

Special Notes

Luxembourg Income Study – LIS

The Luxembourg Income Study has gathered in one central location (the Center for Population, Poverty and Policy Studies in Walferdange, Luxembourg) and made comparable several recent large microdata sets which contain comprehensive measures of income and economic well-being for a set of modern industrialized welfare states. The dataset is accessible to researchers at low cost. Because of the breadth and flexibility afforded by microdata, researchers are free to make several choices of perspective (definition of unit : family, household, etc.; measure of income; or population to be studied: e.g., males, females, urban families, elderly households) within the same research paper. This truly comparable microdata creates a potentially rich resource for applied comparative and policy research in economics, sociology, and public policy. The LIS databank currently covers several countries – Britain, Canada, Germany, Israel, Norway, Sweden, and the United States, with France and Australia soon to be added. A copy of the User Guide and further information can be obtained by writing either :

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Luxembourg Income Study
Timothy M. Smeeding, Director
Lee Rainwater, Research Director

Call for Papers – International Symposium on Panel Surveys

The American Statistical Association Section on Survey Research Methods with the cooperation of the International Association of Survey Statisticians has organized a Symposium on Panel Surveys, to be held at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C., November 20–22, 1986. The Organizing Committee comprises Daniel Kasprzyk, U.S. Bureau of the Census; Greg Duncan, Survey Research Center, University of Michigan; and M.P. Singh, Statistics Canada. The program of invited papers will cover the following topics :

Issues in the Design of Panel Surveys – Providing a general review of issues related to panel surveys, including operational, design and estimation complexities, and sources of errors; a comparison between these issues with their cross-sectional counterpart; examples of panel surveys and how they appear to meet their objectives.

Operational and Collection Issues – Covering the interviewer's role and interviewer-responder effects in panel surveys; review of the procedures adopted by several large-scale panel surveys to trace individuals to new residences, the costs and some measures of success, as well as guidelines for future panel surveys.

Statistical Design and Estimation – Providing a discussion of coverage issues for panel surveys, e.g., current knowledge of coverage rates, current practices to improve coverage; the difficulties arising in weighting a population that changes over time; estimation of descriptive population parameters in light of a changing population base over time; and the estimation of parameters for analytic units rather than the individual, including the development of unbiased weights as well as adjustments to independent estimates.

Data Base Management Issues for Panel Surveys – Covering approaches to panel data management problems and focusing on benefits and costs of the key decisions in going from the general data management problems to feasible data structures that can address the most important analytic concerns. Examples from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and the Survey of Income and Program Participation will be featured.

Estimation of Cross-Sectional and Change Parameters in Panel Surveys – Covering optimal estimation of level and change at time t using revised estimates of level for earlier periods, available at time t ; the use of regression models for cross-sectional and longitudinal data to obtain estimates of analytical parameters; the problems involved in the measurement and analysis of gross change as opposed to net change.

Nonsampling Error Issues in Panel Surveys – Reviewing selected nonsampling error problems, showing how their measurement becomes extremely complicated in panel surveys, including a discussion of errors of non-response and response, drawing on examples from panel surveys illustrating the complexities in a panel design.

Panel Conditioning as a Source of Nonsampling Error – Presenting nonexperimental evidence of this effect in several panel surveys :

- (1) U.S. Consumer Expenditure Survey,
- (2) National Care Expenditure Survey,
- (3) National Medical Care Utilization and Expenditure Survey, and
- (4) British Social Attitudes Survey.

Treating Nonresponse in Panel Surveys – Addressing the treatment of missing interviews through developing models to explain the nonignorable nonresponse cases and a general review of the issue of whether to treat missing interview cases through weighting adjustments or imputation methods; also a comparison of methods for handling item non-response in panel surveys.

Modeling Considerations in the Conduct and Analysis of Panel Surveys – Covering research that connects model-based consideration to the actual design of panel surveys, e.g., the

limitations of panel vis-a-vis repeated cross-sectional or experimental designs; the current status of linear panel models used for the analysis of panel data; the issue of whether to weight observations for differential selection probabilities and differential nonresponse; the issue of the use of sample and nonsample individuals in the analysis of household panel data, such as the Panel Study of Income Dynamics.

Featured participants include B. Bailer (U.S. Census Bureau), R. Folsom (Research Triangle Institute), M. David (University of Wisconsin), J.N.K. Rao (Carleton University), D. Horvitz (Research Triangle Institute), R. Fay (U.S. Census Bureau), R. Little (UCLA), J. Hoem (University of Stockholm), and L. Lillard (Rand Corporation).

The Organizing Committee is soliciting and will review and select abstracts for contributed papers on topics related to panel surveys. Abstracts are due by September 1, 1986. If you are interested, submit an abstract to

International Symposium on Panel Surveys
c/o American Statistical Association
806 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005 U.S.A.

If you would like more information about the Symposium, write to the same address for a preliminary program.

Call for Papers

First International Conference on Statistical Data Analysis Based on the L_1 -Norm and Related Methods.

31 August – 4 September 1987

Neuchâtel, Switzerland

For further information please contact:

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