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GSS News

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GSS on the Web

Data and documentation on the GSS exist in several places on the Internet. For a guide to these sites go to:

www.gss.norc.org

2016 GSS Data

The new 1972-2016 GSS cumulative is on our web site at www.gss.norc.org.

The three, 3-wave panels (2006-08-10, 2008-10-12, and 2010-12-14 and other datasets are also available from the GSS web site (www.gss.norc.org). The GSS Panel Codebook for the panels <http://gss.norc.org/Documents/codebook/Panel%20Codebook.pdf>)

documents question wording, order, and frequencies of all questions asked in the GSS Panels beginning in 2006, 2008, and 2010. For the first time, it documents new modules on scripture, identity, and immigration, as well as other topics. The Panel Codebook also includes the third replication of the ISSP Religion module, and the

addition of ISSP modules on Sport and Leisure and Health and Healthcare.

Also released are the Cross-Section and Panel Variable and Module Identification, in static <http://gss.norc.org/Documents/other/Cross-Section%20and%20Panel%20Variable%20and%20Module%20Identification.pdf>) and sortable <http://gss.norc.org/Documents/other/Sortable%20Cross-Section%20and%20Panel%20Variable%20and%20Module%20Identification>.

[xlsx](#)) versions. These documents help users identify whether their variables of interest were collected on the cross-section or in the panel, as well as what variables have been replicated across various panels. ■

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GSS RENEWED

The National Science Foundation has approved funding for the GSS from August 15, 2015 through July 30, 2019. That covers the GSS/ISSP in 2016 and 2018. ■

International Social Survey Program (ISSP) Data Available

The GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences at the University of Cologne has released the final release of 2015 Work Orientation IV module. It is located at:

<https://dbk.gesis.org/dbksearch/sdesc2.asp?no=6770&db=e&doi=10.4232/1.12848>

The preliminary release of the 2016 Role of Government V module is located at:

<https://dbk.gesis.org/DBKsearch/sdesc2.asp?ll=10&no-tabs=&af=&nf=&search=&search2=&db=e&no=6900>

For earlier ISSP datasets:

<http://www.gesis.org/en/issp/home/>

The data and documentation are also available at GESIS in NESSTAR as part of ZACAT. Go to <http://zacat.gesis.org/webview/> and then click on ISSP in the left column. ■



RELIGION AROUND THE WORLD

The 2018 ISSP study of Religion IV with previous rounds in 1991, 1998, and 2008 is currently underway. Besides being fielded by ISSP members, due to a major grant from the Templeton Religion Trust (TRT), the ISSP Religion IV study is to be conducted in 15 non-ISSP countries in 1) North African and the Middle East, 2) Sub-Saharan Africa, and 3) East and South Asia. The TRT grant will greatly expand coverage in regions covering religious traditions underrepresented in the ISSP.

Ultimately, the ISSP and TRT data will merged into a cross-national file that will be the largest cross-national study focusing on religion ever conducted.

Into the Future: ISSP 2018+

At the annual meeting of the ISSP held in Guadalajara, Mexico on April 29-May 2, 2018, the group finalized the contents of the 2019 module on Social Inequality V, adopted the themes for Environment IV in 2020, and selected

Health Policy II as the topic for 2021. South Africa headed the Social Inequality drafting group, Austria chairs Environment, and Israel chairs Health Policy. The 2019 ISSP meeting is to be in Delhi and Jaunpur, India. ■

Over 9,079 research uses have been documented using ISSP data. A copy of the bibliography is available from the ISSP website (see below).

ISSP documentation and information can be obtained at the following websites:

<http://www.issp.org/>

<http://www.gesis.org/issp/>

Over the years, 60 countries have participated in the ISSP:

Argentina	Cyprus	India	New Zealand	Sri Lanka
Australia	Czech Republic	Indonesia	Norway	Suriname
Austria	Denmark	Ireland	Palestine	Sweden
Bangladesh	Dominican Republic	Israel	The Philippines	Switzerland
Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Poland	Taiwan
Bolivia	Finland	Japan	Portugal	Tanzania
Brazil	France	Kenya	Romania	Thailand
Bulgaria	Georgia	Korea (South)	Russia	Turkey
Canada	Germany	Latvia	Slovakia	Ukraine
Chile	Great Britain	Lithuania	Slovenia	The United States
China	Hungary	Mexico	South Africa	Uruguay
Croatia	Iceland	The Netherlands	Spain	Venezuela

ISSP and CSDI

The International Workshop on Comparative Survey Design and Implementation (CSDI) was founded in 2002 in Brussels at a meeting of researchers active in cross-national or cross-cultural survey research. The main goal of CSDI is to improve comparative survey design, implementation and related analysis. The annual workshops provides a forum and platform for researchers involved in research relevant for comparative survey methods.

In 2008, CSDI organized the International Conference on Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional, and Multicultural Contexts (3MC) in Berlin. The 3MC conference was the first-ever international conference to focus exclusively on methods for comparative research. The CSDI Advisory Committee functioned as the conference organizing committee. 3MC brought together researchers working on a wide range of topics related to cross-national and cross-cultural survey methods, including research on study and instrument design, data collection, quality assurance, data analysis and dissemination archiving. It was attended by researchers and practitioners from around the globe, representing business, industry, public services such as health and education, academic researchers and public policy makers. The conference focused in particular on methods, tools, strategies and protocols that help maximize comparability across countries, languages and cultures.

The book based on the Berlin conference, Janet A. Harkness, Michael Braun, Brad Edwards, Timothy P. Johnson, Lars Lyberg, Peter Ph. Mohler, Beth-Ellen Pennell, Tom W. Smith, eds., *Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional, and Multicultural Contexts*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2010, won the American Association for Public Opinion Research Book Award in 2013 "recognizing influential books that have stimulated theoretical and scientific research in public opinion; and/or influenced our understanding or application of survey research methodology."

In 2016, CSDI organized the Second International Conference on Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional, and Multicultural Contexts (3MC) in Chicago. A book based on this conference, Timothy P. Johnson, Beth Ellen Pennell, Ineke Stoop, and Brita Dorer, eds., *Advances in Comparative Survey Methods: Multinational, Multiregional, and Multicultural Contexts*, New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2018, will be issued in August, 2018.

Both books feature chapters by Tom W. Smith and chapters by such other ISSP collaborators such as Michael Braun, Janet Harkness, Roger Jowell, Achim Koch, Peter Ph. Mohler, and Knut Kalgraff Skjak. ■

GSS Data Explorer

GSS Data Explorer Course

The GSS website (www.gss.norc.org) was notably enhanced when the GSS Data Explorer was added in 2015 and when the Data Explorer itself was expanded by the addition of the interactive Key Trends feature in 2017 (<https://gssdataexplorer.norc.org/trends>). Jaesok Son, GSS Research Scientist, presented a short course at the American Sociological Association meetings in Philadelphia entitled: "Introduction to the General Social Survey (GSS) and the Data Explorer Description." This course was intended for those who are interested in using the GSS but who have never used the GSS data before. It gave a general overview of the GSS data structure as well as some guidance about where novice users can start and what resources are available. This course also introduced the GSS Data Explorer, an online analysis tool provided by the GSS team and NORC. This course provided an overview regarding using the GSS Data Explorer for simple analyses online and how it may be utilized in classes especially when statistical programs (e.g. SPSS and Stata) are not available. ■

HYPERNETWORK STUDIES

The GSS has conducted a long series of national hypernetwork studies. These studies use a hypernetwork sample generator on the GSS to create nationally-representative samples of the target population. The first nationally-representative hypernetwork sample ever conducted was the National Organizations Study (NOS) based on the 1991 GSS (<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/6240>). It asked employed respondents to report on the name and contact information for their employer. This was then utilized to create a national sample of employers who then were contacted and interviewed about their employee benefits and other organizational policies and practices in the follow-up NOS.

On the 2018 GSS for the first time two hypernetwork samples will be conducted based on the same GSS. One will be the latest NOS study of employees sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The second will be the fourth National Congregations Study (NCS) directed by Mark Chaves at Duke University. For the earlier NCSs see <http://www.soc.duke.edu/natcong/index.html>. ■

THE ML-MS APPROACH ON THE 2016 AND 2018 GSS

To more fully understand human society, surveys need to collect and analyze multi-level and multi-source data (ML-MS data). (See Tom W. Smith and Jibum Kim, "The Multi-Level, Multi-Source (ML-MS) Approach to Improving Survey Research," GSS Methodology Report No. 121. Chicago: 2013 and Tom W. Smith and Jibum Kim, "An Assessment of the Multi-level Integrated Database Approach," The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 645 (2013), 185-221.) The central goal of the ML-MS approach is to augment data collected during an interview with data from other sources both those internal to the survey from the sample frame and both process and observational paradata and from external sources linked to the case at the respondent and household levels and at various geographical levels (e.g. neighborhood and community). The external, auxiliary data include both public, governmental data from such sources as the Census and American Community Study, the Environmental Protection Agency, and voter registration records and propriety, commercial databases.

Methodologically, the use of ML-MS data in general and the augmenting of respondent-supplied information with auxiliary data (AD) from sample frames, other sources, and paradata in particular can notably help to both measure and reduce total survey error. For example, it can be employed to detect and reduce nonresponse bias, to verify interviews, to validate

information supplied by respondents, and in other ways. Substantively, ML-MS data can greatly expand theory-driven research such as by allowing multi-level, contextual analysis of neighborhood, community, and other aggregate-level effects and by adding in case-level data that either cannot be supplied by respondents or is not as accurate and reliable as information from AD (e.g. health information from medical records vs. recall reports of medical care). Thus, the ML-MS approach will boost both the methodological vigor and substantive power of survey research. It is a general framework for conducting and improving survey research.

On the 2016 GSS, the MLMS components described above were fully implemented at the household and aggregate levels. Analysis of the MLMS data is currently underway. On the 2018 GSS, the approach is being extended to the person level. Respondents are being asked to permit to linkage to governmental administrative records such as Census data, unemployment or social security information, Medicaid and Medicare, and other sources. ■

Recent GSS Reports

SOCIAL CHANGE REPORTS

James A. Davis, "The Evolution of Political Ideology among White US Householders, 1975-2014," Social Change Report No. 62. Chicago: NORC, 2017.

This report was nearly completed by Davis at the time of his death in September, 2016. It was edited by Smith and placed on the website in 2017. ■

METHODOLOGICAL REPORTS

Tom W. Smith, "Question Wording Experiments: Job Satisfaction and the Co-residence of Adult Children and their Parents," GSS Methodological Report No. 127. Chicago: NORC, 2017.

These and all earlier reports are available on the GSS website. ■

