

## ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE CHAIR

**Dan Merkle** is Director of Elections at ABC News where he's responsible for election data and projections and also serves as ABC's representative to the National Election Pool Steering Committee. Previously he was Assistant Director of Polling at ABC where he designed, managed and analyzed polls on a wide variety of topics.

An active AAPOR member since 1988, Dan attended his 22nd consecutive AAPOR conference this year. Over the years he has presented 19 papers at the conference and served as a discussant and chair a number of times. Dan writes: "The annual conference represents the best AAPOR has to offer, both for the camaraderie and the quality and diversity of program content."

Dan is currently Associate Editor of Public Opinion Quarterly and before this was on POQ's Editorial Board and served as a POQ reviewer for a number of years. He also was on the Advisory Board of the Encyclopedia of Survey Research Methods. Dan has previously been elected to AAPOR council as Communications Chair and also to NYAAPOR council as Program Chair and Communications Chair. He's currently a member of the AAPOR Endowment Committee and Chair of the AAPOR Investment Committee. He's also served several times on the AAPOR Program Committee and Student Paper Award Committee.

Prior to joining ABC News, Dan was Director of Surveys at Voter News Service and before that Senior Project Director and Methodologist at D.S. Howard and Associates, a market research firm in Chicago. He started his career in survey research at the Northwestern University Survey Laboratory.

Dan is the author of more than 40 conference papers, journal articles and book chapters on survey methodology and public opinion, including such topics as survey nonresponse, deliberative polling, exit poll methodology, pre-election polling, the impact of incentives, phone line weighting, respondent selection methods, the impact of polls on the public, and how poll consumers evaluate poll results. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in communication studies from Northwestern University.