FIRST CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

International Conference on Survey Methods in Multicultural, Multinational, and Multiregional Contexts (3MC)

June 25–29, 2008
Berlin, Germany

As part of an ongoing effort to promote quality in multipopulation surveys and to raise the level of methodological expertise in various applied fields of comparative survey research, an International Conference on Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional and Multicultural Contexts will be held June 25–29, 2008 in Berlin, Germany.

This conference will bring together researchers and survey practitioners concerned with survey methodology and practice in comparative contexts. It will provide a unique opportunity to discuss and present research that contributes to our understanding of survey needs and methods in cross-cultural and cross-national contexts. Conference contributions will help document current best practices and stimulate new ideas for further research and development.

We invite all interested researchers and practitioners to submit abstracts to be considered for the conference as contributed papers.

Abstracts can be submitted at the CSDI Web site http://www.csdi-workshop.org Click EVENTS to reach the 2008 3MC conference abstract submission form.

Authors of contributed papers will be required to provide a draft version of their paper for discussants by the end of April 2008. Abstracts should be between 400–500 words. The deadline for submitting abstracts is Saturday, September 15, 2007. Please provide 3–4 keywords for your abstract. It is also possible to submit a set of abstracts intended as a session.

Proceedings from the conference will be published in autumn 2008. In addition, we are hoping to secure two special editions of journals for papers from the conference. The papers will be selected by application through the conference organizers and journal review.

We encourage submissions from all over the world, including regions with emerging survey traditions. We also intend to secure funding to help researchers from less affluent countries attend the conference.

If you have questions related to submitting an abstract, please contact Janet Harkness at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, jharkness2@unl.edu and copy to eu-centre@zuma-mannheim.de.

*CSDI is the acronym for the International Workshop for Comparative Survey Design and Implementation, which heads the initiative for this conference. CSDI meets every year for an annual workshop. More information is available on the CSDI Web site (see above).
PRELIMINARY OUTLINE OF CONFERENCE TOPICS

The following is a list of possible topics under large headings planned for the conference sessions and the monograph. These may be expanded and re-organized, depending on submissions. Some overlap of sub-themes at this stage is intentional. Those submitting abstracts are not required to indicate where they think their abstract might “fit” but may choose to do so.

Theory and Methodology for Comparative Studies

- theories of comparability
- evidence-based approaches to comparability

Models of Study Designs, Organizations, and Goals

- social surveys: values, opinions, behaviors
- establishment surveys
- cohort studies & panels
- labor force surveys
- short-term economic indicators
- marketing surveys
- social indicators
- aggregation of regional data
- human capital & competencies
- health surveys
- cognition, education, & personality instruments
- international Web studies
- mandatory surveys

Multilingual, Multicultural Issues

- global measurement & local cultures
- institutions, gatekeepers, respondents
- communication across & between cultures
- language & measurement
- instrument comparability
- written & oral forms of instrument translation
- developing & testing multilingual instruments
- forms of instrument adaptation
- monitoring translation quality
- official version approval

Instrument Design

- instrument design models
- instrument development & pretesting strategies
- accommodating language & culture in questionnaire design
  - question content & format,
  - question meaning & context
  - response processes; response, disclosure & culture
  - data collection modes & design
  - visualization, navigation & presentation

Cognition, Culture, and Communication

- cultural issues as these relate to perception, comprehension, processing &/or response.
- discourse & culture in survey contexts
- presentation & representation of the self; face management & the survey context

Study Implementation, Quality, and Improvement

- quality assurance & quality control
- survey operations & error structures
- infrastructures & management issues
- external & internal design tensions
- standardization & local realizations
- input & output harmonization procedures
- assessing survey measurement capability
- sampling
- expertise & standards
- applications of ISO standard on market opinion & social research
- resources & funding (studies, monitoring, & methods)
- data capture & data processing
  - coding
  - estimation & weighting
  - editing & imputation
Knowledge Management and Dissemination
- knowledge management in surveys
- documentation as design & process quality tool
- classifications
- survey process data
- metadata, paradata, context data
- archives & databases
  - dissemination
  - public use data files

Analysis and Validation
- measurement strategies
- measurement difficulties
- measurement models
- units of analysis
- bias & error
- house effects (countries & houses)
- response conversion
- secondary analysis & analysts
- meta-analysis

Data Collection in Complex Comparative Contexts
- organizing & building fielding structures
- ethics
- recruiting, assigning, & training interviewers
- sample management
- collecting data
  - nomadic populations
  - rural populations
  - undocumented populations & accommodations
  - conflict-torn & fragile states
  - ethnic minority populations
  - populations on reservations, in refugee camps, etc.

Data Collection Programs and Surveys and Data Access in Developing Countries
- data access
- capacity-building
- educational indicators
- health indicators
- economic indicators
- social indicators
- epidemiological studies
- governance indicators
- political indicators
- attitudinal indicators
- price comparison indicators
- using informational databases

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Michael Braun
ZUMA
Mannheim, Germany

Brad Edwards
Westat, Inc.
Rockville, USA

Janet Harkness (Chair)
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, USA
and ZUMA, Mannheim, Germany

Timothy Johnson
Survey Research Laboratory,
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, USA

Lars Lyberg
Department for International Development
Statistics Sweden
Stockholm, Sweden

Peter Ph Mohler
ZUMA
Mannheim, Germany

Beth-Ellen Pennell
University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, USA

Tom W. Smith
National Opinion Research Center
at the University of Chicago
Chicago, USA

Fons van de Vijver
Tilburg University
Tilburg, Netherlands