

AAPOR Annual Conference 2016 (Austin, TX): A Guide for New Attendees

Brought to you by the AAPOR Student and Early Career Engagement Subcommittee, this guide is intended to provide helpful information about AAPOR and the upcoming annual conference for all AAPOR conference attendees, but particularly students, early career attendees, and those who are new to AAPOR or are attending the conference for the first time. This guide is divided into six sections:

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I. AAPOR Student and Early Career Engagement Subcommittee: Who We Are

The AAPOR Student and Early Career Engagement Subcommittee is a group of volunteer AAPOR members who serve on the larger Membership and Chapter Relations Committee (MCR). MCR is responsible for recruiting and retaining AAPOR members, analyzing and reporting on membership trends, and serving as the liaison between the national AAPOR organization and the regional chapters (we have more about regional chapters later in this guide).

This Subcommittee was set up to assist students and early career professionals in getting the most out of their AAPOR membership and to increase retention of these members. We have planned several activities leading up to and during this year's conference to give you the chance to meet and interact with other conference attendees, and learn more about the benefits of AAPOR membership and how to get the most out of your conference experience.

Subcommittee Members

Below are pictures and quick bios of our subcommittee's members. Most of us will be at the conference, so feel free to look for us, ask questions, or just say hi! Our email addresses are also included below in case you want to reach out with questions before the conference.



Justine Bulgar-Medina (justine.bulgarmedina@gmail.com) is a PhD student in Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she is also pursuing a graduate certificate in Survey Methodology. Prior to beginning her PhD work, she received her M.A. in Sociology from the University of New Hampshire in 2013. Justine's present academic work involves improving measurement of racial, ethnic and sexual minorities

in survey and the effects of intersectionality on self-reported employment experiences.



Jessica Holzberg (jessicaholzberg@gmail.com) is a Mathematical Statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau. She received her Master's degree from the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland in 2014. Two of her current research interests include use of alternative survey contact strategies, and methods for addressing privacy and confidentiality concerns of respondents. Jessica also serves as the webmaster for DC-AAPOR.



Mingnan Liu (mingnanl@surveymonkey.com) is a Survey Scientist at SurveyMonkey. He received his PhD in Survey Methodology from the University of Michigan. At SurveyMonkey, he focuses on examining and ensuring the data quality from SurveyMonkey Audience, a nonprobability online Web panel.



Kristen Olson (kolson5@unl.edu) is an associate professor of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She currently serves on AAPOR's Executive Council as the Chair of the Membership and Chapter Relations Committee. Kristen has been active in AAPOR since 2001 and in MAPOR since 2003. Kristen was recently MAPOR Past-President.



Clarissa Steele (ivoace@yahoo.com) is a doctoral student in the Management program at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Before going back to school, she was a Survey Researcher at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Clarissa graduated with an MS in Survey Research and Methodology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in May 2010. She has been a member of AAPOR and the Midwest Chapter (MAPOR) since 2008.



Celeste Stone (cstone@air.org) is a Senior Survey Methodologist at the American Institutes for Research, where she leads and provides survey methods expertise on all aspects of the survey design process. She earned her master's degree in survey methodology from the University of Maryland in 2010. Celeste has been a member of AAPOR and the DC chapter (DC-AAPOR) since 2010.



[David L. Vannette](mailto:vannette@stanford.edu) (vannette@stanford.edu) is a PhD Candidate in the Stanford University Department of Communication. His general research interests are in the areas of public opinion and survey methodology. He also serves on the Pacific Chapter ([PAPOR](#)) Executive Council as a Member-at-Large.



Anna Wiencrot (wienecrot-anna@norc.org) is a Survey Director at NORC at the University of Chicago, where she leads data collection for the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP). Currently, Anna serves on the AAPOR Executive Council as the Associate Chair of Membership and Chapter Relations Committee. She has been an active member of AAPOR since her first conference in 2010. Previously, Anna served as chair of the Education Committee.



[Sara K. Yeo](mailto:sara.yeo@utah.edu) (sara.yeo@utah.edu) is an Assistant Professor in the [Department of Communication](#) at the University of Utah. Her research focuses on the intersection of science, media, and public opinion. She holds a M.S. in Oceanography from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, as well as a M.S. in Life Sciences Communication and a Ph.D. in Mass Communications from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

II. Activities That Will Benefit New Attendees, Students, & Early Career Members

There are several programs and events leading up to and during the conference that we want to make you aware of. Some of these are geared specifically to students and early career members; others are aimed at new AAPOR members and first-time conference attendees more generally.

Before the conference:

- **First-time Conference Attendee Videos:** The MCR and Conference Committees will host a webinar for new members and first-time conference attendees to give you more information about the benefits of AAPOR membership and what to expect at the conference. If you're a new member or this is your first AAPOR conference, look for an email with details about this webinar in coming weeks.
- **Docent Program:** The Conference committee also runs the Conference Docent program, which connects interested new members with longer-term AAPOR members who can help answer questions and provide a friendly face at the conference. If this is your first AAPOR conference, someone from the Conference Committee will contact you in the weeks before the conference with more details about the program and to connect you with your docent.
- **The Roommate Matching Program:** The Subcommittee coordinates a Roommate Matching Program for all AAPOR members while conference registration is open.

The program helps conference attendees save money on their hotel costs by matching 2-4 people to share a room during the conference. Check your email for information on how to sign up for the Roommate Matching Program.

At the conference, for all new members:

- **AAPOR Passport Program**
All first-time conference attendees will receive a “Passport to AAPOR.” The objective of the passport program is to introduce new members to different aspects of AAPOR and get you to meet more folks at the conference. You can get your passport “stamped” at multiple locations at the conference, and those who turn in a completed passport will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 Amazon gift card.
- **New Member/All-Chapter Reception:** Thursday, May 12, 5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
This reception, held on Thursday evening of the conference, provides new members a chance to mingle with long-time AAPORites and gives all members the chance to meet and greet with representatives of AAPOR’s regional chapters, as well as learn about exciting chapter initiatives and events (plus more chances to win great regional prizes). Tables will also be set up for new members to meet their docents early in the evening (a great chance to get your passport stamped), and groups can continue networking and learning about AAPOR at the Food Truck Kickoff Event Thursday night.
- **Food Truck Kickoff Event:** Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
This year’s kickoff event will provide the opportunity to meet and mingle with friends, old and new. Multiple “food truck” stations and tables will be available to allow you to continue conversations started at the New Member & All Chapter Reception without interruption and freely converse throughout the evening.
- **AAPOR Booth**
MCR committee members will be on hand at the AAPOR Booth (located near the Conference Registration) to welcome members, provide information about AAPOR membership, and generally offer a friendly face. We encourage you to stop by the booth as soon as you’ve finished at the registration desk to connect with us!
- **Post-Banquet Party – Keep Austin Weird:** Saturday, May 14, 10:00 p.m.–1:00 a.m.
Catch up with friends - old and new - at the post-banquet party. See a bit of what keeps Austin weird. Enjoy the live music of Roxy Rocca, drinks and a few “Austin-inspired” surprises.

At the conference, for early career and students specifically:

- **Welcome Lunch:** Thursday, May 12, 11:30 a.m.
Arriving early? Meet and mingle with other folks who are new to AAPOR. Meet in the hotel lobby at noon to head out for an informal lunch off-site. Email Justine Bulgar-Medina (justine.bulgarmedina@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Meet Your Docent:** Thursday, May 12, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
The Docent Volunteer Program is geared toward welcoming new AAPOR members to AAPOR and our research community. Specifically, the Docent Volunteer Program consists of AAPOR volunteers who help us welcome and make that special connection with new members. The goal of the program is not only for our volunteers to be that “go to” friendly face that new members see in the conference lobby but also to build lasting connections that continue beyond the conference and into future AAPOR conferences. This meet-up will allow those connections to take place prior to the All Chapter and New Member Reception.
- **Student and Early Career Lounge:** Want to talk with other student or early career members? Need a break from attending sessions? The Student and Early Career

lounge is a great place to hang out, meet other people, and catch your breath. Find it near the AAPOR Booth.

- **Student and Early Career Meet-Up:** Friday, May 13, 6:00 p.m. – ?
Calling all Newbies! Join us for a meet-up hosted by the AAPOR Membership & Chapter Relations Committee. Meet and mingle with other students and early career folks, learn about AAPOR’s resources and share your thoughts about how AAPOR can best serve our student and early career members. Meet in the hotel lobby at 6:00 p.m. to head out for an informal dinner off-site. Email Justine Bulgar-Medina (justine.bulgarmedina@gmail.com) for more information.

More Fun Stuff at Conference:

- ***Fun Run/Walk***

If you like competition, or just want a good workout while at the conference, the Fun Run/Walk is for you. This annual event happens early on Saturday morning (May 14), usually around 7:00 a.m. (look for the exact time in the final conference program). All AAPOR conference attendees are welcome to participate, and prizes are awarded to the fastest runners and walkers.

- ***Annual AAPOR Golf Outing***

If you love to golf, make plans this year to arrive early enough to play a round during the Annual AAPOR Golf Outing before the annual conference begins. The annual outing will be held on Thursday, May 12, at Austin Golf at Riverside Golf Course, with tee times starting at 7:30a.m. The greens fee is \$29.

III. Practical Information about the AAPOR Annual Conference

Travel and Hotel

This year’s conference takes place at the Hilton Austin in Austin, Texas. [The AAPOR conference web site](#) at has the latest information about the conference, including information about room availability, alternate hotels in the area, and travel options.

A consistently great part of the AAPOR annual conference is the location. This year’s hotel is no different. The Austin Hilton hotel web site lists some exciting amenities nearby. You can read more on these and other activities and amenities at [the Austin website](#).

Your registration packet will have maps of the hotel conference rooms that AAPOR will be using during the conference. AAPOR also has signs, either electronic or posters on easels, for every room, as well as conference volunteers who can help direct you where you are going. The hotel provides an overview of their meeting spaces on [their website](#), which you can use when the final conference schedule is published online to help you find the sessions you want to attend. The conference app is also a great resource for electronically accessing the conference program, finding rooms, and getting other AAPOR-conference information.

How to Dress

The conference program states that dress at the conference is “business casual,” though actual attire worn by attendees often ranges from casual (shorts and polos) to formal (suits and ties - particularly among those who are presenting). People tend to “dress up” more for the President’s Reception and the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening (ties and cocktail dresses). Also note that while average high temperatures in Austin in May are usually in the

mid-80s, the weather can vary significantly. Hotel meeting rooms can be quite cool, so you may want to bring a sweater or jacket regardless of what the weather is in Austin that weekend.

Food at the Conference

Another great part of AAPOR is the food. On Friday and Saturday mornings, the conference provides a continental breakfast of pastries, coffee, tea, and juice available in the Exhibit Hall, where we also have refreshment breaks during the morning and afternoon. This is a great time to casually network with other AAPOR attendees and visit booths and exhibits in the hall before sessions begin for the day.

Several meals are also included with your conference fee, including lunch on Friday and Saturday. Dinner is provided on Thursday and on Saturday night during the Awards Banquet. There is no assigned seating during lunch and dinner, so many AAPOR members take this opportunity to sit with colleagues they do not often see or to meet new colleagues from different organizations.

Friday night traditionally is open for AAPOR conference attendees to dine out. The MCR committee is organizing an informal meet-up for dinner away from the hotel on Friday night to give you a chance to meet other conference attendees and network apart from the conference.

The hotel also has many restaurants on site, including Liberty Tavern, Java Jive on Fifth, and Finn & Porter.

We spoke to a few Austin locals for their restaurant recommendations. If you have some time before or after the conference, or if you're looking for a place to eat on Friday night during the conference (when no conference dinner is scheduled), you may want to consider some local favorites.

[Second Bar + Kitchen](http://www.secondbarkitchen.com/) (<http://www.secondbarkitchen.com/>): Located at 200 Congress Avenue, the Second Bar + Kitchen is open for lunch, brunch, and dinner. They have a variety of food, including sandwiches and salads, pizza, and appetizers as well as an extensive collection of beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages.

[Roaring Fork](http://www.roaringfork.com/#) (<http://www.roaringfork.com/#>): The Roaring Fork, located at 701 Congress Avenue, prepares their food with a wood-fired oven. They serve salads, sandwiches, and main dishes with an "Old West" flair.

[Koriente Restaurant and Tea House](http://www.koriente.com/) (<http://www.koriente.com/>): Located at 621 East 7th Street, Koriente provides Asian-inspired food. The restaurant describes their cooking as healthy, using less oil, sugar, and salt than other restaurants, and with no added MSG in their dishes.

[Lamberts](http://www.lambertsaustin.com/) (<http://www.lambertsaustin.com/>): If you're looking for authentic Texas cooking, Lamberts at 401 West 2nd Street is the place to eat. The restaurant is open for lunch, brunch,

and dinner, serving appetizers, salads, soups, and sandwiches for lunch, with oak smoked and oak grilled main dishes for dinner.

Bars and Nightlife

[Rainey Street District](http://www.raineystbars.com/) (<http://www.raineystbars.com/>): The Rainey Street Historic District has many highly recommended bars for those looking for a place to have a quick bite to eat for happy hour or wanting to enjoy some company and a nice glass of beer or wine. The district has many different kinds of bars, so there's something for everyone to enjoy.

[East 6th Street](http://6street.com/) (<http://6street.com/>): The East Sixth Street District in Austin is a hot spot for bars and entertainment. The Sixth Street District webpage provides information about different events happening at places around the area, so you can see what's happening during the AAPOR conference.

[Warehouse District](http://www.austintexas.org/visit/meet-warehouse-district/) (<http://www.austintexas.org/visit/meet-warehouse-district/>): According to the Sixth Street District website, the Warehouse District is the more upscale version of Sixth Street that appeals to an older crowd. It is just west of downtown and houses many restaurants, bars, clubs, and concert halls to entertain the locals.

Other recommendation sites: For more restaurants and bars downtown, locals recommend visiting the [Thrillist page for Austin](https://www.thrillist.com/austin) (<https://www.thrillist.com/austin>), [Austin Eater](http://austin.eater.com/) (<http://austin.eater.com/>), and [Yelp Austin](http://www.yelp.com/austin) (<http://www.yelp.com/austin>).

IV. Conference Tips and Highlights

Presentation Sessions

The AAPOR annual conference has hundreds of presentations and posters on research conducted by AAPOR members and others. The [preliminary conference program](#), including schedules and session titles, is now available on the AAPOR website. The final program includes a full list of presentations, authors, and abstracts and will be posted on the website during the first week in May and provided in hard copy at the conference.

The sheer volume of presentations can be daunting, and we encourage first-time attendees to look through the final program before arriving at the conference to identify the sessions, papers, and posters that may be of particular interest to you. Presentations and posters cover a variety of fields, including survey research methods, health care, politics, economics, education, public policy, and many others. Many AAPOR attendees divide sessions into two types: those that focus on public opinion and those that focus on research methodology. You may get the most out of the conference by planning to attend both types of sessions, regardless of your research interests, since the conference is a good place to learn something new.

AAPOR presentation sessions generally consist of 4-5 papers presented by different authors. AAPOR sessions are led by a single facilitator/moderator that is intended to introduce authors, keep track of time, summarize themes of the session and offer feedback to the authors, and help moderate audience discussion. This role is not quite to the level of discussants who often

would prepare a full presentation summarizing their feedback on the research presented, but intended to help kickstart the conversation.

It is acceptable to “float” between rooms during sessions if you want to hear one paper in a given session and another in a session taking place at the same time; just be courteous by sitting on the aisle or near the back of the room and try not to leave in the middle of a presentation. Also, we encourage you to ask questions of the presenters at the end of the session or to ask for a copy of the presenter’s paper, which they can usually email to you during or after the conference.

Poster Sessions

Poster sessions are more informal than presentation sessions. There are three poster sessions during the conference, one each on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Poster presenters set up their posters in the Exhibit Hall and talk about their research as attendees look at the posters during the poster session time. At the same time in the Exhibit Hall, several events will be going on including demonstration sessions of products from companies attending the conference, “Meet the Author” sessions, and snack or dessert breaks. Like session presentations, we encourage you to ask questions of the poster presenters as well as for copies of their papers when you are interested in knowing more about their research.

Short Courses

We would be remiss not to mention the short courses available at the AAPOR annual conference. The short courses occur on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning before the conference begins, and on Sunday morning (the last day of the conference), and are led by subject experts in the field. The short courses are not only an opportunity to learn more specific information about a topic of interest to you and your research, but they are also an opportunity to meet leading experts in the field and ask questions about the short course subjects. Short courses are not part of the conference registration, so there is a separate registration for those. You can see the short courses available for this conference at [AAPOR Short Courses](#).

Other conference events

Want to know more about what goes on “behind the scenes” at AAPOR? The **AAPOR Membership and Business Meeting**, held on Saturday from 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., is a great chance for students and early career professionals to learn more about how AAPOR works and to hear about the association’s recent accomplishments and future initiatives. All members are encouraged to attend and to ask questions and exchange ideas with members of AAPOR’s Executive Council and other leaders in the association.

Tweet your conference experience!

Many AAPOR members (those attending the conference as well as those not attending) make use of Twitter during the conference to share interesting tidbits of information they pick up, offer opinions on happenings at the conference, pose questions, or announce events. If you are a Tweeter, join the conversation using hashtag [#AAPOR](#)! There will also be an electronic Twitter board at the conference where you can read what others are posting.

V. Searching for a Job or Internship at AAPOR

The AAPOR conference is a great opportunity to search for a job or internship, or to make professional connections that could lead to a job or internship. It helps to be prepared in advance, so we've organized some helpful tips from members who have successfully found jobs and internships through their connections at the AAPOR conference.

Preparing for the Conference

Prior attendees who have conducted job and internship searches at the conference suggest you prepare a few things before you leave for the conference:

1. Create a résumé or curriculum vita (CV) and/or business cards to give out to interested conference attendees. It helps to look at example layouts and ask for feedback about these from people you trust.
2. Prepare a short (1-2 sentence) summary of your academic program, prior training, work experience, and your particular interests and goals. Be aware of what you have to offer that might set you apart, and be able to frame it in a way that would benefit a potential employer. Keep in mind that employers don't hire people in order to help them further their career; they hire people in order to solve problems or meet challenges within their organization. Note that the larger employers may ask you for your specific interests or goals, your salary requirements, or the position level you believe you are best suited for.
3. Know who will be at the conference ahead of time, and do some research on organizations you may be interested in. Some organizations will send recruiters for speed networking or interviewing sessions, and others will simply have a booth presence or employees attending the conference. Most recruiters would like to see that you are familiar with their organization, and some will expect you to know their organization's activities at AAPOR. For instance, one recent graduate reported that she had been asked which presentations by people at a certain organization she had attended and been most interested in.

A lot of information about who will be at the conference is available on [the AAPOR conference website](#). Some of the information that may be useful in your search includes:

- **Career Center:** Before leaving for the conference, take a look at AAPOR's Career Center. This resource is available year-round for AAPOR members to search for internships and jobs. Knowing what positions are available before going to the conference can help you target the organizations and jobs that most interest you in your networking efforts.
- **[AAPOR Conference Program](#):** The conference program provides information about the sessions and speakers, including their organizational affiliation and the topic of their paper, to help you figure out which papers you may want to see. The program also contains names of sponsors, which are organizations and individuals that have provided resources for the conference. Many of these organizations will have booths and/or will participate in the networking sessions at the conference, so these are good organizations to find out more about their open positions and the research projects they work on.
- **[Resources for Researchers](#):** The resources for researchers available on the AAPOR website can help you determine what areas of public opinion research and survey methodology most interest you, which is a question you'll likely be asked when you tell other conference attendees that you're searching for a job or internship. You can see the variety of fields that AAPOR members come from, and you can find out more about what individual members and their organizations research on this page.

Networking during the Conference

Many activities at the AAPOR annual conference are designed to allow conference attendees opportunities to connect with colleagues and make important professional connections. Sometimes it may seem like the attendees already know each other because some AAPOR members come back to the conference year after year to reconnect with their colleagues. The connections that frequent attendees have are wonderful, but they can also leave you standing awkwardly on the sidelines. New attendees can benefit from their existing educational and employment connections, their mentoring relationships, involvement with their local chapter, and by simply being bold and friendly. One tip for students and early career professionals: don't be afraid to approach unfamiliar faces and strike up conversations, including with those who are senior in their fields. Most long-term AAPORites are thrilled to meet students and other new AAPOR members and learn about their research as well as share their own professional experiences.

The **Exhibit Hall** and **Meet the Authors** is also a great way to meet professionals in the field. The Exhibit Hall includes booths from conference sponsors ranging from commercial survey vendors, to software providers, to academic research programs. In the afternoons on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, authors of newly released books will be available to talk about their books and other research. Many of the authors are faculty members who teach students and enjoy speaking with new researchers at the conference, so take the chance to introduce yourself and meet an author from the field.

For job and internship seekers, a few activities at the conference may be of particular interest to you in your search:

- **Conference Networking and Social Activities:** The networking and social activities at the conference are a good way to meet new people and learn about their research interests and their work. The conference has formal networking events like speed networking and also fun activities where you have a chance to talk to other AAPOR members, like the New Member and All Chapter Reception on Thursday evening, AAPOR Fun Run/Walk on Saturday morning, and post-banquet party on Saturday evening. Planning out your activities will help you get the most out of the conference. And don't forget to participate in informal networking at the conference as well. Take advantage of meals, receptions, session breaks, and even the Exhibit Hall early in the mornings to meet new people.
- **Speed Networking:** AAPOR organizes speed networking sessions specifically for jobseekers and recruiters to briefly connect. While these are not official interviews, it helps to take them as seriously as you would an official interview. The sign-up sheet comes out early in the conference and fills up quickly, so try to sign up as early as possible. When your appointment time comes, be sure to arrive early in case the recruiter is running ahead of schedule, dress professionally, have extra copies of your resume or CV ready, and be prepared to discuss the particular organization and the role within it that you are most interested in. Remember that interviews are an opportunity for you to learn more and see if you are interested, and not simply a showcase- no false advertising! Also keep in mind that you are likely to run into your interviewers later during the conference.
- **Conference Booths:** In the Exhibit Hall at the conference (see the conference program for a map), several organizations sponsor booths where they provide information on the studies and research they are conducting, products and services they sell, as well as job and internship opportunities that are available. Many of these

conference booth sponsors also participate in speed networking, although visiting their booths is a good way to meet multiple individuals from the organization and to find out what each of them does to get a better feel for the organization.

Although this list is not exhaustive, we hope the experiences of AAPOR members who have successfully found a job or internship at the conference will help you to make the most of your conference experience.

VI. Things to Do in Austin, TX

[The Bullock Museum](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/) (<http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/>): The Bullock Museum documents the history of Texas, from the migration of Native Americans to the area to the present day. The museum is located at 1800 Congress Avenue. Exhibition admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 65 and older, and \$10 for college students. Visitors can also buy tickets for shows in the IMAX and Texas Spirit Theaters about the story of Texas.

[The Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library](http://www.lbjlibrary.org/) (<http://www.lbjlibrary.org/>): If you enjoy presidential history or if your bucket list includes visiting all of the presidential libraries in the U.S, then the LBJ Presidential Library is a must-see. The library is located at 2313 Red River Street, with a parking garage nearby. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors 62 and over, and \$3 for college students (with a valid ID).

[The Mexic-Arte Museum](http://mexic-artemuseum.org/) (<http://mexic-artemuseum.org/>): Located at 419 Congress Avenue, the museum focuses its collection on Mexican, Latino, and Latin American art. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens and students, and free admission every Sunday.

[The Austin Visitor Center's webpage](http://www.austintexas.org/) (<http://www.austintexas.org/>) has information about events happening in and around Austin year-round. They also provide more information about restaurants and activities in the area for those who want to explore Austin and the Hill Country area more.

VII. Getting The Most Out Of Your AAPOR Membership

There are many ways to learn about the various benefits of AAPOR membership, and we encourage you to visit [the AAPOR website](#), attend the new member welcome webcast (mentioned above), and stop by the AAPOR booth at the conference. Below are just a few highlights of AAPOR member benefits that may be of particular interest to students and early career professionals.

AAPORnet

AAPORnet is a listserv for AAPOR members only. It offers a great way to ask questions about research and methodology, share ideas, see job postings, or just to gain insight into what leading professionals in the field are discussing. AAPORnet is also a useful place to

ask questions and get information about the conference from those who have attended many times before.

Social Networks

Find [AAPOR on Facebook](#). Be sure to “like” us and check back often for the latest updates. Facebook is also a great place to see who else is a member of AAPOR and/or will attend the conference. Through Facebook, you can get to know other conference attendees in advance.

[AAPOR is also on LinkedIn](#). LinkedIn is great for job-seekers as well as those looking to network or to post and answer questions about public opinion research, market research, and the like. Some of AAPOR’s chapters also have their own LinkedIn groups, so look up your local chapter!

Webinars

AAPOR offers webinars on a broad range of research topics. This is a great way to learn new skills and information right from your home or office. For students who are members of AAPOR, participation in most live webinars costs only \$15. For more information on upcoming webinars or to purchase recordings, see [the AAPOR Webinars page](#).

Public Opinion Quarterly (POQ)

Your AAPOR membership includes a free subscription to [Public Opinion Quarterly \(POQ\)](#), including hard copy and online access. Published since 1937, *POQ* is among the most frequently cited journals of its kind and is rated in the top ten scholarly journals in communications, political science, and interdisciplinary social sciences. *POQ* selectively publishes important theoretical contributions to opinion and communication research, analyses of current public opinion, and investigations of methodological issues involved in survey validity including questionnaire construction, interviewing and interviewers, sampling strategy, and mode of administration.

Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology (JSSAM)

AAPOR has a new interdisciplinary journal to be published in conjunction with the American Statistical Association (ASA). The purpose of [JSSAM](#) is to publish cutting-edge articles on statistical and methodological issues for surveys and censuses. It also publishes empirical and theoretical papers as well as applied papers and review papers. In addition to *POQ*, AAPOR members receive a free subscription to *JSSAM*.

Survey Practice

Survey Practice is AAPOR’s e-journal. It provides current information on issues in survey research and public opinion useful to survey and public opinion practitioners, new survey researchers, and those interested in survey and polling methods. Check it out at <http://www.surveypractice.org/index.php/SurveyPractice>.

Regional Chapters

A great way to learn more about AAPOR while connecting with a smaller group of professionals in your own geographic area is to get involved with one of AAPOR’s seven local chapters. Most chapters hold their own local events, ranging from two-day conferences, to short courses and workshops, to happy hours and networking events. Chapters charge an additional fee for membership beyond the AAPOR membership fee, but for students these

fees are small (all are under \$20), and like AAPOR, many offer students their first year of membership for free.

You can learn more about the chapters by visiting the individual chapter websites:

- Midwest (MAPOR): www.mapor.org
- Pennsylvania-New Jersey (PANJAAPOR): www.panjaapor.org
- New York (NYAAPOR): www.nyaapor.org
- Pacific (PAPOR): www.papor.org
- Southern (SAPOR): www.sapor.us
- Washington, D.C.-Baltimore (DC-AAPOR): www.dc-aapor.org
- New England (NEAAPOR) : neaapor.org

**Don't forget that you can always stop by the
AAPOR booth or the registration table to see a friendly face or ask advice!
See you in Texas!**