

ASOND News

2014 AERA Meeting in Philadelphia

Power of Education Research for Innovation in Policy and Practice
Thursday, April 3 - Monday, April 7, 2014



Independence Hall frames the Liberty Bell

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...”

Even though the framers of the Declaration of Independence did not really mean “all men,” and even though today we would add “all women,” this revolu-

tionary sentiment still echoes throughout Independence Hall, while, nearby, a cracked bell continues to stand for Liberty. Join us next year in the City of Brotherly Love to explore the power of research in the search for equity and equality.

In This Issue:

- 2014 Annual Meeting - p. 1
- Big Data a National Treasure - p. 2
- Meet the New Officers - p. 3
- 2013 Annual Dissertation Awards - p. 4
- 2014 Dissertation Award Announcement - p. 4
- Join ASOND! - p. 5
- Highlights - 2011-2013 - p.5
- Here and There - p. 6

ASOND has been blessed with outstanding leadership. Below SIG Chair Herb Ware (2011-2013) of George Mason University passes the baton to his successor, Susan Losh of Florida State University.



BIG DATA IS A NATIONAL TREASURE

Political hostility to large-scale data collection at the national level comes “at a particularly inauspicious time, when data archives now provide us with unprecedented, unparalleled tracking of many educational, behavioral, and social phenomena,” warned incoming SIG Chair Susan Carol Losh on April 27 during the “Chair’s Address” to AERA’s Special Interest Group on Advanced Studies of National Data Bases.

This perspicacious alarm preceded the wave of national concern about individual privacy prompted by the June-July revelations of National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden about NSA’s data collection activities. The Snowden phenomenon will provide near-ideal cover for any politician eager to cut back on large-scale social science data collection.

Citing prior Congressional efforts to hobble the Na-

tional Science Foundation’s “political science research” and the Bureau of the Census’s American Community Survey, Losh worried that a variety of large-scale surveys from NSF, the Commerce Department’s Bureau of the Census, the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, and the Center for Disease Control are at risk, threatening the nation’s ability to develop indicators and assess itself against international competitors. Archives of these ongoing surveys are “national treasures, affording us glimpses of American life, from children through senior citizens,” said Losh.

“There’s ‘gold in them thar hills,’” she concluded. “We can’t let budget crunches or political ideologies rob us of these opportunities to examine our country (and others) through the data equivalent of ‘video’ as opposed to one-time snapshots.”

And a first step in protecting these national treasures involves joining and becom-



Above: Susan Losh discusses national treasures. **Below:** New program chair, Carolyn Barber

ing active in the ASOND SIG, she argued.

Get to know and love these databases, urged Losh. Use them. “By using your favorite data base, publicizing it, and training your graduate students and colleagues on it, you, too, can help ensure its continuity.”

The complete presentation is available at:

<http://mailer.fsu.edu/~slosh/BigDataNationalTreasure.doc>

MEET THE NEW OFFICERS

The annual SIG meeting in April saw the installation of a new team to keep ASOND moving ahead:

Susan Losh, Florida State University, immediate-past Program Chair of the Advanced Studies of National Databases SIG, is now SIG Chair for the term 2013-2015. Dr. Losh is a charter member of ASOND with wide-ranging experience in large-scale data base analysis dating back to her doctoral studies at the University of Michigan.

Carolyn Barber, University of Missouri, Kansas City, is the newly elected Program Chair for 2013-2015, and will assume the SIG chairmanship at the 2015 annual



meeting. In mid-August Carolyn reports record numbers of ASOND submissions for AERA 2014.

Secretary-Treasurer Position: As of mid August, this position remains vacant pending AERA's conduct of an election. We have two excellent candidates to fill out the 2013-14 term vacated by **Laura LoGerfo**

of the National Center for Education Statistics: **Jian Li**, Kent State University (I) and **Amy Rathbun**, American Institutes for Research (below).



Jill Adelson, University of Louisville, and **James Harvey**, Seattle University doctoral student, agreed to serve as webmaster and newsletter editor, respectively.

Although the indefatigable **Herb Ware** (George Mason University) thought he had laid down his ASOND burden following his term as SIG chair, Susan Losh immediately appointed him as communications adviser to help disseminate information to SIG members.

2013 ANNUAL DISSERTATION AWARDS



Most years ASOND makes only one dissertation award. Some years it makes none. It's a sign of how strong submissions in this area have been that, in 2013, at its annual business meeting, the SIG Executive Committee recognized two individuals in the annual compe-

tion for the Outstanding Dissertation.

The winner of the 2013 Outstanding Dissertation competition was **Jehanzeb R. Cheema**, Ph.D., George Mason University (I) for his dissertation *Handling Missing Data in Education Research Using SPSS*. His dissertation chair was Dr. Dimitar Dimitrov.

Kate Niehaus, Ph.D., University of Louisville, received an Honorable Men-

tion for her dissertation *School Support, Parental Involvement, and Academic Outcomes for English Language Learners in Elementary School*. Her dissertation chair was Dr. Jill Adelson.

Both recipients have been invited to present on their dissertations at the 2014 Business Meeting of the SIG Advanced Studies of National Databases.

Well done!

2014 DISSERTATION AWARD COMPETITION

Nominations sought for the Advanced Studies of National Databases Outstanding Dissertation Award

Year award established: 2010

Rationale: The ASOND SIG invites nominations of dissertations that make outstanding contributions to educational and/or social science research using national databases.

Eligibility criteria: Dissertations completed between January 1-December 31, 2013 are eligible.

Nomination deadline: All submissions must be sent via email to the ASOND Chair no later than 12:00 PM (Eastern), December 31, 2013.

Submission materials and review criteria: Details on information to be included in the submissions and the review criteria are available from the ASOND Chair at the address below.

Recognition: The recipient(s) of this award will receive a plaque during the AERA ASOND SIG business meeting and will be recognized on the ASOND SIG website.

2013-2015 contact person for this award:

Susan Carol Losh, Ph.D.

Department of Educational Psychology and Learning Systems

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL 32306-4453

e-mail: slosh@fsu.edu

JOIN ASOND!

Do you (or someone you know) work with large databases?

If so, you belong in ASOND, AERA's Special Interest Group on Advanced Studies of National Data Bases! Join yourself. And encourage your students and colleagues to join as well. Our SIG brings together AERA members interested in researching the methodological complexities of using large-scale datasets with those who apply these datasets toward addressing research questions and policy issues in their content areas. Our members include those who use large-scale databases in sophisticated ways to answer substantive questions of interest to researchers and policymakers, *as well as* those pursuing methodological studies to inform our understanding of how to appropriately conduct research using these data.

Although the name emphasizes national databases, ASOND welcomes researchers us-

ing large-scale data at any of a number of levels of context, including international studies and work employing state- or district-level data systems.

To join ASOND, you must also be a member of AERA.

To join AERA, go to the AERA website and click on "Membership" –

<http://www.aera.net/membership.htm> .

During the process, you will be asked to identify the special interest groups (SIGs) you wish to join. Simply select the SIG: Advanced Studies of National Databases (SIG 6).

Annual dues: \$6.00, a great price for a great value!

HIGHLIGHTS 2011-2013



Asked to reflect on his years with the SIG, outgoing Chair Herb Ware (George Mason University) responded: Gratitude to his

predecessor, Debbie Hahs-Vaughn (University of Central Florida) who launched the newsletter and oversaw the formulating of SIG by-laws in accordance with AERA requirements. Satisfaction that SIG membership had nearly doubled in recent years, and that membership involvement in the

2013 SIG business meeting set an all-time high. Finally, "The Outstanding Dissertation Award competition seems to have reached a new level of maturity. Over three years, the quality of submissions has improved dramatically, so much so that this year for the first time we made two awards."

THE ASOND SIG

ASOND is a special interest group of the American Educational Research Association (AERA).

The purpose of the Advanced Studies of National Databases (ASOND) Special Interest Group (SIG) is to advance knowledge of the contexts and practices of education through facilitating awareness and understanding of the rigorous research methods required for analysis of national databases. The ASOND SIG is interested in the use of large-scale databases for both substantive and methodological research.



HERE AND THERE

This is your page!

Here we'd like to highlight what you consider to be significant: new books and articles, calls for papers, announcements of upcoming workshops and conferences, grant and contract possibilities. Let us know what you consider important; we'll try to include it in future newsletters.

Journal Articles and Books

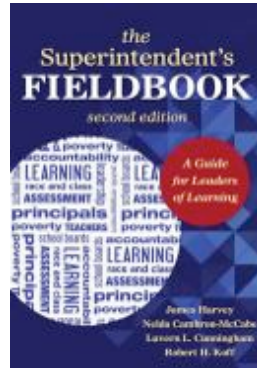
Alex Bowers of Teachers College, Columbia reports his research group has been very productive in analyzing national databases. Among recent publications:

A latent class analysis of principal perception of leadership in *Educational Administration Quarterly* (forthcoming), by A. Urlick and A.J. Bowers.

An analysis of recreational computer use and student achievement in *Educational Technology Research and Development*, 61(1) by A.J. Bowers and M. Berland.

An investigation of why tenth-graders fail to finish high school in *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk*, 17(3) by A.J. Bowers and R. Sprott, and a related exploration by the same authors on multiple trajectories associated with dropping out in the *Journal of Educational Research*, 105(3).

SIG editor James Harvey has worked on leadership development for school superintendents for two decades. Corwin Press in 2013 published the second edition of the best-selling *Superintendent's Fieldbook*, written by Harvey and three co-authors, which draws on national and international data bases to examine American education.

**Calls for Papers**

Journals are always eager to receive first-rate papers! New in 2013 is the IEA-ETS Journal on *Large-Scale Assessments in Education*.

Submissions:

<http://tinyurl.com/o5xurku>

Meanwhile, SIG Chair Susan Losh reports she is accepting papers and looking for book reviewers for Sage's *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society*.

Call for papers:

<http://tinyurl.com/qjz867k>

See also ASOND's call for submissions for its 2014 Outstanding Dissertation Award (p. 4).

Deadline: December 31, 2013.

Research Support

AERA with support from the National Science Foundation funds two significant grant programs: Dissertation awards of up to \$20,000 and faculty awards of up to \$35,000 for research using large-scale national and international data sets. **Deadline:** September 5, 2013. **Information:** www.aera.net/grantsprogram

Upcoming Conferences/Workshops

Interested in burnishing your skills in analyzing large-scale

ASOND SIG: Advanced Studies of National Databases

Officers & Advisers**SIG Chair**

Susan Losh, Ph. D.

Florida State University

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Program Chair

Carolyn Barber, Ph.D.

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Secretary/Treasurer

Vacant Pending Fall Election

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Communications Adviser

Herbert (Herb) Ware, Ph. D.

George Mason University

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international data bases? Here's your chance.

Spend a week in Hamburg examining hierarchical linear modeling using data from IEA's TIMSS and PIRLS assessments. You'll learn how to choose appropriate models, utilize HLM software, and how to interpret the results.

Dates: Nov. 25-29, 2013.

Cost: 350 Euros; Students: 200.

Information:

<http://tinyurl.com/pku3rs3>