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Call for Abstracts

69th Annual Conference – May 15-18, 2014

American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)

Submission Deadline: November 12, 2013

http://www.aapor.org

The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) is pleased to announce its 69th Annual Conference at the Anaheim Marriott in Anaheim, California on May 15-18, 2014. AAPOR seeks proposals for papers, panel sessions, methodological briefs, posters and demonstrations that address important research questions, increase AAPOR member knowledge, and promote our profession. We will consider proposals on any topic in public opinion, survey research, and social science research more generally. We are particularly interested in proposals related to our *conference theme*:

Measurement and the Role of Public Opinion in a Democracy

- Does public opinion have a negative or a positive effect on policymakers? Is there a relationship between what the opinions of the electorate think vs. what legislators actually do? Should legislators and other leaders take public opinion into account in making decisions?

- Has the appetite for knowing what is going on in public opinion changed (for the better or worse)? Does public opinion and its relationship to the elected leadership have more or less value?

- Does public opinion, as expressed through social media have power to change the course of events? As the world watched the Arab Spring revolution in real time, the new social media made it more and more possible for the public to express their opinion (among those using Twitter, Facebook, etc.). Would it have taken place if not

for the world watching on the new social media sites? Does it make it less possible for leaders to ignore public opinion?

- How can public opinion, in real time, be scientifically evaluated?

- Is the use of social media as part of a public opinion narrative changing the way researchers are doing their research? Are researchers looking at data differently and has the inclusion of this medium have a significant impact on a democratic society?

- How does data collected from social media, compare to conducting an RDD sample? As "big data" becomes important to researchers -- has big data collected by different social media become more important for researchers; yet how do researchers determine if the data is accurately reporting public opinion?

- In 2010, cell phones were a big issue for RDD samples, but now, well over half of Americans have smartphones. Are multi-modal surveys now the new normal?

- On the other hand, is there a numbing (among the population) taking place on what issues in society are important because of the cacophony of all social media and the 24/7 news media repeating stories.

- AAPOR also cannot overlook "big data" of government surveys that provide important data for policy and decision making along with opinion polls, such as the American Community Survey. How are they adapting to the new environment?

The conference should also affirm our conviction that polls and surveys continue to ask critical questions, providing vital information about our health, economy, institutions, beliefs and aspirations, which as essential to the proper function of a free and just society. As such, submissions on any topic of interest to public opinion and survey researchers are also encouraged, including, but not limited to:

- **Public opinion on social, economic and political issues**
- **Political polling and electoral decision-making**
- **Media influences on public opinion**
- **Racial, ethnic and gender issues**
- **Cross-national or comparative research**
- **Surveying and interviewing diverse populations**
- **Questionnaire design and evaluation**
- **Mixed-mode data collection and emerging methodologies**
- **Innovative sampling techniques**
- **Qualitative research techniques**
- **Nonresponse and response bias in surveys**
- **Administrative data and data mining**
- **Coverage and noncoverage in surveys**
- **Use of nonprobability and probability sampling designs**

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Where to submit: Proposals should be submitted electronically by Tuesday, **November 12, 11:59 p.m. (EST).** Only proposals submitted through this website can be considered. Interested parties can also access the online submission form from the AAPOR website. Submitters will receive a system-generated email confirmation of their submission within 24 hours. If this confirmation does not arrive, please log back on to the site to verify the system accepted your proposal.

Format types: When interested parties logon to the system to submit their proposal(s), they will be asked to select from the following presentations formats:

- **Formal papers** involve original research featuring an oral address of 10-15 minutes to an audience. A 300-word abstract is required at submission. **Authors are strongly encouraged to prepare formal papers in advance of the conference** (usually 12-15 pages in length), and are asked to **make presentation materials, such as PowerPoint slides available to attendees following the conference.**

- **Panels** involve pre-organized papers or presentations that focus on a common theme and include four or five participants. **The organizer of the panel should enter into the system a 300-word abstract describing the panel, in addition to a 300-word abstract FOR EACH proposed panelist.** It is important to remind your panelists that he/she should **NOT** submit a paper as a separate submission. If complete information on the proposed panel is not immediately available, the organizer must add information to complete the submission before the final deadline.

- **Methodological briefs** are formal, intentionally short presentations of original methodological research that highlight significant empirical results (e.g., one table) with less theoretical elaboration than a regular paper session. Briefs involve oral presentations of five minutes to an audience. A 300-word abstract is required at submission. **Authors are strongly encouraged to prepare short papers in advance of the conference** (e.g., 5-8 pages in length), and are asked to **make presentation materials such as PowerPoint^{TM} slides available to attendees following the conference.**

- **Posters** are presentations of original research that rely on visual display (i.e., posters) combined with interactive author-audience discussion. A 300-word abstract is required at submission, and **authors are strongly encouraged to distribute handouts or a reduced-size paper copy of their poster at the conference.**

- **Demonstrations** are 10 minute presentations of new data-gathering tools, research techniques, or other developments of practical or methodological value to the field.

A 300-word abstract is required at submission for demonstrations; formal papers are not necessary.

We particularly encourage the submission of proposals by professionals working in the commercial sector. Please feel free to contact Susan Pinkus, AAPOR Annual Conference Chair, with ideas that may depart from the normal conference paper format. Space on the program is limited. There will be some excellent proposals for formal paper presentations that cannot be integrated into panels will, unfortunately, not be accepted. Authors have a greater chance of being selected to participate on the program if they submit a panel or if they also are willing to be considered for poster presentations or methodological briefs.

Multi-paper restriction: To promote broad conference participation, **an individual may <u>not submit more than two proposals as first author</u>**, regardless of the proposed format of the submission (formal paper, panel member, poster, methodological brief, or demonstration).

Also, each submission must identify who will be the presenter at the conference. In addition to the first-author restriction, **an individual <u>may not submit more than two proposals as presenter</u>,** regardless of the proposed format of the submission.

Evaluation: The Annual Conference Committee will evaluate proposals for quality, originality, and completeness. Proposals should communicate work that authors expect to reach an acceptable stage of completion before the conference (i.e., at the beginning of May 2014). Final decisions about program submissions will be made by the end of January 2014.

AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT

All meeting rooms will have projectors, screens, microphones and laptops.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

At recent conferences, groups with common interests have met informally to share methods, research findings, and other information. AAPOR encourages such gatherings
and will be pleased to include these gatherings on the official program. If you would like
to organize such a group, please contact Susan Pinkus, AAPOR Annual Conference Chair.

INQUIRIES

Questions concerning the AAPOR conference or the proposal submission process should be directed to:

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