

Inferential Statistics

Descriptive Statistics

- Power/Sample Size Analysis
- Multilevel Modeling
- GIS Mapping
- Qualitative Methods



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A GATHERING FOR SCHOLARS AND SCHOLARSHIP

The SSRC functions as a resource center and communications hub within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Our purpose is to respond to and nurture the research and scholarly needs of DPU faculty scholars, seeding the ground for what we envision as the development of a *community* of scholars and scholarship. That includes the promotion of DePaul scholarship both within the university and to a broader, external audience including non-academia. Since our creation in mid-2008, we have promoted cross-disciplinary, multi-methodology research, particularly among tenure-track LAS faculty. Our broader intention has remained the same: to serve as a meeting ground and intellectual-technical focal point for scholarship from our position within LAS.

The SSRC promotes, enhances, facilitates, and supports faculty, staff, and student engagement in methodologically diverse, socially relevant research by providing the physical space and human capital necessary to develop a robust infrastructure for designing research projects and crafting mutually productive and rewarding collaborations with faculty. This mission also takes us beyond LAS into collaborations with other research-oriented units both within and outside DePaul.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

Service requests from individual faculty form the foundation of the SSRC's day-to-day activities. We provide a wide range of services to faculty conducting original research, including help with methodological questions, analytical approaches or statistical concerns, and access to resources. To request services, submit this form on our website [Service Request Form](#) [click to open]

or email the appropriate SSRC staff member.

The chart below shows the quantity and scope of services DPU faculty from both LAS and outside LAS submitted to from SSRC in 2014.

Service Requests by Type Across DPU	Number	Percent
Research Methods, Design, Data Mgmt	19	19.2%
Data Analysis & Interpretation	14	14.1%
Editorial	11	11.1%
Technical Troubleshooting, incl REDCap	9	9.1%
Remote Computer Connections	9	9.1%
Maps, GIS	7	7.1%
General Info, Resource Suggestions	7	7.1%
Trainings, NVivo	6	6.1%
Grant Review	6	6.1%
Audio Visual Equipment Borrowing	6	6.1%
Database Construction	2	2.0%
Data Visualization	1	1.0%
Data Access/Security	1	1.0%
Poster Presentation	1	1.0%
Total Requests	99	100%

Analytical Areas/Tools

- Descriptive Statistics
- Inferential Statistics
- Power/Sample Size Analysis
- Multilevel Modeling
- GIS Mapping
- Qualitative Methods

Faculty with methodological questions often want help on how to construct and conduct a research plan that addresses a specific research question. Inquiries about analytical approaches can be broad or narrow. Sometimes questions arise from faculty whose analysis is getting unexpected results. In those cases, we direct them to

resources that may might guide their interpretation of the results. Other times, faculty seek out suggestions for workshops, courses, or websites offering instruction in a specific analytical technique. Some LAS faculty projects we assisted on in 2014 include:

- Sarah Read of Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse whose grant proposal was funded by the Conference on College Composition and Communication.
- Analysis for Antonio Morales-Pita of Economics included in an article he submitted on recommendations for teaching a new course entitled "Introductory International Political Economy."
- Acquisition and management of census data for a project Martha Martinez-Firestone of Sociology is conducting on the racial and ethnic composition of neighborhoods before and after the housing crisis.

The chart below shows the requests received from LAS in 2014 organized by department. Note that this represents the total number of requests from LAS; it does not describe the nature of the request.

<i>Requests from LAS Only, by Department *</i>	Number	Percent
SPS	14	20.0%
WRD	10	14.3%
GEO	9	12.9%
SOC	9	12.9%
AMD	6	8.6%
INTL ST	4	5.7%
MOL	4	5.7%
MSW	4	5.7%
ECON	2	2.9%
ANTHRO	1	1.4%
ENG	1	1.4%
HAA	1	1.4%
HST	1	1.4%
POL SCI	1	1.4%
PUB POL	1	1.4%
REL STUD	1	1.4%
WOM STUD	1	1.4%
Total LAS Requests	70	99.9%

* On collaborative projects, one request may involve more than one department.

Faculty visit the SSRC's computer lab to use statistical, mapping, or specialty software or for a secure data lab, a video editing suite, or audio visual equipment. In 2014 we saw an increase in requests for remote access to ATLAS.ti and NVivo software in particular. The chart below shows the resources available from our lab.

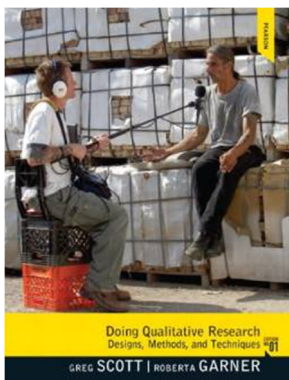
SOFTWARE	
<p>Windows: (7 Machines)</p> <p>Qualitative NVivo 10.0 ATLAS.ti 7</p> <p>Quantitative SPSS 19 SAS 9.2 R 2.7.1 MPlus 6.0 StatTransfer STATA/SE 13</p> <p>Survey Qualtrics</p> <p>Specialty ArcGIS 10 EndNote X1 Stat/Transfer 12</p>	<p>MAC: (15 Machines)</p> <p>Specialty Adobe Premiere SONY Vega EndNote</p>
AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT	
Digital Cameras, Tripods, and Sound Accessories Digital Recorders DVD/CD Burner and Label Maker Telephone Transcription	



An example of a resource available through the SSRC is Research Electronic Data Capture, called REDCap, a worldwide consortium that provides member researchers with a flexible online data management tool for team-based, single- or multi-institution projects and studies. DePaul joined in 2012, through the SSRC, and capacity was increased in 2014 to handle the increased usage within DePaul, primarily in the Center for Community Research (CCR) in the Department of Psychology in the College of Science and Health.

REDCap lends itself particularly well to longitudinal studies and online services for clinical and research purposes. CCR has been using REDCap as its primary data collection method for two large, five-year grants from the National Institutes of Health and for several other research studies. In one project, CCR is interviewing as many Northwestern University freshmen and sophomores as possible to identify the predictors for recovery from mono.

Research Assistant, Madison Sunnquist, a doctoral student in Clinical-Community Psychology at DPU, has worked extensively with REDCap on these projects. She says, "We are able to construct questionnaires in a manner that also defines the layout of our data export. In other words, when we export our data, the database is immediately ready for analysis. We do not need to spend time cleansing or re-formatting it."



QUALITATIVE CERTIFICATE COURSE

In April 2012 we introduced *Qualitative Research Methods*, a certificate course geared to both beginners and those familiar with basic research concepts who are looking for applied research experience. This 30-hour, fee-based course offered through DPU's Continuing and Professional Education takes a practical approach to

understanding, designing, conducting, and writing up data-based research applicable to a number of fields. The course came out of an online survey of nearly 1,000 former and current DPU students that we conducted in fall 2010 which identified a personal or professional need for hands-on experience conducting and evaluating qualitative research, especially in a social science or a business context.

Gina Luby, an adjunct instructor in the Department of Sociology, has taught all 3 sessions of the SSRC course, most recently in January 2014. She developed a curriculum that follows the book, "Doing Qualitative Research: Designs, Methods, and Techniques," written by Greg Scott and DePaul Sociology Department Professor Roberta Garner.

While inquiries about the course remain strong, as does the SSRC's commitment to it, asking students to spend all-day Saturday in a classroom for 5 weeks for a combination of lecture, videos, field trips, and practical exercises may be too restrictive. As a result, we are developing a 10-week online format of the course with Gina. It would retain the personal element that course alumni have endorsed using a discussion board and drop-box for posting and asking questions. The new version is slated to appear in late 2015.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

MESS HALL



Our Mess Hall series invites researchers to the SSRC to present their current research—mess and all—to an audience of DPU colleagues, students, staff, and occasionally outsiders. The informal atmosphere is intended to provoke discussion and suggestions concerning further direction, methodological help, or to provide a dry-run for a more formal conference or other presentation.

In 2014 seven faculty from LAS and CDM shared their latest research in the social sciences and humanities or proposed a suggestion to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration at DPU:

- *No Help in Sight: The Impact of Trauma Center Closures on Gun Violence Survival*
NOAM OSTRANDER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MSW

- *Emma Frances Brooke, Fabian & Feminist* Barbara Tilley, Visiting Assistant Professor, Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse
- *The Only Constant is Change: The Ongoing Cycle of Political Communication Change* Ben Epstein, Assistant Professor, Political Science
- *Borderlands Rhetoric: Gloria E. Anzaldúa's Re-Writing of Chicana/o History & the Chicana/o Rhetorical Tradition* Hector Carbajal, Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse



- *Co-op, A Collaboratory to Support Interdisciplinary Projects*, ROBIN BURKE, PROFESSOR, COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND DIGITAL MEDIA & SSRC DIRECTOR GREG SCOTT, ASSOC. PROF. SOCIOLOGY
- *Focus Construction in Bilingual Hungarian Language Contact and Bilingual Grammars*, BRADLEY HOOT, MODERN LANGUAGES
- *Technology & Governing: A Global Comparative Analysis* DICK FARKAS, PROFESSOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE

"I found the atmosphere to be extraordinarily welcoming. I very much enjoyed presenting my research.

It was very helpful for people to ask me questions and for me to explain my work to others. I found the entire experience to be very rewarding."

We surveyed presenters from both 2013 and 2014 to get feedback about their Mess Hall experience. Asked about new connections made as a result of their Mess Hall presentation, 73% reported making such contacts, most often with colleagues from another department. Two respondents said they made a new connection outside DePaul.

Watch for Mess Hall announcements in our *re/search* newsletter, Facebook page, and on DPU's events page, events.depaul.edu.

ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP

Since Autumn Quarter 2013, the SSRC has been hosting an Accountability Group, an in-house support group for primarily tenure-track LAS faculty. The 7-member group arose as a vehicle for faculty and staff to support each other in setting and reaching professional goals, especially for projects lacking external deadlines or other accountability structures. Members meet at the SSRC every other week for 30 minutes to report on their progress in meeting goals from session to session. The group often functions as a sort of support group, helping members set appropriate goals and develop work plans, sharing resources for productivity, and celebrating successes. Members also advise each other on how to improve their scholarship and teaching. The group is made up of faculty from Modern Languages; English, Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse; Political Science; and Public Health, plus SSRC staff members Jessica Speer and Jessica Bishop-Royse.

HAPPY HOUR



While the power and reach of social media are undeniable, sometimes face-to-face meetings can still be the easiest and most productive way to make personal connections. Just getting faculty from different departments or colleges into the same room can strengthen ties and stimulate potential collaboration. When we heard faculty express a thirst to mingle with colleagues in an informal setting, we recognized a no-cost opportunity to support a different form of scholarly networking and community-building. Serving as backstage facilitator, we have been organizing semi-regular, after-hours, happy-hour gatherings open to DPU faculty and staff at bars in the Lincoln Park neighborhood since 2012.

Conversations and meetings occurring in these casual moments have led to productive partnerships in daily scholarship and even grant-funded collaborative projects. Happy Hour has inspired some faculty to advocate for more structured, institutionalized support for formal collaboration. Watch *re/search* for meetings.

POLLINATORS

The Cross Pollination Group is a place for interested DePaul scholars, regardless of their status or affiliation, to share resources, network, and hang out. The group meets for a Happy Hour on average once a month. Pollinators members have worked together on scholarly projects and advocated for support of collaborative projects throughout the university. They maintain a listserv and a Facebook group to communicate with each other.

Listserv link:

<https://mailman.depaul.edu/mailman/listinfo/pollinators>

Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1489809657962465/>

COMMUNICATIONS


The goals of the SSRC's communications strategy are to inform DPU faculty-scholars about the services and tools available to them through the SSRC and to facilitate and promote networking and collaboration between faculty-scholars throughout the university for the dual purpose of fostering a community of scholarship within DePaul and to make scholarship at DePaul more visible to the public at large, particularly within Chicago. To meet these goals, we have developed a multi-platform communications structure that leverages social media as well as old-fashioned, face-to-face events and activities to bring people together.

re/search: the newsletter

While the SSRC newsletter and blog share the name *re/search*, they complement rather than mirror each other. The newsletter, issued multiple times over the course of each quarter, delivers announcements of events, programs, and opportunities for research and scholarship to an internal audience of faculty, staff, and students. The blog includes similar types of announcements and advertisements for DPU events, but also features essays and articles by SSRC staff and DePaul faculty.

In 2014 we issued 7 editions of the newsletter and we replaced MailChimp as our vehicle of delivery with a listserv hosted by De Paul. The change remedied spam-related, non-delivery issues and gave us a more reliable means to communicate news about events more quickly. We consider the benefits we gained in reaching subscribers greater than the resulting loss of data about the reach of the newsletter.

SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Blog** *re/search: the blog*
<https://ssrcdepaul.wordpress.com/>

This year we published 8 new posts and drew 5,077 total views and 3,235 visitors, down slightly from 2013. Search engines were the leading source of referrals to our blog by far (2,923 views). Other sources were Facebook (133) and links published in other blogs. The vast majority of views came from the U.S. (4,418), followed by 108 views from Canada, and 85 from the U.K.

 **Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/ssrcdepaul>

We use our Facebook page to announce events, promote faculty scholarship, and share relevant articles and links to a DePaul internal audience and the public. The majority of our audience is in Chicago, but we have an assorted international following as well.

 **Twitter**
https://twitter.com/SSRC_DePaul/

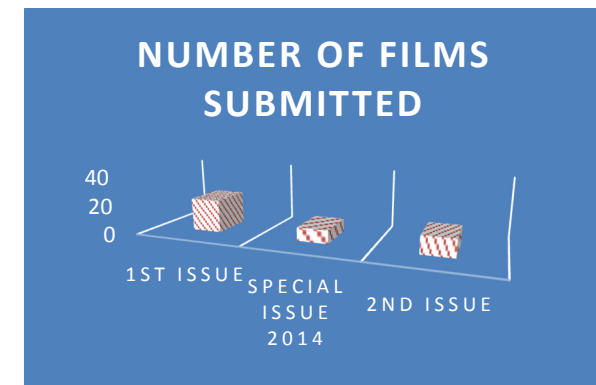
Like Facebook, our Twitter account is used primarily to share articles and links, promote SSRC and faculty activities, and link back to the blog. No statistical data is available.

Click here to reach the [SSRC Website](#)



In September we released the debut issue of the *Journal of Video Ethnography (JVE)*, the first peer-reviewed ethnographic film/video journal of its kind. JVE was designed to fill a gap in scholarly publishing by establishing guidelines comparable to those of print journals for the evaluation—and elevation—of ethnographic video as a valid social scientific method.

JVE is a visual journal for a visual medium, available only online, at <http://videoethno.com>. It publishes works containing social science concepts, theories, and ideas at their core and using video or film as their central methodological component or output. It doesn't publish works where video is used incidentally or merely to illustrate or supplement the research collection or where text documents are required for understanding.

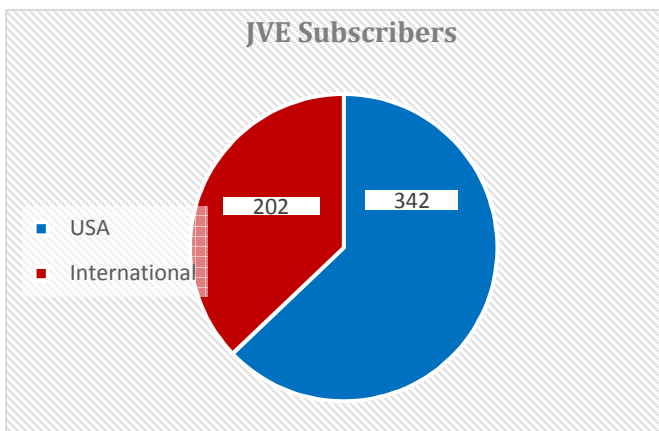


Submissions undergo peer-review identical to and as rigorous as that of print journals, with each entry subjected to a single blind review by 3 of the nearly 150 volunteer reviewers assembled by

JVE—chiefly filmmakers and academics. Three annual issues are produced—in spring, fall, and a special issue in December. We received 22 film or video submissions for the first issue and 12 for the second, which will be released in spring 2015.

The 9 works featured in JVE’s special issue were chosen from 89 films and videos shown in April 2014 at the first annual Ethnografilm Festival in Paris. The SSRC has a companion relationship with the film fest where JVE Editor-in-Chief and SSRC Director Greg Scott is Associate Director. JVE was conceived and developed in tandem with the festival where academic and documentary filmmakers gather to show and discuss their works. The special issue films were chosen for review and publication by a subcommittee of the JVE Editorial Board outside the selection process used for the regular annual issues. Quoting a slogan from the film fest, “they are profoundly entertaining.”

JVE is available through free, on-line registration. More than 500 subscribers registered in 2014 from the U.S. and internationally. Subscribers will have access to all back issues on the website. We hope this archive will become a repository of reviewed and curated ethnographic video documents that raises the profile of videoethnography within social science research.



What They’re Seeing, What They’re Saying . . .



INTRODUCING THE JOURNAL OF VIDEO ETHNOGRAPHY

18 JAN 2014 POSTED BY STUART FELDMAN

The *Journal of Video Ethnography* (JVE) is a new international peer-reviewed journal being launched by DePaul University’s Social Science Research Center. The aim of the journal is to advance the social scientific use of video/film as a method for exploring human society, systems, and cultures and as a medium for presenting the findings of those explorations.

Editor-in-Chief, Greg Scott, is the director of the Social Science Research Center at DePaul and an accomplished educator and documentary filmmaker. In a recent discussion, he elaborated on his goals for the journal. “Our first objective is to establish academia’s first-ever mechanism for the peer review of films that have social science ideas at their core. We expect that most submissions will come from academics who make films. This said, we also aspire to bridge the gap between academia and commercial documentary film and envision the gap-bridging to also involve providing a vehicle for the distribution of films by non-academic filmmakers whose films constitute an ethnographic point of view on this or that culture or group or phenomenon.”



Published twice a year, the journal accepts public submissions that are evaluated by a panel of two or three anonymous peer reviewers representing a wide range of disciplines but all sharing a commitment to social science ethnography. The journal will be using ReviewStudio as a platform for managing the distribution of videos, consolidating feedback from reviewers, and collaborating with filmmakers on preparing their videos for publication.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

FELLOWS

In Autumn 2014 we launched a Graduate Student Collaboration Fellows program. This “apprenticeship” allows students to work alongside SSRC staff as they perform research activities. This allows students to enhance their research and writing skills. The inaugural cohort of 6 graduate students began working with SSRC Chief Methodologist Jessi Bishop-Royse on two SSRC-supported research projects described below.

SEASONS OF VIOLENCE

Originally conceptualized by Master of Social Work Program Chair and Associate Professor Noam Ostrander, this project examines the relationship between weather patterns and types of crime in major American cities. Using data from the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report, we are investigating the factors associated with violent crime in U.S. cities from 2009–2012. The goal is to have a first draft of a manuscript prepared by late summer 2015.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Another project the SSRC is supporting is an analysis of data from the Educational Longitudinal Survey, a nationally representative sample of students from American high schools. We are interested in the educational and career outcomes of African-American students, specifically, what social, academic, school, family, and community factors distinguish those who succeed from those that do not. The goal for this project is also to have a manuscript draft by the end of summer 2015.

ELMS

This year the SSRC continued collecting data with the Erotic Labor Market Survey (ELMS). The survey is an examination of the attitudes, beliefs, and experiences of trafficking of individuals who have participated in the Erotic Labor Market (ELM). The project is unique in its attempt to survey those who have actually witnessed or experienced trafficking in the ELM in an effort to determine the incidence of forced labor in the U.S.

We are recruiting participants aged 18 and over through social media. In our anonymous web-based survey, we ask participants to identify the roles they have performed (provider, client, manager/owner, support staff, advocacy worker) as well as the sectors in which they have interacted. In addition to providing preliminary estimates on the incidence of trafficking in the ELM (and the sectors in which it occurs), the purpose of the project is to determine whether individuals in the ELM will report it when they encounter it.

ELMS RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What have people experienced, in terms of trafficking, in the erotic labor market?
- What beliefs do people involved in the erotic labor market hold about trafficking for sexual purposes?
- Do experiences and beliefs vary among across demographic groups in the erotic labor market?
- What might increase the likelihood that someone in the erotic labor market will report trafficking?

STAFF



Director **GREG SCOTT**, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology, combines quantitative/ epidemiological and qualitative/ethnographic methods to research issues stemming from the interaction of structural, network and micro-interactional forces in the illicit drug economy. His semi-traditional ethnographic and epidemiological research has led him recently into producing and directing documentary film and radio projects on the social, economic, cultural, political and health issues that illicit drug users face. In 2010 Greg was a member of DePaul's Institutional Review Board (IRB) the university-wide committee that oversees all behavioral and scientific research proposals from DPU faculty, staff and students involving human participants to ensure that they meet federal standards of ethical conduct and subject wellbeing.



Senior Research Methodologist **JESSICA BISHOP-ROYSE, PH.D.** has substantial experience in quantitative inquiry. She joined DePaul after completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the Florida State University College of Medicine where she managed a large federally funded patient safety grant. She is interested in health disparities, infant and maternal health, health services, GIS, methods, and statistics. She often finds herself navigating the fields of sociology, demography, epidemiology, medicine, public health, and policy. Jessi is well-versed in data collection, Stata, and quantitative research methodology, as well as statistics. She has experience with multi-level analyses, survival analyses, GIS, and multivariate regression.



Research Specialist **JESSICA SPEER**, M.S., is a researcher with an advanced degree in library and information science, giving her a unique set of skills to bring to social science research. Her research interests include human information-seeking behavior, the use of semantic tools and techniques in data analysis, data management and preservation, and new technologies and media in research, education, and training. In her free time, she plays music with her husband and is developing a strategy to preserve their collection of more than 10 years' worth of master tapes from their DIY record label, *Colonial Recordings USA*. Jessica consults with faculty on research, conducts internal research projects, develops trainings, and compiles and edits the SSRC newsletter, *re/search*.



Senior Analyst for IT Solutions **NANDHINI GULASINGAM** has an MS in Predictive Analytics, an MS in E-Commerce Technology, and GIS Certification from DePaul. She consults on faculty research projects involving data processing, analysis and visualization including GIS. She is in charge of design and development of the SSRC's *Journal of Video Ethnography*. In addition, she teaches undergraduate and graduate level GIS classes as an adjunct faculty in the Department of Geography.

Projects Coordinator **LINDA LEVENDUSKY** has a Bachelor's degree in journalism and experience in news reporting and editing for national and local news wire services in Chicago. She fulfills the SSRC's editorial service requests including grant proposals and journal article submissions. She compiled this Annual Report.

