

WAPOR NEWSLETTER

WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH

Second Quarter 2012

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WAPOR's Annual Conference 2012 in Hong Kong a Groundbreaker

Contributed by Robert Chung, Conference Chair

In almost every respect, WAPOR's 65th annual conference held in Hong Kong from June 14 to 16, 2012 was a groundbreaker. Final registration figures stand at 246 full participants coming from 37 different countries and regions, representing 137 different organizations. These figures do not include a dozen or so local guests, reporters, and partial participants, and two dozens or so student assistants, ambassadors, simultaneous interpreters, and camera crew members. In terms of presentation, 117 paper presentations from 32 different countries and regions have been made, plus 8 poster presentations, 6 special panels, 2 plenary sessions, and a parallel workshop on deliberative democracy with 28 participants. The extent of participation in the Hong Kong conference is confirmed to be of record high in the history of WAPOR.

As ancient Chinese cosmology goes, our universe began as a void, meaning absolutely nothing. Then there was chaos, then chaos was divided into two poles – the positive and the negative. Then came the four signs. Then people invented eight symbols to explain nature. Then people combined two sets of these symbols to produce the 64 hexagrams, which can presumably explain everything happening in this world. If one believes in this magic, then WAPOR's 65th annual conference must have marked the beginning of a new cycle in the development of WAPOR.

As a matter of fact, since the establishment of WAPOR in 1947, we have adopted a 2-year cycle of annual conferencing, whereby our annual conferences are held in Europe and North America in alternate years. Thanks to the tremendous courage and visionary thinking of WAPOR's leadership, we have now changed our tradition to a 3-year cycle. As Chairman of the Hong Kong Conference, I was entrusted with the responsibility to make this change a success, I am glad to report that my mission has been accomplished.

The theme of conference - *The New World of Public Opinion Research* – was set to echo this change. It emphasizes the impacts of new methodologies, new technologies, and new paradigms to the study of public opinion in this

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66th Annual Conference
May 14-16, 2013
Boston, MA, USA

Letter from the President

Augmenting Surveys with New Techniques and Technologies



Tom W. Smith
President

Traditionally, most measurement in survey research is rather straight forward and low tech. Most commonly, respondents are asked a question and presented with a set of response options to provide an answer. Less typically, open-ended questions are employed with no fixed response options. But increasingly measurement can go well beyond the standard ask-and-answer model and use new techniques and new technologies to greatly enhance the value, completeness, and reliability of the information being collected. A few examples will illustrate the opportunities.

First, survey researchers can augment people's direct responses by collecting additional data. For example, surveys can take biomarkers such as saliva, hair, or blood to measure such things as exposure to toxins, drug use, and health conditions. If DNA analysis is added to the more common assays, then behaviors and attitudes revealed on surveys can be linked to specific genotypes (Carmen, 2011; Smith et al., 2011; Smith, 2011a; Thompson, Zhang, and Arvey, 2011). Twin studies for example have connected genes to a wide variety of personality types and attitudes. Thompson, Zhang, and Arvey (2011; Smith, 2011a) have found that almost half of the variation in being a respondent vs. non-respondent is genetically based. Another example is taking GPS readings to link a host of locational data via GISs. This type of information can contextualize people's lives by providing data on the neighborhood and communities in which they reside (Eagle, 2011; Hong, Zhang, and Zimmerman, 2011; Smith, 2011b; Steinberg and Stenberg, 2011). As Steinberg and Steinberg (2011) note, "Since the turn of the millennium, several technologies developing separately and in parallel, have come together to greatly enhance our ability to collect, obtain, and access spatial information."

Second, more information can be collected about the interview itself using audio or audio-video recordings. These can be used both to verify that interviewers are correctly administering the questionnaire and to assess more deeply people's responses such as by analyzing speech patterns (Smith and Sokolowski, 2011) and/or non-verbal cues (e.g. body language). Both computer-assisted, recorded interviews (CARI) and cameras in laptops and webcams over the Internet increasingly make this possible. Moreover, eye-scanning technology can be used to determine what parts of a questionnaire respondents are paying attention to and/or what parts of written material people read (Clifton, Staub, and Rayner, 2007; Cooke, 2005; Dillman, 2007; Galesic and Yan, 2011; Holsanova, Holmqvist, and Rahm, 2006; Lenzner, Kaczmarek, and Galesic, 2011; Rothkopf and Bilington 1979; Scheiter and van Gog, 2009). This can be very useful both for improving the design of surveys and for explaining how people substantively process information.

Third, new techniques can be used to draw sample observations in special ways. For example, the experience sampling method (ESM) has been used to randomly sample people about what they are doing at that exact moment and/or what their mood is (Kellock et al., 2011). Originally, this was done by giving respondents a beeper and a SAQ to complete. Now it can all be done with a smart phone app.

Fourth, response latencies can be measured to study cognitive processing in general and to reveal truer response preferences in particular (Bassilli and Scott, 1996; Basson, 2007; Mulligan et al., 2003; Presser et al., 2004; Yan and Tourangeau, 2008). This technique measures (often in mila-seconds) how long it takes people to respond to questions they are asked or read. For example, the implicit association test has been used to document racial prejudice and other forms of bias (Dovidio, Kawakami, and Gaertner, 2002; Greenwald et al., 2009; Lane et al., 2007; Phelps et al., 2000; Rudman and Ashmore, 2007). Typically, experimental designs are used in which people are asked to respond to positive or negative words after having been shown pictures of

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era of new media and new mentalities in many new parts of the world. At the opening plenary session, preliminary findings from a new round of worldwide survey on the freedom to publish opinion poll results was presented. It is the fifth study conducted by WAPOR since 1984, this time executed by the Public Opinion Programme at The University of Hong Kong. The first survey in 1984 covers 49 countries and regions, it becomes 55 in 1992, 78 in 1996, 66 in 2002 and 85 this time. Another record is set. The full report will be released before the end of this year.

At the conference, the Helen Dinerman Prize for lifetime achievement in public opinion research was presented in person to Dr Hans Mathias Kepplinger (pictured at right), professor emeritus at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, for his pioneering work on linking public opinion research with media content analysis. Firmly entrenched in the triangulation of theory, empirical measurement, and societal relevance, the research of Hans Mathias Kepplinger has been published in about 30 books and more than 300 articles. He has greatly enhanced our understanding of the dynamics of public opinion. (See page six for the Dinerman citation.)



The Elizabeth H Nelson Prize for the best conference paper from a society in transition was awarded to Thomas Vitiello (shown at left receiving the award from Peter Neijens), Ali Çarkođlu and Mert Moral for their paper "Voting Advice Applications in Practice: Answers to some Key Questions from Turkey", while the Naomi C Turner Prize for the best student paper was awarded by Korean National Representative Sung Kyum Cho to Yu Won Oh (below, center) and Rebecca Yu (below, right) for their paper "What We See Online: A Forerunner or Echo of the Traditional Media Messages?"

The Robert M Worcester Prize for the best article in the International Journal of Public Opinion Research in 2011 was awarded in absentia to Alin Ceobanu, Charles Wood, and Ludmila Ribeiro for their article "Crime Victimization and Public support for Democracy: Evidence from Latin America."



This year, thanks to the sponsorship of the CVoter Foundation, two Outstanding Paper Presentation Awards are given to presenters of the papers "Issue Development in a Mediated Society: The Endogenous Relationship between Media and Publics on the Issue of European Integration", and "Patterns of Media Use, Conversation and Perceived Political Polarization in 10 Countries", while one Outstanding Poster Presentation Award is given to the presenter of the poster "The 1989 Chinese Student Movement as Signalized in Newsweek and Time: An Analysis of Symbols". These awards are made after the conference based on votes cast by conference attendees. The authors of these presentations are listed in our conference website at:

<http://wapor2012.hkpop.hk>.



The conference was held in the main campus of The University of Hong Kong, which has just celebrated its centenary. The Annual Award Banquet took place in the university's Loke Yew Hall, where the "Father of the Chinese Nation" Sun Yat-sen (1866–1925), an alumnus of the university, made a historic speech after he overthrew the imperial monarchy. The venue, setting and theme of the entire conference reflects one spirit – that we are at the beginning of a new era, of breaking new grounds while preserving good old traditions. We are indeed creating our new world of public opinion research.

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To mark this development, we have created a mobile application “WAPOR 2012” good for devices running on iOS and Android. Other than guiding attendees during the conference, the application also directs users to our conference website which now contains all conference papers, posters and powerpoint files we have received, plus about 2,500 photographs taken during the conference. A full list of conference participants with email addresses has been distributed via bulkmail, so that we can stay in touch and join hands to venture into the new world of public opinion research!



選舉研究中心

the center for
deliberative democracy

All these would not have been possible without the support of our co-organizers, namely, the Media and Public Opinion Research Center of Fudan University in Shanghai, and the Election Study Center of National Chengchi University in Taipei. We are also indebted to our supporting organizations, which include the Center for Deliberative Democracy at Stanford University in the US, the Macao Polling Research Association and ERS in Macau, the Korean Association for Survey Research in Korea, the CVoter Foundation in India, and the Chu Hai College of Higher Education in Hong Kong. Special thanks also goes to our sister organizations AAPOR and ISSC for holding special panels in this conference.



We are also grateful to the many sponsors of the conference, which include NORC at the University of Chicago, the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, the Nielsen Company, D3 Systems, and Savantas Policy Institute.



I would also like to express my own thanks to members of the Scientific Committee chaired by myself to review the conference abstracts and also made the paper awards. They include Sung Kyum Cho, Yashwant Deshmukh, Mahar Mangahas, Patricia Moy, Alejandro Moreno, Peter Neijens, Orlando Perez, Tom Smith, Ching-Hsin Yu, and Baohua Zhou.



Last but not least, I need to thank WAPOR’s Executive Coordinator Renae Reis for her support from the Secretariat, and my own colleagues at the Public Opinion Programme of The University of Hong Kong, working under our Conference Secretary Winnie Lee, for their very hard work before, during and after the conference.



Thank you everybody for making history with us together!





2012



Presents the

2012 Helen Dinerman Award

to

Dr. Hans Mathias Kepplinger

The World Association for Public Opinion Research presents its 2012 Helen Dinerman Award to Dr. Hans Mathias Kepplinger, professor emeritus at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, for his pioneering work on linking public opinion research with media content analysis.

Firmly entrenched in the triangle of theory, empirical measurement, and societal relevance, the research of Hans Mathias Kepplinger has been published in about 30 books and more than 300 articles, many of them in peer-reviewed international journals. Kepplinger's work not only adopted theories from communication, but also identified interdisciplinary linkages to psychology, sociology, political science and economics. The methodological designs of his studies were highly sophisticated while at the same time valid and reliable, be it in experiments on media effects, journalists' news decision, or people's risk perception; in content analyses on the coverage of politics, science and technology; or in surveys of all of these fields. With his studies and his theoretical contributions, Kepplinger has advanced not only our understanding of the underlying processes in public communication, but also the visibility of German communication research on the international stage.

Hans Mathias Kepplinger has inspired, conducted, and analyzed dozens of public opinion surveys. But his use of surveys has never been restricted to descriptive assessments. He has used survey methodology as an analytical tool for a much wider endeavor – to understand the factors influencing the dynamics in reality perception. Toward this end, he has – more than most other scholars in the world – combined survey data with media content analyses. Knowing that reality perception in most cases is not a short-term process, Kepplinger took a long view, with his research spanning several decades. Convinced that the ultimate goal of journalism is to depict reality as accurately as possible, Kepplinger looked, wherever possible, for real-world indicators and related them to media coverage and public opinion.

One of his first studies of this kind, published in 1989 under the programmatic title "Artificial Horizons," examined the impact of media coverage of technology and the environment on public opinion. This study showed that trends in media coverage of the environment over a period of twenty years ran counter to objective criteria for the state of the environment in Germany – but nevertheless shaped public opinion. In his 1998 book, ***The deconstruction of politics in information society***, he showed how decades of activities and achievements in German parliament were distorted by media coverage and consequently eroded public perceptions of political figures, parties, and politics in general. Since the 1990s, Kepplinger has studied public scandals, how they evolve and how they end. His analyses throughout all these bodies of research exemplify rigorous research in studying the theory, substance, and nature of public opinion processes.

The World Association for Public Opinion Research honors Hans Mathias Kepplinger's outstanding contributions to our understanding of the dynamics of public opinion with the 2012 Helen Dinerman Award.

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people from different racial or ethnic groups. Even without experimental manipulations, response latency is useful for understand how much mental processing is needed to answer questions and what question topics, formats of questions, and kinds of respondents create greater difficulty in responding to questions.

Fifth, there are studies using medical devices that measure brain activity. The most frequently employed is functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) which assesses changes in blood flow to identify what regions of the brain are being engaged by mental activity such as when listening to and responding to survey questions (Amodio and Lieberman, 2009; Hibbing et al., 2009; Kapogiannis et al., 2009; Lieberman, Schreiber, and Ochsner, 2003; Richards, 2011; Schreiber and Iacoboni, forthcoming; Schustzeichel and Michl, 2010; Shibata et al., 2010; Umeda et al., 2005; Westen et al., 2006). In addition, other brain scanning techniques such as structural MRIs can be used to assess other differences such as enduring variation in brain structure and morphology that are associated with different beliefs and conditions (Kapogiannis et al., 2009).

Finally, these and other augmentation techniques and technologies do not have to be used separately, but can be combined with one another. For example, fMRI studies can audio record responses and measure response latencies as well as measure blood flow in the brain. Likewise, data linked to respondents via GPS readings can not only be related to standard responses, but also associated with biomarkers.

The opportunities are bound to expand in the future as new technologies develop and existing technologies disseminate. For example, smart phones greatly facilitate ESM studies, internal microphones in laptops make audio-recording easy to implement in CAPI surveys, and studies using both fMRI and DNA testing are rapidly becoming easier and less expensive to organize. Of course, these augmentations are not equally appropriate across all survey modes. For example, fMRI is only possible in face-to-face situations, CARI is not applicable for SAQ Internet surveys, and eye tracking is not possible in phone surveys.

Some of the augmented techniques could be widely used in many surveys. GPS readings can easily be done in face-to-face surveys and audio recordings are routinely possible for both CAPI and CATI surveys. But many of these various augmenting techniques would not be used in most "standard" surveys. DNA studies that need fraternal and identical samples of twins naturally must be restricted to those very special populations and fMRI studies are of course still very expensive, highly burdensome, and therefore likely to be limited to rather small samples. But even the most restrictive technologies and techniques can have positive, general impacts on survey research. They can reveal much information about how attitudes are formed, what formats of questions are most valid and reliable, and how to reduce total survey error. These lessons can then be applied routinely in the design and execution of standard surveys and is the pretesting and item development stages (Presser et al., 2004).

Finally, there are important ethical issues that need to be considered (Richards, 2011). Some techniques such as using fMRIs and drawing blood samples are inherently invasive and more burdensome than standard surveys. Others such as DNA testing, audio-video recordings, and GPS codings, collect sensitive data that could compromise respondent confidentiality. Clearly, human-subject protocols must be strong and rigorously enforced when surveys collect such data.



(References can be found on page 14)

Call for Nominations

Deadline is Wednesday, August 15

Nominations are now being sought for the two WAPOR offices to be filled in this fall's election. The term of each position begins January 1, 2013. This year's elections include **Vice President/President-Elect** and **Chair of the Professional Standards Committee**.

The **Vice President/President-Elect** will serve on the WAPOR Council for a total of six years—two as Vice President, two as President and two as Past President. The WAPOR Constitution states: "The President shall be responsible for fulfilling the purposes of the Association as its chief representative. S/He shall preside at Council, Executive Council, and the Business Meeting, and serve as the official representative of WAPOR in its relations with other organizations and the public. S/He shall report from time to time to the membership about his or her activities and the activities of the Council and the Executive Council during the year. The Vice President shall act as the President's deputy. S/He shall automatically become President the following term. S/He shall take over the Presidency if the office becomes vacant."

The WAPOR Constitution requires that the President and Vice President be from different countries. **Alejandro Moreno is the current Vice President** and will assume the Presidency on January 1st, 2013. Consequently, for this office, candidates from the Mexico are not eligible. WAPOR is seeking nominations for the office of Vice President/President-Elect.

The **Chair of the Professional Standards Committee** serves a two year term. The WAPOR Constitution states: "The Committee on Professional Standards shall review and adjust - where necessary - the Code of Professional Ethics and Practices and propose amendments from time to time to keep it consistent with contemporary needs and technology and to promote its observance within the profession. For this purpose it shall seek cooperation with other associations in the field." The current **Chair of the Professional Standards Committee** is Anne Niedermann. WAPOR is seeking nominations for the office of **Chair of the Professional Standards Committee**.

Any member who receives 20 nominations will automatically appear on the final ballot. The Nominations Committee will select any other candidates. The WAPOR Constitution requires contested elections for Council. All WAPOR members in good standing for 2012 are eligible to nominate candidates. Candidates must also be members in good standing. The deadline for this year's nominations is **Wednesday, August 15, 2012**. The Nominations Committee is chaired by WAPOR Past President Thomas Petersen. Members can send nominations by **email** to Renae Reis at renae@wapor.org. Additionally they can be faxed to 1.402.472.7727 or by mail to the office of the Secretariat:

WAPOR
201 North 13th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
USA

V Latin American Congress
Public Opinion, Polarization and Citizenship

September 19 - 21, 2012 - Bogotá, Colombia

Facultad de Comunicación Social - Periodismo
Universidad Externado de Colombia

The World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) will hold its V Latin American Congress September 19-21, 2012, in Bogotá, Colombia. The theme of this congress emphasizes how different forms of polarization (political, cognitive, affective, economic, technological) affect community life and democracy in the region. Concerns with the polarizing potential of emerging communication technologies, the distancing of political elites, intolerance among citizens, income inequality, technological divides, and how these relate to different citizenship manifestations in the region, are central to public opinion research's contribution to societal integration. Congress sessions will focus on changing public opinion as well as challenges to survey research.

The V Latin American Congress seeks to bring together scholars and practitioners with political, communication, psychological, sociological, economic, and survey backgrounds, that would like to present and discuss original research papers. Of course, the roles of methodology and quality control in survey research are of key significance as well.

Deadlines - Early bird registration (**1 August 2012**).

Registration forms in English: <http://www.goldentech-e.com/gms/0032/Formulario/Formulario.asp>

Registration forms in Spanish: <http://www.goldentech-e.com/gms/0031/Formulario/formulario.asp>

Languages – Spanish and Portuguese will be the official languages of conference. Presentations in English will be accepted for designated bilingual sessions, where simultaneous interpretation will be provided. Proposals and papers may be written in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Queries - Should be directed to congress chair Hernando Rojas (hrojas@wisc.edu). More information can be found on the congress website www.waporbogota.net and **Facebook** page.

ISO Standards Revised

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has issued a revised edition of ISO 20252 Standards for Market, Opinion, and Social Research – Vocabulary and Service Requirements. The revised standards were published May 22, 2012 and supplant the original ISO 20252 Standards issued in 2006. WAPOR has been a liaison member of Technical Committee 225 which developed the standards. Bill Blyth chaired TC 225 and WAPOR President Tom W. Smith has been WAPOR's representative on the committee. The new standards may be purchased from the ISO website (www.iso.org).

Social Research as the Art of Listening and Understanding: In Memory of W. Phillips Davison (1918-2012)

Contributed by Thomas Petersen,
former WAPOR President



W. Phillips Davison—together with Seymour Martin Lipset—taught me that the giants in a field are often precisely those persons who do not try to garner attention or shine the spotlight on themselves. My first encounter with this great pioneer in journalism research came in conjunction with the most bizarre and amusing episode of failed communication that I have ever witnessed. In the 1990s, when I was working for Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann as a research assistant, Phil Davison came to Allensbach to pay her a visit. In celebration of the occasion, her husband, Heinz Maier-Leibnitz, who was not just a renowned nuclear physicist but also a first-rate chef, had prepared a festive meal and so the four of us sat down for dinner. Heinz Maier-Leibnitz, like Phil Davison, was very hard of hearing. Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann was not, but she wasn't really listening to the others either, so that essentially amounted to the same thing. After a few minutes had passed, all three of them were engaged in a cheerful and lively conversation, without noticing that they were all talking about completely different things. I thought briefly about whether I ought to make a desperate attempt to break into the conversation and clear up the various misunderstandings, but I decided not to. It would have been too complicated to try to straighten out the animated, yet hopelessly jumbled conversation. And why bother? The three of them were enjoying themselves immensely.

This event would have stayed in my mind as an odd, but ultimately inconsequential anecdote had it not been for a lengthy and extremely friendly letter I received from Phil Davison a few weeks later. In the letter, he thanked me for our pleasant conversations during his visit. From his letter, it was obvious that he had—without my realizing it—been listening quite carefully to what I was saying and had given some thought to what I had told him. I was amazed that he had paid such attention to me, an assistant, and as such only a peripheral figure at the dinner.

And thus began a friendly correspondence that we continued almost right up until Phil Davison's death. Whenever I was in the United States, I tried to include a stopover in Washington to visit Phil and his wife, Emma-Rose (in the process, I learned how to direct Washington's notoriously incompetent cab drivers to his house, since I never encountered a single one who was able to find the location on his own). He sent me his new books and asked about my articles. At all times, I found him to be a calm and astute adviser, who gave serious and thorough thought to what we were discussing. Phil Davison may not have been able to hear very well in his later years, but he was a very good listener.

Perhaps it was precisely this capacity for calm and careful observation, along with the tendency to truly take other people's concerns to heart, that explains his great scientific success. In any event, these qualities had a decisive influence on his entire life. Davison belonged to the generation that was shaped by World War II. In his memoirs, *A Personal History of World War II*, Davison describes how reports of the atrocities being committed in Nazi concentration camps made such an impression on him that he—although actually a pacifist—voluntarily joined the army. "What was I doing," he wrote, "sitting in a comfortable office while totally defenseless people were being murdered by the thousands? Why wasn't I, along with most young males in my age group, doing something to prevent this?"

The decision not to stand aside, but to do his part on behalf of others took Davison to London, Paris, and finally as an intelligence agent and military officer to occupied Germany, where he was involved in establishing a new, democratic press. No doubt, his assignment was also connected to the occupation government's

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(Davison continued from page 10)

efforts to investigate the German population's mental state using intelligence techniques and social research methods. Davison was thus involved in one of the most important chapters in the history of the establishment of social research in Germany, even if this period remains somewhat enigmatic even today.

What followed was a great academic career. Davison was a researcher at the Council on Foreign Relations and the RAND Corporation. He taught at Princeton, the American University, M.I.T. and finally at the Journalism School at Columbia University. From 1947-51 and from 1968-71, he was the editor of *Public Opinion Quarterly*. His most important work in the field of communication science was the article, "The Third-Person Effect in Communication," which was published in *Public Opinion Quarterly* in 1983. Here again, his capacity for observation and empathy played a decisive role. The article on the "third-person effect" was based on anecdotal evidence. It would never have occurred to Davison to devise some purely intellectual, abstract theoretical construct. Instead, he described what struck him about other people's behavior. The theory of the "third-person effect" is not one of those overly complicated, lifeless theories which are encountered all too often in the social sciences. Rather, it is an insight gleaned from real life and as such represents one of the few true advances in communication research.

All the more troubling, of course, is the fact that Davison's article would probably not even pass the peer review process of one of the leading journals in the field today: the article is of an anecdotal nature, includes only few references to "relevant literature in the field," provides very little data—and what little data there is not highly valid—and it contains no complicated multivariate analyses whatsoever. Instead, it contains something much more valuable: namely, a good idea. Yet this article would probably be rejected today in favor of a boring treatise that routinely fulfills all of the academic conventions.

Another remarkable trait that Davison consistently displayed was his apparently unshakable optimism. Many people tend to become somewhat grouchy in their old age, insisting that everything was better in the days of their youth than it is today. In contrast, Davison wrote a book in 2004 that can be viewed as a kind of legacy to his fellow social scientists, and which bears the almost provokingly optimistic title, *Things Might Go Right*. Here too, his goal was no less than to make his own contribution to a better world. He remarked: "The reason for the semi-optimistic title is that I think the world's social organization has changed a lot during the past hundred years and that we now know how to greatly reduce wars and poverty, but are not using this knowledge." In writing the book, he hoped to play a part in somehow encouraging humanity to ultimately put this knowledge to use.

Davison retained his positive outlook even in the very last months of his life. In February of this year, I received the last email from him. He complained that he was getting so forgetful. He had misplaced an article of mine that he wanted to read and asked whether I could send him another copy. Sometimes, he said, he could only work for a few minutes a day. But right in the next paragraph he seemed to be calling himself to order again: he didn't want to complain, he and Emma-Rose still had so many opportunities to enjoy life and he asked whether I could come to visit him in America again. The subject line of his email was quite characteristic for him. It read, "Being 93 years old is hard work – but quite possible." We can learn a lot from this attitude towards life. I am going to miss this man very much.

In Memory of Janet A. Harkness (1948-2012)



Janet Harkness passed away May 28, 2012 in Germany at age 63. Harkness was the Director of the Survey Research and Methodology graduate program and Gallup Research Center, and holder of the Donald and Shirley Clifton Chair in Survey Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She was the founder and Chair of the Organizing Committee on the International Workshop on Comparative Survey Design and Implementation (CSDI). Her many contributions to cross-national and cross-cultural survey research included service as Head of the International Social Survey Programme's Methodology Committee (1997-2008), board member of the National Science Foundation's (USA) Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences Advisory Board (2008-present), board member of the Deutsches Jugendinstitut (Germany) Advisory Board (2009-present), Co-initiator of the Cross-Cultural Survey Guidelines Initiative, Chair of the Organizing Committee for the International Conference on Survey Methods in Multicultural, Multinational and Multiregional Contexts (3MC, Berlin 2008), and member of the European Social Survey's (ESS) Central Coordinating Team. The ESS was awarded the European Union's top annual science award, the Descartes Prize, in 2005. She has been a member of WAPOR since 2009.

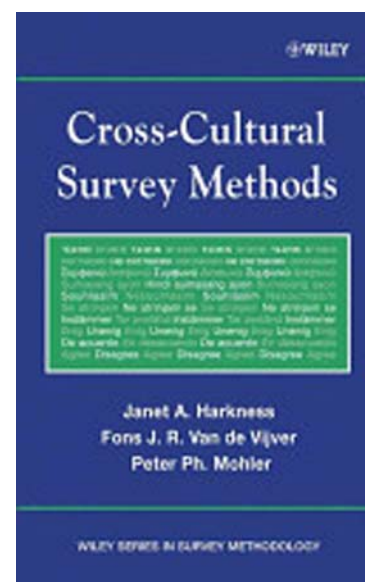
"I don't know of anyone who has done as much thinking as she has about cross-cultural surveys, and how measurement differs across languages and countries..."

Don Dillman

Besides her substantial contributions and organizational achievements in cross-national survey research, Harkness made major contributions to the scholarly literature including *Cross-Cultural Survey Equivalence* (1998), *Cross-Cultural Survey Methods* (with F.J.R. Van de Vijver and P. Ph. Mohler, 2003), and *Survey Methods in Multicultural, Multinational, and Multiregional Contexts* (with M. Braun, B. Edwards, T.P. Johnson, L.F. Lyberg, P. Ph. Mohler, B. Pennell and T.W. Smith, 2010).

As her professional colleague, Don Dillman, Regents Professor at Washington State University, noted of Janet "I don't know of anyone who has done as much thinking as she has about cross-cultural surveys, and how measurement differs across languages and countries...That's one of the major challenges we now face in doing surveys as we increasingly shift to a world-wide emphasis in survey design."

She is survived by her husband Peter Ph. Mohler.



Notes from the Field

Dear Colleagues,

FORS and GESIS are collecting articles for the launch of their new online journal "Survey Methods: Insights from the Field". We hope that you will be interested in submitting a paper that would be published together with the official announcement of the journal in autumn this year.

"Survey Methods: Insights from the Field" is an open access, online-only journal oriented towards the knowledge of fieldwork and practical experience. The goal of the journal is to encourage professional interaction on practical survey research issues and the discussion of new and promising paths in survey research. To stimulate discussion, we will implement the possibility to post comments or questions to each published article. The journal aims to attract a broad range of academic and non-academic researchers as well as practitioners.

Contributions should be written in English and preferably have no more than 4000 words, with a maximum of 8000 words. The articles should contain the author's name, institutional affiliation, an abstract and keywords. Tables and graphs may be included and the electronic support will allow for additional material to be attached to the article, such as annexes or statistical software scripts.

The Editors will referee the topic, scientific and/or practical added value, style and grammar of each submitted article. The articles will then undergo peer review by two members of our Editorial Board (see attached list).

Articles submitted and reviewed before autumn of this year will be published together with the official announcement of the journal. After that, submissions can be made at any time, and the articles will be published online 20 working days after submission of the final version.

Submissions or questions about the journal can be sent by email to the executive editor Caroline Vandenplas at caroline.vandenplas@unil.ch.

Yours sincerely,

The Editors
Henning Best Lars Kaczmirek
Peter Farago Caroline Vandenplas
Dominique Joye Dr Christof Wolf

Calendar

2012

August 1, 2012

Early bird registration deadline
V Latin American Congress
Bogotá, Colombia

August 15, 2012

Deadline for Nominations for upcoming elections
See page 8 for more details

September 19-21, 2012

V Latin American Congress
Bogotá, Colombia

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- Do you have an idea for an article in the newsletter?
 - Is there an event happening in your part of the world?
 - Are you interested in organizing a conference?
 - Do you have photos you'd like to contribute?
 - Do you have ideas on how to improve the website or newsletter?

If so, please contact the WAPOR office by sending an email to renae@wapor.org or to Trevor Tompson (Publications Chair) at tompson-trevor@norc.org.

Let us know your upcoming events.

*Please note, the deadline date for the
3rd quarter newsletter is
September 1, 2012*

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Please contact:
WAPOR Secretariat
UNL Gallup Research Center
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
201 North 13th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0242, USA
phone: 001 402 472 7720
fax: 001 402 472 7727
email: renae@wapor.org
Editor: Renae Reis

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