

On the Genesis and Nature of JSSAM

Following up on the announcement of the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology* (*JSSAM*), this message provides additional detail regarding the impetus for this journal and its scope.

As envisioned, *JSSAM* will strongly complement AAPOR's flagship journal *Public Opinion Quarterly* (*POQ*), which will continue to publish articles on public opinion theory and survey research methodology, especially methodological issues related to opinion surveys. Thus, *POQ* will continue to include papers that focus on questionnaire design, question wording, context effects, mode comparisons, usability testing, and design of self-administered questionnaires, as well as nonresponse and coverage issues. Inevitably, there will be some methodological papers that could appear in either journal. As *JSSAM* evolves, the boundaries between the two journals will become clearer. Ultimately, *JSSAM* represents a benefit to potential authors, including many AAPOR members, since it now provides an additional outlet for their work.

The clear need for *JSSAM* reflected observations made by former *POQ* editors Nancy Mathiowetz and Peter Miller. First, there currently is no ISI-ranked journal dedicated exclusively to survey methodology. Second, a growing number of high-caliber submissions to *POQ* do not fit within the flagship journal's theoretical or empirical parameters. Consequently, many researchers — including young academics in departments of statistics and biostatistics — do not have a venue in which they can publish their work. At the same time, the Survey Methods Research Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA) had recognized the need for a new journal dedicated to survey statistics and methodology.

A joint AAPOR-ASA task force, headed by Peter Miller, assessed the viability of such a new journal. Their report to Council this summer resulted in AAPOR signing a contract with Oxford University Press to publish both *POQ* and *JSSAM*. ASA has also endorsed the new journal.

With its inaugural issue scheduled for 2013, *JSSAM* will fill a void that has existed for years with respect to *survey statistics and methodology*. It also will foster the emergence of *statistical survey methodology* as a distinct sub-discipline within statistics.

Articles published in *JSSAM*, in contrast to those in *POQ*, are likely to:

- Focus on technical issues, such as weighting methods to adjust for nonresponse biases or assessments of total survey error rather than individual error sources;
- Address key issues of sample design (e.g., optimal allocation, sampling of rare populations) and estimation for complex survey designs (e.g., imputation techniques and estimation for multiply imputed data);
- Examine post-data collection processes, such as disclosure avoidance, and advanced methods, such as small area estimation and synthetic data estimation;
- Employ advanced statistical procedures, such as complex Monte Carlo simulations; and
- Draw upon a vast range of data sets, including large, ongoing governmental surveys as well as data collected from both within and outside the U.S.

Alongside *POQ* and *JSSAM*, AAPOR's online journal *Survey Practice*, which is not peer-reviewed, will continue to be an outlet for shorter, less technical articles related to the practice of survey and opinion research. We encourage you to consider contributing to these three journals that constitute the intellectually vibrant meeting place that is AAPOR.

Signed,

Joseph Sedransk and Roger Tourangeau
Editors of *JSSAM*

Patricia Moy and Tom W. Smith
Incoming editors of *POQ*