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State of the I

This is such an interesting time to be a social scientist! Climate change, economic turmoil and demographic shifts are transforming the world and making new demands on our field. Breakthroughs in the physical and biological sciences are helping to advance our understanding of human behavior in profound and provocative ways, and advances in molecular biology, engineering, web surveys, data storage and global positioning technology are allowing us to make connections that would otherwise remain stubbornly obscure.

In many ways, this is "back to the future" moment for the social sciences – a time when we are called to confront emerging challenges and seize emerging opportunities by building on the strengths of our past with ideas and methods from the future.

One of the key ways we are doing this is to fulfill our mission of training the Next Generation of empirical social scientists. And we are broadening our scope to include two new cutting-edge collaborations to support research on the crucial topic of sustainability. I’m delighted to announce the selection of the first Marshall Weinberg Population, Development, and Climate Change Fellow. This new program, created to stimulate Ph.D. students to develop a multidisciplinary and cross-cultural research agenda very early in their careers, is administered jointly by the U-M School of Natural Resources and by the ISR Population Studies Center.

The second new initiative is the Robert Conrad as Director of the ISR Program in Survey Methodology, a long-standing scientific sound polls and surveys. As the Director of our Program and Joint Program In Survey Methodology, one of only three programs in the nation to confer formal ties are enriched by the many institutional collaborations include links with universities in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and these formal ties are enriched by the many cross-national projects that individual researchers establish.

As we build for the future, we know that these new collaborations stem from our solid reputation and our long history as a leader in academic social science research and survey research methods. So it is with great pleasure that we welcome Frederick Conrad as Director of the ISR Program in Survey Methodology, one of only three programs in the nation to confer advanced degrees in how to conduct scientifically sound polls and surveys. As the Director of our Program and also of the Joint Program In Survey Methodology, a long-standing collaboration between U-M, Westat, and the University of Maryland, Fred will work toward the eventual consolidation of these two important educational programs – another important step in preparing the Next Generation of survey researchers to practice in an increasingly complex, increasingly inter-connected world.
HIDDEN COSTS OF WAR: Middle East Violence and its Effect on Children

by Susan Rosegrant

Wars have obvious victims. The dead, the injured. Those left behind.

But there is another class of victims that often goes unnoticed: children. Not kids who are abducted or killed, but those who simply witness acts of ethnic or political violence, and whose lives and behavior are changed forever. “Violence is really like a contagious disease,” says Rosell Huesmann, director of the Research Center on Group Dynamics at the Institute for Social Research (ISR). “Except in one sense, it’s worse. With contagious diseases, you have to be near the person in order to get it. Violence is contagious even at a distance.”

Huesmann has studied the impact of violence on children in a number of contexts. Most well known is his research showing that kids who watch lots of violent TV programs or movies, or who often play violent video games, become more aggressive. He has also studied how community and peer violence affect kids in inner city neighborhoods.

With funding in 2005 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Huesmann and six other researchers set to work. With funding in 2005 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Huesmann and six other researchers set to work. They knew or loved killed by Israelis [Palestinians] upset or crying because someone

Huesmann says. “The most important finding is that simple exposure to violence results in very substantial increases in both the risk of behaving aggressively against your peers in the in-group, and a significant increase in the risk for developing PTSD symptoms.”

The study team also interviewed a parent of each child or teen.

Interviewers approached the same kids and parents every year for three years, asking questions covering 24 indicators of exposure to ethnic-political conflict and violence. These ranged from watching political violence on TV news, to spending hours in a security shelter, to witnessing actual violence or dealing with the death of a family member or friend.

It was critical to frame the questions so as not to place respondents in legal jeopardy, or, for that matter, to encourage false answers. “We couldn’t ask a Palestinian, ‘Have you thrown a rock at an Israeli soldier?’ which would be the most common way you would aggress against the Israelis,” Huesmann explains. “But we could ask, ‘Have you been in a demonstration where rocks have been thrown against Israeli soldiers?’ It’s a subtle difference, but legally an important one.”

And to successfully do research in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Israeli and Palestinian researchers had to take the lead, Huesmann says. Only they would know the best way to build a representative sample, to elicit cooperation, to maintain the trust of authorities, and even to know what questions you can and can’t ask.

Having said that, operating in Israel in many ways was not that different from doing research in the United States. Simha Landau of Hebrew University engaged a survey research company that contacted respondents by phone and then sent interviewers across the country to do face-to-face interviews. Polls and surveys are common in Israel, and the standard of living too high for the 100-shekel participant incentive provided by NIH—equal to about $25—to mean much. Thus, many respondents were somewhat jaded, Landau says. That, combined with Israeli residents’ easy mobility, contributed to a significant fall-off in the retention rate over the three years of the survey.

By contrast, all PSR’s contacts were face-to-face. “It’s more difficult for someone to turn away two young data collectors who knock at their doors,” he says. The 100-shekel incentive also meant much more to poor Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank than to a typical Israeli. The fact that many Palestinians can’t move freely also likely contributed to PSR’s remarkable 95 percent retention rate over the three years of the survey.

Data collection ended in 2010, and the results, now appearing in a series of articles, have been illuminating. Huesmann says, “The most important finding is that simple exposure to violence results in very substantial increases in both the risk of behaving aggressively against your peers in the in-group, and a significant increase in the risk for developing PTSD symptoms.”

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developing PTS symptoms—anxiety, depression, and so on,” he says. “We expected we’d find some effects, but they’re really quite substantial. We were particularly surprised by how much war violence leads to increased aggression by youth directed at their own peers.” The team also found that ethnic political violence has a cascading effect, stimulating violence within ever-smaller social spheres—the community, schools, peers, and families, all of which increase the violence of the individual.

Part of the value of the research was getting to look more carefully at why observing violence increases aggression by the observer. Many children who routinely witness political violence begin to see it as normal, Huesmann says. “I believe what we found here in just two places, and eventually become desensitized to the point that a violent act may produce little emotional reaction at all. “What we’re talking about are very fundamental rules of how the nervous system, the brain, the mind works,” Huesmann says. “I believe what we found here in just two cultures is probably generalizable to anywhere.”

For team member Eric Dubow, a clinical psychologist by training, the study was also a chance to investigate the factors that protect kids from negative outcomes. “One of the things we’re finding is that self-esteem seems to be a protective factor for these kids, and so is positive parenting—parenting that’s not punitive,” Dubow says. “Some of these kids are exposed to pretty chronic violence, and often that erodes those potential protective factors. But that’s not what’s happening here.”

Perhaps not surprisingly, children whose parents punish them harshly are more likely to be aggressive themselves, or to suffer PTS symptoms.

All of this has policy implications; the researchers plan to recommend approaches both to protect kids from bad effects and to help those already affected. Educating adults about parenting approaches and placing adequate social and therapeutic resources in schools and communities would be important first steps. “We think that every school should have more than one social worker, and that they should be trained to address these specific issues that we find to be very troubling,” Shikaki says.

Indeed, for Shikaki, the policy implications are the crux of the entire survey. Palestinians reported the most incidents of political violence, and showed the highest levels of aggression and PTS symptoms. In fact, about a quarter of the Palestinian kids could probably be diagnosed with full-blown PTSD, Dubow says, compared to about 6 percent of Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs. As Shikaki notes: “Our children, in particular, are at much greater risk, which means we really need a much greater intervention at the policy level to address these issues. If this is not addressed, we’re planting the seeds for the next conflict.”

The researchers agree that the ultimate solution would be to stop this violence once and for all. But given the reality that world leaders must, at a minimum, understand that all wars inflict collateral damage on youth. “Children are at a critical period where their personalities are being molded,” Huesmann says. “We’re talking about how their beliefs, their social cognitions, their emotional reactions are changed. And once these cognitions become crystallized, it’s very difficult to dissolve them.”

José Benkí and Teresa Satterfield speak Spanish at home with their two boys. They read books in Spanish, fix dinner in Spanish, and play games in Spanish. But when Angel goes to preschool, and Felix goes to second grade, their work and play are in English. And as the two boys age, they likely will have fewer and fewer opportunities to use Spanish outside the home in a meaningful way.

For many Spanish-speaking families in Ann Arbor and across the country, that’s just the way it is. Children and teens drop Spanish except for at home with their parents. Although they understand it and speak it, many can’t read or write well in their native tongue, so they lose the opportunity to become fully bilingual. Even worse, students who aren’t really literate in Spanish—who enter school unable to read or write—often struggle to become literate in English. It’s just one factor in the Latino achievement gap, Benkí says, but it’s a serious one.

In 2009, Benkí and Satterfield came up with an idea to change this. Both are linguists and faculty members at the University of Michigan, Benkí at the Institute for Social Research and Satterfield in the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures. What if, they thought, there was a Spanish literacy program in Ann Arbor for native speakers of Spanish, targeted at the years when children are first learning how to read and write? And what if the program for setting up such a program could be analyzed—and the results documented—in order to create a national model?

“We were looking for opportunities for our sons,” Benkí says, but we were interested in the community, as well. And we saw a need and a research interest. What’s sufficient in terms of language exposure at home and formal academic exposure in a school in order for a person to be fully bilingual?”

Backed by about $18,000 in grants from the Ginsberg Center and the Department of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at U-M, Benkí and Satterfield pulled together a pilot program in the spring of 2010. They had imagined the literacy program would meet one day a week after school in the late afternoon or evening; that’s what most of the few programs they’d located around the country did. But when Sandra Núñez, their community liaison officer and an ESL tutor for the Ann Arbor Public Schools, pulled likely participants, families said no—it had to be on Saturday.

Benkí and Satterfield were taken aback by the response. But they’ve come to believe that the Saturday morning time slot is integral to the program’s success. It lets them hold classes in Bach Elementary, an Ann Arbor school already attended by many of the city’s Latino children. The classes are in the morning, when kids are more alert. And the parents who work second jobs, a sizable percentage in the Latino community, are better able to participate.

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The two questions were tackled on at the last minute to a Survey Research Center (SRC) survey on foreign policy: “In the presidential elections next month, are you almost certain to vote, uncertain, or won’t you vote?”

(Kahn and Campbell ran their survey in October, finishing shortly before the November election. The sample of 610 prospective voters was too small to make any predictions about the forthcoming election, and that wasn’t what their research was about anyway, Kahn says. Still, as the responses to the survey came in and Kahn posted them on a blackboard, a surprising trend began to emerge: The two candidates were running neck and neck, with Truman slightly ahead, and more than 20 percent of voters still undecided.

“The thing that was exciting, in spite of our very small sample, was that we were showing almost equal votes for Dewey and for Truman,” Kahn says, “whereas the widely publicized polls—and certainly all the newsprint—were agreed that it was going to be a landslide for the Republicans—for Dewey.”

Kahn and his wife Bea hunkered down by their home radio on election night to listen to the results come in. By late in the evening, broadcasters began questioning the predicted Dewey triumph; by morning, they were announcing one of the greatest upsets in American election history. As Truman, the newly re-elected president, headed from his home in Missouri back to Washington, D.C., the train paused in St. Louis and a photographer snapped the now famous photo of Truman grinning and thrusting out a copy of the Chicago Tribune declaring Dewey the winner.

The very public failure of the predictions shook commercial polling operations to their core. In fact, the negative fallout was so widespread that SRC (soon to be ISR) Director Rensis Likert felt compelled to declare in a Scientific American article that, “It would be as foolish to abandon this field as it would be to give up any scientific inquiry which, because of faulty methods and analysis, produced inaccurate results.”

SRC certainly had no intentions of abandoning the field. Immediately after the election, Kahn and Campbell decided to go back to the respondents who had participated in the first survey. This time, their questions would be firmly focused on how voters had behaved in the just completed election. With the new data in hand, Kahn and Campbell began to draw conclusions, including the following:

★ Pollsters had drastically underestimated the importance of undecided voters, apparently assuming they would either not vote or would split along the lines of committed voters. But in fact, late deciders went 2 to 1 for Truman.

★ Pollsters misunderstood how much could change in the final weeks or even days of the campaign: Roper stopped polling in September, and Gallup and Crosley in early October. But one-eighth of those who claimed to have voted said they didn’t choose a candidate until two weeks or less before Election Day.

★ Pollsters appeared to accept that respondents would do what they said they planned to do, but that often wasn’t the case. Some who said they would vote didn’t; some who said they wouldn’t did. Moreover, a significant number of “committed” voters changed their minds, with more changing from Dewey to Truman.

At the time, commercial polling firms like Gallup and Roper all did quota sampling. Interviewers sought out certain quotas of respondents—such as male or female, young or old—within set geographical areas. But because how they selected those respondents was largely up to them, interviewers might, for example, go mainly to affluent neighborhoods, excluding poor and middle-class residents and biasing the results.

By contrast, SRC used a more time-consuming and costly approach known as probability or random geographic sampling. For the foreign policy survey, they chose clusters of counties across the country, and then randomly sampled the populations in those areas, giving every resident of voting age an equal chance of being chosen. SRC didn’t invent these techniques—they were developed in the 1930s, and one group of researchers had even studied political behavior using community samples in an Ohio county during the 1940 presidential campaign. But SRC was refining them and putting them to new uses.

The hard look at sampling that resulted from Truman’s unexpected win was a turning point in survey methodology. Writing in 1956, Humphrey Taylor, head of polling firm Louis Harris and Asso., declared, “Virtually all public opinion surveys conducted in the United States since then—whether conducted face-to-face or by telephone—have used some modified version of probability (or random) sampling. Indeed, for American researchers quota sampling is almost a dirty phrase.”

Meanwhile, SRC was reaping the benefits of its small but accurate surveys. “It gave us credibility to the organization and its sampling methods that had not been there before,” Kahn says. Campbell launched a new research program to study election behavior with collaborators who eventually came to include Gerald Gurin, Warren Miller, Philip Converse, and Donald Stokes. Their early election behavior studies and other related research were central to the 1970 founding of ISR’s Center for Political Studies, in the process creating the foundation for this branch of political science and the Michigan Election Studies, which Campbell and Miller started in 1952, would go on to become the National Election Studies in 1977 and the American National Election Studies in 2005, along the way covering every presidential and midterm election since 1956.

As for Kahn, he doesn’t believe the survey particularly boosted his research reputation. He shortly moved on to organizational issues. But there was a side benefit: “Angus and I became friends and colleagues in the process of working on it.”

Left: Robert Kahn in 1956
Photo credit: ISR Archives

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Left: Photograph of President Harry S. Truman watching the Chicago Tribune headline “Dewey Defeats Truman.” November 5, 1948.
Photo credit: campaign scrapbook of Harry S. Truman, trumanlibrary.org

ISR and the TRUMAN/DEWEY UPSET

by Susan Rosegrant
Bad neighborhoods and high school graduation

Growing up in a poor neighborhood significantly reduces the chances that a child will graduate from high school, and the longer a child lives in that kind of neighborhood, the more harmful the impact.

The study, by University of Michigan sociologists Geoffrey Wooldke and David Harding and University of Wisconsin-Madison sociologist Felix Elwert, is the first to capture the cumulative impact of growing up in America’s most disadvantaged neighborhoods on a key educational outcome – high school graduation.

“Compared to growing up in affluent neighborhoods, growing up in neighborhoods with high levels of poverty and unemployment reduces the chances of high school graduation from 96 percent to 76 percent for black children,” says Wooldke, a National Science Foundation graduate research fellow and Ph.D. student who works with Harding at ISR. “The impact on white children is also harmful, but not as large, reducing their chances of graduating from 95 percent to 87 percent.”

In contrast to earlier research that examined neighborhood effects on children at a single point in time, the new study uses data from the ISR Panel Study of Income Dynamics to follow 2,093 children from age one through age 17, assessing the neighborhoods in which they lived every year.

The study was published in the American Sociological Review.

Growing income and gender gaps in college graduation

The gap in rates of college completion between students from high- and low-income families has grown significantly in the last 50 years, according to a University of Michigan study.

“We find growing advantages for students from high-income families,” says ISR economist Martha Bailey, who conducted the study with U-M economist Susan Dynarski. “And we also find that increases in educational inequality are largely driven by women.”

Bailey and Dynarski analyzed nearly seventy years of data on postsecondary education from the U.S. Census and the National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth.

Their findings were included as a chapter in the book Whither Opportunity? Rising Inequality and the Uncertain Life Chances of Low-Income Children, published in 2011 by the Russell Sage Foundation.

They found that 54 percent of those who went to college in the early 2000s and who were from families in the top income category graduated from college, fully 18 percentage points more than college-age students in the same income group twenty years earlier. In contrast, college completion rates for those in the lowest income group increased only slightly over the same period, from 5 percent to 9 percent.

“Growing inequality in college graduation rates happened during a period when education became increasingly important for subsequent earnings,” says Dynarski.

The U-M researchers also found that inequality in educational attainment has risen more sharply among women than among men.

Narcissistic men may be paying a high price in terms of their physical health, in addition to the psychological cost to their relationships.

“Given societal definitions of masculinity that overlap with narcissism— for example, the belief that men should be arrogant and dominant—men who endorse stereotypically male sex roles and who are also high in narcissism may feel especially stressed,” Konrath suggests.


To test your level of narcissism, visit http://bit.ly/NarcissisticPersonalityQuiz.
Supporting the NEXT GENERATION

The generous donors who contribute to ISR’s 94 research funds and fellowships provide critical support for the research and training activities of graduate students, post-doctoral candidates, young researchers, and junior faculty in a range of disciplines. Following are three profiles, written by Susan Rosegrant, that capture some of the innovative work being undertaken by recent award winners.

Nicky Newton
2011 Libby Douvan Junior Scholarship in Life Course Development

Nicky Newton left her home and “a very grounded upbringing” in Christchurch, New Zealand, at 17 to study flute. Years of intense work, including study with the principal flute player of the Vienna Philharmonic, Wolfgang Schulz, eventually landed Newton a job with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. But in her early 30s, something went badly wrong. The little finger and ring finger of Newton’s left hand began to curl into her palms when she tried to play—a characteristic of focal dystonia, an overuse syndrome that can affect musicians and others who stress parts of the body not intended for work.

Two years of unsuccessful rehabilitation, and the painful realization that she could no longer be a professional musician, upended Newton’s life. After she and her American fiancé, Nicky Newton left her home and “a very grounded upbringing” in Christchurch, New Zealand, at 17 to study flute. Years of intense work, including study with the principal flute player of the Vienna Philharmonic, Wolfgang Schulz, eventually landed Newton a job with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. But in her early 30s, something went badly wrong. The little finger and ring finger of Newton’s left hand began to curl into her palms when she tried to play—a characteristic of focal dystonia, an overuse syndrome that can affect musicians and others who stress parts of the body not intended for work.

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Perhaps in part because of her own unconventional path, Newton—who has short reddish-brown hair, a frank gaze, and a contagious laugh—chose to focus her research on women who have lived outside the norm. For her dissertation, she examined women in their early 60s, looking particularly at what relationship their life choices had with well being and personality. Specifically, she studied women who never had children, women who divorced after having children and didn’t remarry, and women who went into predominantly male professions. “All the non-normative women were rated by personality researchers as sharing a propensity to reject norms, but they reject them in different ways,” depending on which of the three groups they are in, Newton says. The research, she adds, shows just how complex the links between personality and life paths can be.

Newton’s dissertation research inspired her to dig deeper with a larger and more representative data set. With support from the Libby Douvan Junior Scholars Award in Life Course Development, Newton is now working with ISR researchers Jacqui Smith and Lindsey Ryan on a study looking at four cohorts of women in their 50s and 60s through the lens of social context. The first goal of the study is to identify the percentage of married women and single women—including divorced, widowed, and always single—at different points of time, and to see if those percentages have changed. Second, the researchers will look at differences between single and married women in social connectedness, and at how that influences health and well being. Among other things, Newton hopes the research will shed light on the impact of political and social events like the feminist movement on women’s psychological development.

Newton has continued her research collaboration in her new job as an assistant professor of psychology at Youngstown State University in Ohio, where she teaches lifespan development and research methods. She also recently took up a new challenge: tap dancing. “I’m hoping the music can translate to my feet,” she says. “I don’t want to be disappointed: Ex-musician does not make good on tap dance floor!”

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Brady West
2011 Charles Cannell Fund in Survey Methodology

If the word “driven” were given human form, it might look a lot like Brady West—a lean 32-year-old with a buzz haircut and a long angular face to get the next thing done…get someone helped…get to the point.

Last October, in just a little over three years, West got his Ph.D. from the Michigan Program in Survey Methodology. Along the way, West worked three quarters time as a graduate student/research assistant and a consultant at a campus center for statistical consultation and research. He oversaw the work of more than 50 deacons at Ann Arbor’s First Presbyterian Church. He devised new ranking methods that could improve how college football and basketball teams are selected for their championship games. He published several papers in peer reviewed journals. He traveled with his wife. And he played competitive basketball with former high school buddies from Livonia.

“I don’t waste time during the day,” West says. “Every single minute of the day I have to have something I’m working on and taking care of or I feel like I’m not being productive.”

That drive was apparent in West’s ambitious dissertation on non-response adjustment. When conducting surveys, researchers want to make sure that non-respondents, those who choose not to participate, aren’t different in important ways from those who do, thus biasing the results. By collecting interviewer observations of relevant details at all households, researchers are able to draw some conclusions about the families that decide not to take part, and to adjust their estimates accordingly. For example, when interviewers for ISR’s National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) do face-to-face screening interviews, they record whether they think the person they talked to is in a sexually active relationship, based on selected details such as whether a member of the opposite sex was present during the interview. (Government agencies use NSFG’s rich pool of data on family life to plan health services and programs and to study families, fertility, and health.)

But West wondered how accurate those observations were. “That just troubled me from the first day I heard about this,” West says. “Aren’t those guesses? Aren’t those judgments? What if they’re actually not sexually active? Aren’t your predictions and your estimates all going to be wrong?”

West concluded that the answer to that last question was yes. For his dissertation, he showed that if interviewer observations are incorrect, the adjustments based on them lower the quality of survey estimates. “I’m doing some research now to try to find at what point, in terms of reduced quality, it doesn’t make sense to use the observations for adjustment.” He also used completed surveys to produce a list of variables that most accurately predict respondent reports of sexual activity; interviewers now have a list of those ten predictors posted on their laptops. “Things like was there a kid present in the house, did the person say they were in a relationship, are they older—not rocket science,” West says. The checklist, he notes, has reduced the number of false positive judgments, the main failing of previous observations.

In late October, immediately after his dissertation defense, West flew to Germany for two weeks to complete a related research project. Then he joined the program he had just graduated from as an assistant research professor; West had received several offers, but Michigan’s couldn’t be matched. “A personality flaw, if you will, is always feel like I let people down if I don’t do a good enough job for them,” Brady says. “Seeing that kind of offer added to my motivation to do as high quality work as possible to show them they made the right decision.”

Here’s betting they did.
Lisa Marchiondo, who will receive her Ph.D. from Michigan’s Department of Psychology next month, is studying the impact of incivility in the workplace on individuals and organizations. It’s an area of research, Marchiondo says, that hasn’t gotten the attention it deserves. “It’s so low level, it’s hard to address,” she says. “Yet despite the fact that it’s low level, it has really profound consequences,” like low productivity, burnout, and even early retirement.

Marchiondo defines incivility as behavior that breaks the norms of respect, and that a majority of people would consider rude—behavior like not returning emails, or ignoring or excluding a co-worker. According to her research, such behavior is disturbingly widespread: In one of her studies, 88 percent of respondents reported experiencing incivility in the last year. But Marchiondo isn’t just looking at prevalence. She also wants to see how different people interpret and experience uncivil acts.

Marchiondo, 28, got the inspiration for the study in school. One professor was so bad at returning emails and so blunt in dismissing student comments that a portion of the class wanted to file a joint complaint. Yet others faced with the same behavior accepted it. “That really sparked my interest,” she recalls. “What forms these different opinions, and how does that relate to people’s outcomes?”

Cognitive psychologist Frederick Conrad has been appointed director of the University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology, based at the U-M Institute for Social Research (ISR). The Program is one of only three in the U.S. to provide graduate-level training in how to conduct scientifically sound polls and surveys.

“I am delighted that Fred Conrad will be heading this important graduate program,” says ISR Director James S. Jackson. “His energy and deep commitment to the highest standards of survey research are crucial to the continuing success and growth of this program. The field of survey research is going through major changes, from incorporating new types of data to using new types of media for collecting data, and Fred’s leadership in understanding the challenges and opportunities facing the next generation of survey researchers is invaluable.”

Conrad succeeds the Program’s founding director, James Lepkowski, a professor of statistics and public health who will now serve as associate director of the Program.

For example, an employee who thinks her boss isn’t answering her email because he doesn’t like her feels much worse than one who thinks the boss is just busy. Marchiondo was also surprised to discover that a small percentage of employees feel they can grow from uncivil treatment. “You wouldn’t go into this thinking somebody could actually see this as a learning opportunity,” Marchiondo says, “but being able to pinpoint that and see how it influences people helps expand our knowledge of people’s sense-making of these kinds of events.”

Marchiondo, who in August will join Wayne State University as an assistant professor of psychology, says incivility appears to be on the upswing.

One possible explanation is that more overt misbehaviors like discrimination and harassment are now illegal, but people can still get away with being rude. “It’s important for organizations to prevent the occurrence of incivility, because you don’t know how people are going to make sense of it, and it’s difficult to address retrospectively,” she says. “Organization leaders have to be models, not only through their behavior but in talking about it and saying, ‘Be aware of how you’re behaving.’”

To this end, Marchiondo is pleased to have served on a civility committee at ISR. One of its proposed initiatives? To establish and foster norms of respect among faculty and staff. It’s an important consideration, given that in Marchiondo’s studies more than 60 percent of people say the incivility came from someone hierarchically above them. “It is often a top down thing,” she says. ✷
A visiting Latino musician might sing with the kids or an artist guide them in painting. And every couple of weeks, interested parents meet in a separate room to talk about issues they face as immigrants, such as how to navigate the American educational system and how to handle a parent-teacher conference.

For now, En Nuestra Lengua is free and Benkí and Satterfield plan to keep it that way. About $25,000 in grants from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and the National Center for Institutional Diversity at U-M will take the program through the 2011-2012 year. Some parents have offered to pay, Benkí says, but he and Satterfield want all children to have the same access, whether their parents are doctors or don’t have work documents. Current families have roots in 12 countries, including Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Spain, and Cuba.

The literacy program has proven a rich opportunity for research. Benkí and Satterfield are publishing papers on methods to evaluate and place students in native language literacy programs, on community support of the Saturday morning language school model, and on the program’s success in achieving and maintaining Spanish literacy. “We have kids who are reading in Spanish at grade level in kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade,” Benkí says.

“That’s not the way it was when we started.”

Preliminary data from 2010 for students in the kindergarten and 1st grade classes also show a high correlation between Spanish literacy levels and the English literacy levels students are achieving in their elementary schools. From this work, Benkí and Satterfield intend to develop a proven set of K-3rd grade curricula for communities to adopt nationwide. Latinos are the fastest growing demographic in the country, Benkí notes, and for the young to be less than fully literate in their native language, and possibly struggling with English, as well, is a tragic waste of resources and potential. “We don’t see it as either politically or financially viable to have vast bilingual immersion for the Latinos in this country,” Benkí says. “So we need some kind of solution for kids not to lose that cognitive development they started out with.”

...they were hoping to attract 20 kids. When the doors opened, they got 50.

“We said, ‘Whoa, what are we going to do?’” Benkí recalls, laughing. Interest hasn’t flagged since. Now into their 3rd grade program, and they were hoping to attract 20 kids. When the doors opened, they got 50.

In typical two- and-a-half hour sessions, En Nuestra Lengua—In Our Language—hasn’t flagged since. Now into their 3rd grade program, and they were hoping to attract 20 kids. When the doors opened, they got 50.

“Benkí meets with a group of parents. Photo courtesy of José Benkí.

He worked at Carnegie-Mellon University as a post-doctoral research associate in the Psychology Department then joined the Artificial Intelligence Research Group of Digital Equipment Corporation as principal software engineer.

In 1991 he joined the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as a senior research psychologist, and in 2002 he joined both ISR and the Fast Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland as an associate research scientist. He is now research professor at both institutions.

Conrad is the author or co-author of scores of articles and book chapters on questionnaire design, survey interviewing methods, web surveys, and related topics. He is the co-editor of Envisioning the Survey Interview of the Future, and Intersections in Basic and Applied Memory Research, and the co-author of Voting Technology: The Not-So-Simple Act of Casting a Ballot.

Honors & Awards

Toni Antonucci, ISR Survey Research Center, won the 2011 Robert L. Kahn Masterpiece Living Lifetime Achievement in Promoting Successful Aging Award. The award recognizes contributions to the propagation and application of principles of successful aging.

Jacque Eccles, ISR Research Center for Group Dynamics, received the 2012 APA Division 7 Urie Bronfenbrenner Award for Lifetime Contribution to Developmental Psychology in the Service of Science and Society.” Eccles also received the Shavelson Award for Life Time Contributions to the Study of the Self from the International Self Research Society based at the University of Sydney, Australia.

Robert Groves, Director of the U.S. Census and Research Professor at the ISR Survey Research Center, was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Members of the organization are elected based on their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

Myron Gutmann, Director of the Social, Behavioral and Economics Directorate at the National Science Foundation and ISR Research Professor, was elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Gutmann served as Director of the ISR Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research from 2001 to 2009.

Ronald Inglehart, ISR Center for Political Studies and ISR Population Studies Center, and Harvard University colleague Pippa Norris won the 2011 Johan Skytte Prize in political science, awarded annually by Sweden’s Skytte Foundation at Uppsala University for the most valuable contribution to political science. In making the award, the committee of Inglehart’s and Norris’s “innovative ideas about the relevance and roots of political culture in a global context, transcending previous mainstream approaches of research.”

Jerome Johnston, ISR Research Center for Group Dynamics, received a 2011 Literacy Leadership Award from the National Coalition for Literacy, for his work on the U.S.A. Learn Website, designed to help Spanish-speakers learn English. The awards are presented to recipients who have “made extraordinary contributions to improving literacy in the United States.” Watch a video about U.S.A. Learns and Johnston at http://youtu.be/rO9Y1iZF7vQ.

Lloyd Johnston, ISR Survey Research Center, was named the Angus Campbell Collegiate Research Professor at the University of Michigan. Johnston’s pioneering work in substance abuse and obesity prevention has been invaluable to educators, scientists and policy makers, including U.S. presidents and Congress. He directs Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of the Lifetyles and Values of American Youth, now in its 36th year, and the Youth, Education and Society study, launched 14 years ago. Read a profile of Johnston at http://bit.ly/lloydjohnston.

Scott Page, ISR Center for Political Studies, was named a 2011 fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a prestigious society that recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in scholarly and professional fields.

Sela Panapasa, ISR Research Center for Group Dynamics, received a 2011 Health Disparities Research Leadership Award as a result of her significant contributions to improving Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander health. The award was conferred Dec. 3, 2011, at the Sixth Annual Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Health Conference co-hosted by the New York University Center for the Study of Asian American Health and the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

Pamela Smock, ISR Population Studies Center Director, was elected to the Population Association of America Board of Directors. Her three-year term began in January 2012.
The ISR Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) will conclude its celebration of 50 years in data management with the symposium "Analyzing Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems," featuring Nobel Laureate and former ICPSR Council member Elinor Ostrom. The symposium will take place on June 7, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. at the Rackham Amphitheatre on the University of Michigan campus. It will be livestreamed at http://livestream.com/ICPSR. For more information about ICPSR's 50th anniversary, visit http://bit.ly/50thICPSR.