IUSSP session at the 4th Asian Population Association Conference (APAC), Shanghai, China, 11-14 July 2018

"Innovations in longitudinal and cross-national surveys"

Organizer/Chair: Nico van Nimwegen, Secretary-General, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population IUSSP

New data and methods are among the priority topics of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population IUSSP. In addition to administrative, census and/or register data, special surveys are an important source of micro-data for population research. Cross-national and longitudinal surveys provide important insights into changes in demographic behaviour over time and across countries. The focus of this session is on these types of surveys.

Cross-national and longitudinal surveys are changing rapidly through the application of new technologies and innovations. These allow for instance for comparative surveys to be fielded across multiple countries simultaneously, to cover complex family structures or remote areas that previously were hard to capture, or include new sources of information using biomarkers. In the specific area of social demography, there is an ever-expanding range of innovations that also allow for the integration of big data technologies and the internet of things into traditional survey processes, such as smart phone apps or wearable devices that measure concepts such as health and time use. This session allows cross-national and longitudinal surveys to present innovations they are implementing and discuss the changing nature and emerging new challenges of the field.

The session has 4 presentations.

The China Family Panel Study: innovations in tracking migrants

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The China Family Panel Studies (CFPS) is a national longitudinal general social survey project. By collecting data at three levels (i.e., individual, family, community), the project aims to document changes in Chinese society, economy, population, education, and health, so as to provide data for academic research and public policy analysis

In this presentation we will introduce innovations of improving coverage of migrants in CFPS. First, CFPS designed T tables to collect information of all family members and their family relations. Second, the living arrangement and the contact information of migrants were collected from the original household. On the individual level, Event History Calendar was adopted to collect the residential history of migrants. Third, the sequential mixed-mode data collection mode was applied in our survey in response to the increasing migrant samples in CFPS.

India Human Development Survey: Gender and Panel Maintenance

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The India Human Development Survey (IHDS) is a survey of over 40,000 households covering both urban and rural areas. Wave 1 of IHDS was administered in 2004-5, Wave 2 took place in 2011-12 and a third wave is planned for 2019-20.

Over this long period, households tend to divide and recombine, creating complex family relationships. Moreover, norms regarding marital exogamy lead to a large proportion of the young women in the sample leaving their natal villages to marry outside the village. This presentation will focus on challenges involved in maintaining household panels in samples with significant sex-selective migration.

The Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS): Dried Blood Spots in Longitudinal Surveys

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The Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS) is a household/community level panel survey. There are 5 waves to date: 1993, 1997, 2000, 2007, 2014. The first wave was conducted in 13 provinces and is representative of those provinces (eastern provinces were not sampled for cost reasons). This presentation will focus on the use of dried blood spots in longitudinal surveys.

IFLS has collected blood since wave 2 in 1997. In particular we collect hemoglobin samples using a hand held meter (Hemocue).

In 2000 we began collecting dried blood spot (dbs) samples to see if it could be done in a large scale population survey, which we showed it could. In 2007 we collected dbs and assayed them for high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs CRP). In 2014 we again collected hsCRP and added HbA1c. There are special user guides for the blood data in each wave.

In both 2007 and 2014 we used validation samples collected by the USC-UCLA Biodemography Center and analyzed by our laboratory in Indonesia plus at a laboratory at the University of Washington led by Dr. Alan Potter.

Validation samples were around 200 each wave, 4 and 5. Samples were taken both in whole blood, and dbs. We were able to validate that the Indonesia lab closely replicated the U Washington results. We were also able to derive an equivalence equation between the dbs and whole blood results. This is important because the standards used for cutoffs are for whole blood, not dbs.

In 2014 we also looked at chromatograms for the Aic assays, which proved to be highly useful in obtaining sensible results.

The Generations & Gender Survey: The future of a cross-national survey online

Tom Emery, Anne Gauthier, Susana Cabaco, Detlev Lueck, Robert Naderi, Martin Bujard, Peter Lugtig, Vera Toepoel

The Generations & Gender Survey (GGS) is a large cross-national survey focusing on demographic behavior and family dynamics (www.ggp-i.org). In 2020 a new round of the survey will be conducted in countries across the world. In preparation for this, the GGS has run a field experiment utilizing a push to web (P2W) framework which encourages users to fill out the GGS online (CAWI) rather than through a face to face (F2F) interview. The experiment includes several sub-experiments which are designed to test the optimal parameters of a P2W approach. This includes a test of incentive levels, a test of reminder strategies and a test of invitation letters in a random route setting. Furthermore, these field experiments not only offer an opportunity to examine differences in response rates and patterns between F2F and CAWI but also how the CAWI can be leveraged to allow for cross-pollination with other web data such as para-data and general web activity.

The field experiment includes data from 1,000 respondents in Croatia, Germany and Portugal (3,000 total) and. This paper will present the initial preliminary findings from the field experiment and their implications for the new round of data collection in 2020. Given the cross-national nature of both the GGP and the experiment itself, the results will be of broad interest to European and international demographers as we adapt to a changing and evolving data environment.