## SSRIC Logo

**Fall, 2017**

**Newsletter**

### What is the SSRIC?

Founded in 1972, the Social Science Research and Instructional Council is the oldest of the affinity groups in the CSU. The Council is dedicated to assisting social science students and faculty in their learning, teaching, and research. The goals of the Council are to develop and coordinate programs to extend the quantitative skills of faculty and students. Please visit [our website](http://www.ssric.org/).

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### What’s new in the SSRIC this year?

If you are already familiar with the SSRIC, you will probably want to read this section and skim through the remaining parts of the newsletter and pick out the sections you want to look at. If you’re not familiar with the SSRIC, the other sections will give you valuable information.

So what’s new?

* Take a look at our [website](http://www.ssric.org). There are several new teaching resources available.
  1. There is a new series of exercises on [longitudinal analysis](http://www.ssric.org/node/614) which introduces students to several ways of analyzing data over time. Data for the exercises consist of three subsets drawn from two well-known national surveys, the General Social Survey (GSS) and the American National Election Study (ANES). Data analysis is done using a statistical package called SPSS. The data are freely available for your use.
  2. [Another set of exercises](http://ssric.org/node/492) is a series of 16 exercises for an introductory statistics course that covers topics from descriptive statistics through regression. These exercises use both SPSS and the General Social Survey. There is an alternative set of statistics exercises that uses [PSPP](http://ssric.org/node/559) – a free alternative to SPSS, and a third alternative set that uses [SDA](http://ssric.org/node/597) (Survey Documentation and Analysis).
  3. There is also a new series of 13 exercises for an introductory [research methods](http://ssric.org/node/619) class that covers research design, sampling, measurement, data collection for survey research, and data analysis. These exercises use SDA (Survey Documentation and Analysis) and the 2015 survey of high school seniors conducted by the Monitoring the Future project which is freely available through the ICPSR.
  4. Look for other teaching materials on the [exercise page of our website](http://www.ssric.org/trd/exercises/).
* *IBM* *SPSS for Windows: A Basic Tutorial Version 23* is available on our [website](http://ssric.org/node/582). Soon there will be a revised edition for version 25. Check our website in late November. There is also an integrated set of teaching resources for research methods in political science available on our [website](http://www.cpp.edu/~jlkorey/POWERMUTT/index.html).
* We developed two extended PowerPoints that tell you everything you wanted to know about the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research and the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research. To find these PowerPoints go to the [workshop page of our website](http://ssric.org/participate/workshops).
* We also developed several five to ten minute videos that provide a brief introduction to the SSRIC, ICPSR, and Roper. To find these videos go to the [workshop page of our website](http://ssric.org/participate/workshops).
* There is a YouTube channel for the SSRIC. Go to [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/) and search for “SSRIC channel”. You can subscribe to the SSRIC Channel with a google account.
* If you would like to schedule a workshop on your campus at no cost to you, please contact Ed Nelson at [ednelson@csufresno.edu](mailto:ednelson@csufresno.edu). For more information about workshops, go to [the workshop page of our website](http://ssric.org/participate/workshops).
* Take a look at ICPSR’s [website on teaching with data](http://teachingwithdata.org). The goals are to improve students’ quantitative reasoning and to give students first-hand experience with analyzing and interpreting data. You’ll find exercises and data that you can use to create your own teaching materials. It’s searchable and has lots of useful teaching resources.
* Our annual CSU SSRIC Social Science Student Symposium (S4) will be in Long Beach on Thursday, May 3. Please encourage your students to think about submitting their papers to our conference. For more information, go to [the participate page of our website](http://ssric.org/participate/src).
* If you would like to subscribe to the SSRIC email list, go to the end of this newsletter for more information.

### [Website](http://ssric.org)

Our website includes information on:

* the social science data bases (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, and General Social Survey)
* how to participate in:
  + our CSU SSRIC Social Science Student Symposium (S4) in the spring,
  + the ICPSR summer program,
  + our workshops and,
  + subscribing to our email list
* Teaching Resources located on our website including modules, exercises, online texts, and links. There are exercises that use the 2014 General Social Survey that focus on religion, tolerance, abortion, gender differences, confidence in societal institutions and spending priorities, gun control, statistics, and longitudinal analysis.
* the Council, including how to locate your campus’s representative

We’ve also expanded our archives. Materials that had existed only in hard copy have been scanned or otherwise reconstructed. We now have a complete set of all versions of our bylaws, and we’ve recovered most past annual reports, including the one from our first year of operation (1972-1973). Still under construction: an expanded archive of minutes of past meetings (which will be fairly complete from 1976 to present).

### Social Science Data Bases

Faculty, staff, and students on campuses that subscribe to the social science data bases have access to these data bases.[[1]](#footnote-1) The SSRIC provides assistance to all CSU faculty, staff, and students in accessing the information in these data bases. (See our [website](http://www.ssric.org/data) under “Data” for more information.)

* The Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan is the closest we have to a national social science data archive in the United States.  It is a consortium of 760 member institutions, which include virtually every major university and college in the United States and Canada and many universities throughout the world.  The ICPSR data holdings serve a broad spectrum of disciplines including political science, sociology, history, economics, geography, demography, gerontology, public health, criminal justice, education, international relations, business, and education.  Currently the ICPSR’s archive includes over 9,500 studies including the General Social Survey, the American National Election Studies, U.S. Census data from 1790 to the present, the World Values Survey, Current Population Surveys, the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, U.S. election returns from 1788 to the present, the Monitoring the Future surveys, the National Survey of Black Americans, the National Crime Victimization surveys, the Household Survey on Drug Abuse, and the National Health Interview surveys.  More information about the ICPSR is available on its [website](http://www.icpsr.org).
* The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research at Cornell University is one of the leading archives of public opinion data and includes a large collection of international data.  It is a vital supplement to ICPSR data, which does not include many state-based public opinion surveys.  The Roper Center’s iPOLL is a searchable data base of over 650,000 survey questions from as far back as 1935. It provides you with the exact wording of the question and information about the survey and frequency distributions for the results. More information is available on the [Roper website](http://ropercenter.cornell.edu).
* Unfortunately the Field Institute which conducted the Field Poll closed at the end of 2016. However, the archives of the Field Poll are still available. Past Field Polls are provided through an arrangement with [UCDATA](http://ucdata.berkeley.edu/data_record.php?recid=3) at UC Berkeley.

The consolidation of membership in these data archives, facilitated by the SSRIC, represents a considerable savings (approximately $75,863) to the CSU over what it would have cost for campuses to join individually. This is a 34% savings.

### Workshops

The SSRIC offers six workshops:

* Introduction to the social science data bases
* SPSS – introduction
* SPSS – intermediate
* Survey Documentation and Analysis (SDA) – an online statistical package created at UC Berkeley
* Data in the classroom – using the data for teaching
* NVivo – software for qualitative data analysis

We will come to your campus and present a two to three hour workshop. There are no costs to you. Please contact Ed Nelson ([ednelson@csufresno.edu](mailto:ednelson@csufresno.edu)) if you would like to schedule one of our workshops. See the [workshop page of our website](http://www.ssric.org/participate/workshops) for more information.

[**CALSPEAKS**](http://www.csus.edu/isr/calspeaks/)

With the Field Poll no longer in operation, we have partnered with CALSPEAKS, a survey of California public opinion housed at Sacramento State. As more details of this partnership are worked out, we’ll be notifying those on our email list (subscribe [here](http://www.ssric.org/mailer/subscribe)), and posting it on our [website](http://www.ssric.org).

**Social Science Student Symposium (S4)**

The 43rd Annual CSU SSRIC Social Science Student Symposium (S4) will take place at Long Beach State on Thursday, May 3. Undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to present their work in a non-threatening environment. For many students, this is their first opportunity to present their work at a professional conference. Although there are three categories of awards (i.e., best undergraduate paper, best graduate paper, best paper using quantitative data), the conference is low key with the intention of offering students an opportunity to present their social science research in a supportive environment.

The SSRIC hosted its 42st annual student research conference at Fresno State on April 27, 2017. The following students were presented with awards:

* The Charles McCall Award for Best Undergraduate Paper: Samantha Luna, California State University, Fresno, “The Impact of Veteran’s Mental Health and Offense Severity on Admissibility into Veterans Treatment Court.”
* The Betty Nesvold Award for Best Graduate Paper: Richard Kemp, California State University, Bakersfield “Preemptive Federalism: The Banking Dilemma Facing State Legal Marijuana Laws.”
* The Gloria Rummels Award for Best Paper Using Quantitative Data: Shelby Elia, California State University, Fresno, “Public Perceptions of Exonerees from the Criminal Justice System.”

Thanks to the continuing generosity of Dr. Gene Geisler, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at San Francisco State and a key founding member of the SSRIC, the 2018 Symposium will include three $5,000 best paper awards. In addition to these awards, there may be a small amount to defray travel costs for participants. Eligibility for awards is limited to CSU undergraduates and Master’s level graduate students, and students in the first two full years of a CSU doctoral program.

Please encourage your students to present their research at the conference. If they would like to compete for the awards, they should submit their complete paper. If they want to present their research and not compete for the awards, they only need to submit an abstract. Dates for submission will be announced later. Information will be available on the [participate page of our website](http://www.ssric.org/participate/src).

### Teaching Resources

Instructional materials, including short exercises and longer modules with introductions to many methodological and statistical topics, are available on our website (see [the teaching resources page of our website](http://www.ssric.org/trd)) and can be downloaded by faculty and staff for their use.  You have our permission to edit these exercises. They include exercises focusing on longitudinal analysis, statistics, research methods, critical thinking, economics, social issues, religion, tolerance, abortion, gender differences, confidence in societal institutions, spending priorities, and gun control.

In addition, *IBM* *SPSS for Windows: A Basic Tutorial Version 23* is available on our [website](http://ssric.org/node/582). Soon there will be a revised edition for version 25. Check our website in late November. There is also an integrated set of teaching resources for research methods in political science available on our [website](http://www.cpp.edu/~jlkorey/POWERMUTT/index.html).

Lori Weber (CSU Chico) developed an instructional module based on Robert Putnam’s book, *Bowling Alone*.  Her module focuses on social capital and civic engagement and provides students with the opportunity to develop skills in quantitative reasoning and data analysis (using SDA – an online statistical package) and is on the [ICPSR’s website](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/instructors/icsc/index.jsp).

There is also an extensive [list of links to other instructional sites](http://ssric.org/tr/links) for graphs, maps, qualitative research, research design, SPSS, statistics, survey research and sampling, and teaching resources.

The CSU has an excellent website (Merlot) full of teaching resources for your classes. Accounts are free. For more information, go to [Merlot’s website](http://merlot.org/).

If you would like to submit instructional materials to be placed on our website, please contact John Korey, Cal Poly Pomona ([jlkorey@cpp.edu](mailto:jlkorey@cpp.edu)).

### Programs for Statistical Analysis

There are several commonly used statistical packages in the CSU. The SSRIC offers workshops on both SDA and SPSS.

* Survey Documentation and Analysis (SDA). SDA is an online statistical package written by the Survey Methods Program at UC Berkeley that allows online data analysis, including frequencies, comparison of means, crosstabulations, comparison of means, correlation and regression, and logistic regression. A new release of SDA is now available. A list of SDA resources can be found on the SSRIC’s [website](http://www.ssric.org/data/sda).
* Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) is the most commonly used statistical package in the CSU. The CSU has a systemwide site license for SPSS which allows faculty and staff (but not students) to have SPSS installed on their computers and in computer labs. There is also an [online textbook](http://ssric.org/node/582) available on our website which serves as an introduction to SPSS.

### Teaching with Data

[Teaching with Data](http://TeachingWithData.org) is an initiative by ICPSR and the Social Science Data Analysis Network to provide teaching resources to faculty. The goals are to improve students’ quantitative reasoning and to give students first-hand experience with analyzing and interpreting data. You’ll find exercises that you can use in your class and data that you can use to create your own teaching materials. It’s searchable and has lots of useful teaching resources.

### Subscribing to the SSRIC Email List

The SSRIC sends out periodic emails about our Social Science Student Symposium (S4), workshops, and other teaching and research opportunities. If you would like to subscribe to our email list, please go to the [subscribe page of our website](http://www.ssric.org/mailer/subscribe).

### Contacts

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* Newsletter editor: Ed Nelson, Department of Sociology, [ednelson@csufresno.edu](mailto:ednelson@csufresno.edu), 559-978-9391

1. Each campus has the option of subscribing to the social science data bases. This typically occurs in July and August. For information on subscribing to the data bases, please contact Tim Kubal (tkubal@sufresno.edu, SSRIC chair for 2017-18). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)