.776.9066

Statute forbids issue-oriented polls
Florida Today, 8/28/2007
View article on <http://www.lobbytools.com/go.cfm?11165628> Florida Today

Florida elections officials will begin enforcing a law which changesthe state's "rules of political engagement": campaigns can't ask voters about the issues.

For example, political committees that push or want to defeat ballot initiatives, such as changing Florida's property tax structure, can't survey voters to find out how they feel about the issue.

A lawyer for the Department of State's Division of Elections issued the advisory opinion last week, at the request of a political committee that wanted to know if it could co-sponsor such polls with other groups, and if
so, how to report the costs.

"Truthfully, no one ever posed the question before, but the law is very clear," said Sterling Ivey, spokesman for the department.

Though the opinion applies only to polls by political committees, it refers to a statute that, if read the same way, also would stop political parties and, beginning in January, electioneering organizations from surveying voters on issues.

Campaign finance records show that since January 2006, more than $3.2 million has been spent on polling, the bulk of which was paid for by political parties and special interest groups.

No one was more surprised than those seeking the advice.

"We were simply asking about how do we go about cooperating with another political committee," said Jon Kislak, chairman of Florida Red and Blue, one of several committees opposed to a ballot initiative to ban gay marriage.

"We got an answer that political committees for decades in Florida have operated contrary to law."

Florida Red and Blue's question on cooperation is moot, said Assistant General Counsel Gary Holland, because the state's polling law only mentions candidate polls. By their omission, issue-oriented polls are not allowed, he wrote.

That opinion caused an uproar Monday across the political spectrum.

"It's pretty clearly unconstitutional," said John Stemberger, the Orlando lawyer who chairs Florida4Marriage.org. The organization is nearing the 611,000 petition signatures needed to put a constitutional ban on same-sex marriages on the 2008 ballot.

"It burdens the First Amendment without any compelling state interest," Stemberger said. "I wonder if it is a mistake."

"It doesn't make a whole lot of common sense," said former Senate President John McKay, who led a 2005 ballot initiative to plug holes in the state's sales tax base.

Enforcement of the opinion is left to the state elections commission, Ivey said. In the interim, he said the Elections Division is not offering further opinion as to whether the Legislature intended to stop asking voters about issues.

"We only answer the question that was addressed to us," he said. "I'm sure that omission will be squarely fixed next year."
Paul, Tresa and other AAPORNET Subscribers:

CMOR has been made aware of this issue and we are currently reviewing the matter in order to determine the scope of the advisory opinion, the authoritative stance on this position, and as to what extent it may or may not impact the profession.

It is important that we examine the scope of this issue in exquisite detail since certain terms are vague and the intent is also not well defined. We will be certain to share the information once we receive accurate and detailed information regarding this matter.

Best,
LaToya Lang

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Determining the dubious constitutionality of the law will take scads of money and time. Regardless of that, the assistant general counsel's interpretation appears to me to be completely backwards. Generally speaking, and with great oversimplification, laws enable government to do things and prohibit citizens from doing things. That is, if something is not mentioned in legislation then a government entity cannot do that something, but for private citizens it means they can do that something unless specifically prohibited. The counsel has it backwards. You need an immediate injunction precluding enforcement of these rules.

It smacks of a government agency intending to manipulate the outcome of a vote on this issue. One wonders if the same opinion would have been rendered (has been rendered?) to pro-ban groups.

Can you imagine, a law prohibiting the assessment of public opinion! Forty years ago this would have been the basis of a plot for an absurd political satire, but today it is actual legislation! Legislators swear to uphold the constitution, not destroy it!

Lance M. Pollack, PhD
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Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)
50 Beale Street, Suite 1300
San Francisco, CA 94105
tel: 415-597-9302
fax: 415-597-9213
email: Lance.Pollack@ucsf.edu
-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of LaToya Rembert-Lang
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2007 7:25 AM
To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
Subject: Re: Florida forbids issue-oriented polls

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From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Paul Braun
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2007 10:20 AM
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The term "Political telemarketing" has been used before. Google the phrase and you'll find it was used by the NCPP in a 1995 press release ...and by political marketers who may do push polling.

I guess acceptance of the term is unanimous.

Nick

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From: "James P. Murphy" <jpmurphy@JPMURPHY.COM>
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> -----Original Message-----
> From: AAPORNET [mailto:AAPORNET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of LaToya Rembert-Lang
> Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2007 7:38 AM
> To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
> Subject: Re: model "push poll" legislation?
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----------------------------------------------------
Remember the SAT analogies section?

Push Polling is to .........Polling
as
Vice is to ............Vice President.

Mike O'Neil
www.oneilresearch.com

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> 083020071650.16709.46D6F5660008C2420000414522007358349C0A9D0E089C0503@comcast.
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MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Content-Disposition: inline
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> 
> Date: Fri, 31 Aug 2007 07:29:28 -0700
> Reply-To: John Marcum <jmarcum@CTR.PCUSA.ORG>
Coordinator of Research Services, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seeks applicants for the position of coordinator of its Research Services office. Responsibilities include coordinating research operations, supervising staff, conducting surveys and other research, disseminating findings, and working with other church leaders. An M.A. degree in a social science or related area is required; a Ph.D. is preferred. A minimum of five years experience (with a Ph.D.) or ten years (with an M.A.) in social science research is also required, preferably in an applied setting, with experience directing projects and managing other researchers. Requisite skills include knowledge of research methods and familiarity with data analysis software (e.g., SPSS); report writing and oral presentation skills; ability to interpret research results for persons with limited knowledge of research methods or statistics; understanding of and respect for Christian principles. Applicants should send a letter of interest along with a curriculum vitae to Antissa Riley, Human Resources, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville KY 40202. For more information on Research Services, go to www.pcusa.org/research; for more information on the coordinator position, contact Jack Marcum, jmarcum@ctr.pcusa.org or 502-569-5161. Screening begins immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Starting date is January 2, 2008.

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Date: Fri, 31 Aug 2007 11:48:03 -0400
Reply-To: Craig Wiles <cwiles@PSCINC.COM>
Sender: AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From: Craig Wiles <cwiles@PSCINC.COM>
Subject: Michigan primary and failed "do not call" amendment
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Given this week's discussion of "political telemarketing" I thought the AAPOR community would find this issue noteworthy. Part of the bill moving up Michigan's primary to January 15 specifies how voter information collected during the closed primary can be used by political parties.  

According to Gongwer News Service, one of the amendments that failed to make it into the final bill would have allowed for voters to ask to be placed on a "do not call" list. 

In addition, the language of the original bill set some boundaries for "political telemarketing" that did not make it into the final concurred bill. While each party would get a file of voters from "each participating political party," the language of the initially introduced bill restricted the use of the primary voter lists "to support candidates and ballot proposals endorsed by the political party" and did not allow one party to use the voter information from another party. In other words, they could only call voters in their own party to discuss candidates or proposals they were endorsing. 

It seems Michigan missed an opportunity here to limit "political telemarketing," because the final concurred bill (expected to be signed into law today) is less restrictive. While vendors are required to enter into a contract to use the list, there are no restrictions on using the voter lists from another party and the language in the final bill seems to keep the door open for the kind of "political telemarketing" recently criticized on AAPORNET (emphasis added): 

"A participating political party may only use the information transmitted to the participating political party under subsection (6) to support political party activities by that participating political party, including, but not limited to, support for or opposition to candidates and ballot proposals." 

http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(x0vsea55jdo33k551ldke12l))/mileg.aspx?page=3DgetObject&objectName=3D2007-SB-0624


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Craig Wiles
Consultant for Survey Research
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According to Gongwer News Service, one of the amendments that failed to
make it into the final bill would have allowed voters to ask to be placed=
on a "do not call" list if they were contacted.

In addition, the language of the original bill set some boundaries for "political telemarketing" that did not make it into the final concurred bill. While each party would get a file of voters from "each participating political party," the language of the initially introduced bill restricted the use of the primary voter lists "to support candidates=  

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Date:     Fri, 31 Aug 2007 09:15:54 -0700
Reply-To: Craig Wiles <cwiles@PSCINC.COM>
Sender:   AAPORNET <AAPORNET@ASU.EDU>
From:    Craig Wiles <cwiles@PSCINC.COM>
Subject: Michigan primary and failed "do not call" amendment
Comments: To: AAPORNET@ASU.EDU
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Consultant for Survey Research
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http://www.pscinc.com
We share a professional interest in gaining a public understanding of the difference between legitimate research and political telemarketing. And much political telemarketing is misleading and disreputable. But it is all protected free speech. The First Amendment does not just apply to responsible speech, or speech that we approve of; it applies to ALL political communications.

In our professional ardor to make the distinction between the two clear, I hope we do not fall into the trap of appearing to endorse restrictions on political speech, even where we do not approve of such speech.

Mike O'Neil

On 8/31/07, Craig Wiles <cwiles@pscinc.com> wrote:

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Mr. Wiles:

The Michigan Senate Bill 624 does not have any negative implications for the survey research profession.

The legislation prohibits a participating political party in the primary election from disclosing which candidate the elector has selected for any purpose to any person, organization, or vendor; the information is confidential.

After 71 days the each political party will receive a file of records regarding the primary. The political party may then only use the information to support political party activities by that participating political party, including, but not limited to:

- Support for or opposition to candidates and ballot proposals.

A participating political party may release the information to:

- Another person, organization, or vendor for the purpose of supporting political party activities by that participating political party, including, but not limited to, support for or opposition to candidates or ballot proposals.

If the information is released a contract is required. The contract requires the following information:
-State the information use restrictions imposed by this section.
-Specify how and when the information will be used.
-Prohibit the donation, use, or sale of the information for any purpose other than a purpose authorized by this section.
-Prohibit the retention of the information after authorized use.
-Describe the criminal penalties provided in subsection (11).

Any violation of the contract is subject to being guilty of a misdemeanor and a fine.

In summary, the law does not prohibit performing survey research. Moreover, the law has mechanisms in place that would adequately prohibit political telemarketing. To emphasize the last posting on this matter, the survey research profession does not want to get involved in issues of freedom of political speech or election law. The role of CMOR is to only get involved insofar as is necessary to protect the survey and opinion research profession and the legitimate uses of research.

States are taking action to fine tune legislation that could potentially harm the profession. It is imperative that the profession recognize the impact and address the issue as soon as possible. Having people on the ground level in each state assists CMOR in Shielding the Profession. Every survey research professional should consider joining CMOR's State Capitol Network. Please contact LaToya Lang at lrembert@cmor.org for more information.

Best,
LaToya Lang

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State Legislative Director
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The information contained in this electronic communication is provided as guidance and for informational purposes only. It is not intended as nor is a substitute for legal advice. It is advisable to consult with private legal counsel regarding the interpretation and application of any laws to your business.

-----Original Message-----
From: AAPORNENET [mailto:AAPORNENET@ASU.EDU] On Behalf Of Craig Wiles
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