

***OECD Seminar on Managing the Quality of Data  
Collection in Large Scale Assessments***

**11-12 May 2017**

**BIOGRAPHIES**

## PRESENTERS



**Jörg Blasius** is Professor of Sociology at the Institute for Political Science and Sociology, University of Bonn, Germany. His research interests are mainly focused on explorative data analysis, especially correspondence analysis and related methods, data collection methods, sociology of lifestyles, and urban sociology. Together with Simona Balbi (Naples), Anne Ryen (Kristiansand) and Cor van Dijkum (Utrecht), he is editor of the Sage Series “Survey Research Methods in the Social Sciences”. In this series, books are published in every field of social research and applied statistics. Together with Michael Greenacre (University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona) he founded Carme (Correspondence Analysis and Related Methods Network, see [www.carme-n.org](http://www.carme-n.org)). From 1998 to 2016, he belonged to the Board of RC33 (Research Committee on Logic and Methodology in Sociology) of the ISA (International Sociological Association), from 2006 to 2010 he served as President.

His research interests include methods of social research, applied statistics (especially correspondence analysis and related methods), methods for assessing the quality of survey data, urban sociology (especially gentrification and distressed neighborhoods), lifestyles, and political sociology. He gave numerous courses on correspondence analysis and related methods, in addition to several courses held at the Summer Schools in Essex, Lugano, Cologne (spring seminar), and St. Gallen, he gave courses in various countries, for instance in Italy, Norway, Portugal, and the USA.



**Brad Edwards** is a Vice President and the Director of Field Services at Westat in Rockville, Maryland, with more than 30 years of experience designing and managing large, complex surveys. He is currently working on household and establishment surveys in long-term care and caregiving, health care use and costs, and voting behavior. Research interests include multicultural issues, panel survey design, mobile devices, computer-assisted audio-recorded interviews (CARI), and data collector recruitment, training, and management. He co-chaired (with Stephanie Eckman) the 2015 international conference “Total Survey Error: Improving Quality in an Era of Big Data,” and is co-editor of the 2017 Wiley book *Total Survey Error in Practice* (Paul Biemer, lead editor). He is co-editor of two other books: the 2010 Wiley monograph *Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional, and Multicultural Contexts* (Janet Harkness, lead editor), winner of the 2013 AAPOR Book Award; and the 2014 Cambridge monograph *Hard-to-Survey Populations* (Roger Tourangeau, lead editor). He is a member of Public Opinion Quarterly’s Editorial Board.



**Michael W. Link** is Division Director of the Data Science, Surveys & Enabling Technologies (DSET) Division at Abt Associates, a leading global providers of policy-based research and evaluation for government, academic, and commercial clients. He is also a past President of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, 2014-2015. Dr. Link's research efforts focus on developing methodologies for confronting the most pressing issues facing measurement and data science, including use of new technologies such as mobile platforms, social media, and other forms of Big Data for understanding public attitudes and behaviors. Along with several colleagues, he received the American Association for Public Opinion Research 2011 Mitofsky Innovator's Award for his research on address-based sampling. His numerous research articles have appeared in leading scientific journals, such as *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, and *Journal of Official Statistics*.



**Geert Loosveldt** obtained a PhD in the Social Sciences in 1986. The title of his PhD thesis was 'The Effect of an Interviewer Training on the Quality of Survey Data'. He is currently full Professor and head of the Survey Methodology Research Unit at the department of Sociology of the K.U.Leuven. His research focuses on research methodology in general and evaluation of survey data quality in particular.

In 2002 he was appointed by the National Research Fund as the national co-ordinator of the European Social Survey in Flanders. He is also a member of the Core Scientific Team of the European Social Survey (ERIC).

He published in e.g. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Quality and Quantity*, *Sociological Methods & Research*, *Journal of Official Statistics*, *Social Science Computer Review*, *Survey Research Methods*, *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*.



**Bryan Maddox** is a senior lecturer in Education and International Development at the School of International Development, University of East Anglia, and a director of the Laboratory of International Assessment Studies [www.international-assessments.org](http://www.international-assessments.org). An experienced anthropologist, his research specializes in small-scale, micro-analytic observations of assessment response processes and interaction as it occurs in naturalistic, real-life testing situations. He has conducted research with the UNESCO Lamp assessment in Mongolia, and the OECD PIAAC assessment in Slovenia. His publications innovate methodologically by synchronising small-scale ethnographic data with large-scale psychometric data and computer-generated log files. This provides insights into “missing data” on assessment performance that is not captured by other methods.

His recent publications include: Maddox, B. (2015) ‘The Neglected Situation: Assessment Performance and Interaction in Context’, *Assessment in Education*, Vol. 22 (4) 427-443, and Maddox, B. and Zumbo, B.D. (forthcoming). ‘Observing Testing Situations: Validation as Jazz’ in B.D. Zumbo and A.M. Hubley (Eds.), *Understanding and Investigating Response Processes in Validation Research*. Springer Press.



**Leyla Mohadjer** is a Vice President and an Associate Director of the Statistical Staff at Westat. She is a senior statistician with more than 30 years of experience, and the director of sampling activities for several major national and international surveys, including the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies. Her special areas of expertise include sample design and estimation for complex surveys, design and estimation of cross-national surveys, development of standardized procedures in international studies, including nonresponse bias analyses. She has conducted research on topics such as the impact of incentives on the quality of data collected in Federal surveys, sampling of rare populations within the context of national surveys, compositing of samples selected from overlapping frames, and small-area estimation. Dr. Mohadjer is a member of the Westat Fellows Committee (in recognition of her major contributions to survey methodology), an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, and a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.





**Beth-Ellen Pennell** is the Director of the International Survey Operations Division of the Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Ms. Pennell has more than 30 years of experience in survey research operations and methods research. Pennell also serves as the Director of the Data Collection Coordinating Centre for the World Mental Health Survey Initiative, a joint project of the World Health Organization, Harvard University and the University of Michigan. In the position, Ms Pennell coordinates the technical support and oversees the implementation of the data collection activities for these general population epidemiological studies in more than 30 countries. Pennell is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, led the development of the Cross-cultural Survey Guidelines (<http://ccsg.isr.umich.edu>) and was one of the editors of *Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional and Multicultural Contexts*, edited by J. Harkness, M. Braun, B. Edwards, T. Johnson, L. Lyberg, P. Mohler, B-E. Pennell, & T.W. Smith, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (2010), which won the 2013 American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) annual book award for outstanding contributions to survey research methodology. Ms. Pennell is also chair of the Cross-cultural Design and Implementation Workshop (CSDI): <https://www.csdiworkshop.org/> and co-editor of the monograph: *Advances in Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional and Multicultural Contexts*, edited by T. Johnson, B-E. Pennell, I. Stoop & B. Dorer, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (forthcoming).



**Michael Schober** is Professor of Psychology and Vice Provost for Research at [The New School](#), a university in New York City. From 2006-2013 he served as Dean of the [New School for Social Research](#) (the Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science) at The New School. His academic training is in cognitive psychology (Ph.D., Stanford University, 1990) and cognitive science (Sc.B., Brown University, 1986).

His National Science Foundation funded survey methodology research, much of it in collaboration with Frederick G. Conrad (research professor in the Survey Research Center and director of the Michigan Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Michigan, and research professor in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland, College Park), examines interviewer-respondent interaction, respondent comprehension of terms in survey questions, and how existing communication modes not yet widely used for survey data collection (text messaging, videomediated interviewing, interviewing by virtual animated agents) and more dialogue-like versions of existing modes (web surveys, spoken language systems) might affect data quality.

His survey methods research connects with his studies of how people coordinate their actions and understand each other in other kinds of dialogue and in collaborative music-making (jazz, classical chamber music), the mental

processes underlying that coordination, and how new technologies mediate coordination. From 2005-2015 he served as editor of the journal [Discourse Processes](#).

He has served on panels and workshops for the US Committee on National Statistics. Together with Fred Conrad, he co-edited the volume *Envisioning the Survey Interview of the Future* (Wiley, 2008), and they were awarded the 2013 [Warren J. Mitofsky Innovators Award](#) from the American Association for Public Opinion Research.



**William Thorn** is a Senior Analyst in the Skills Beyond School Division in the Directorate for Education and Skills of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. He joined the OECD in August 2007. He currently manages the OECD's Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC). Prior to joining the OECD, Mr Thorn held a wide range of senior positions in the Australian federal Departments of Education and Employment. This included the management of units responsible for research into education and the labour market, programme evaluation, statistical collections and analysis, tertiary education funding policy and the Commonwealth government's role in the testing and monitoring of basic skills such as literacy and numeracy in Australian schools.



**Roger Tourangeau** is a Vice President and Associate Director at Westat. Before joining Westat in 2011, he was Research Professor at the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center and the Director of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. He has been a survey methodologist for more than 35 years. He is an author on more than 80 research articles, most of them on survey methods issues. He is also the lead author of a recent book on web survey design (*The Science of Web Surveys*) with Fred Conrad and Mick Couper, published by Oxford University Press in 2013, and the lead editor of *Hard-to-Survey Populations*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2014. His earlier book (*The Psychology of Survey Response*, with Lance Rips and Kenneth Rasinski) received the 2006 Book Award from the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). In 2002, he received the Helen Dinerman Award, the highest honor given by the World Association for Public Opinion Research. He was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1999. In 2006, he served as the chair of the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association. He was the founding co-editor of the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*. He is currently the President of AAPOR. He has a Ph.D. in Psychology from Yale University.



**Matthias von Davier** is Distinguished Research Scientist at the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), in Philadelphia, PA. Before, he was a senior research director in the Research & Development Division at Educational Testing Service (ETS), and co-director of the center for Global Assessment at ETS, leading psychometric research and operations of the center. He earned his Ph.D. in psychology from University of Kiel, Germany, in 1996, specializing in psychometrics.

In the Center for Advanced Assessment at NBME, he works on psychometric methodologies for analyzing data from technology-based high-stakes assessments. He is one of the editors of the Springer journal *Large Scale Assessments in Education* which is jointly published the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) and ETS through the IEA-ETS Research Institute (IERI). He is also editor-in-chief of the *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology (BJMSP)*, and co-editor of the Springer book series *Methodology of Educational Measurement and Assessment*. His current work involves psychometric methodologies used in analyzing cognitive skills and background data from psychological and educational assessments and licensure exams. His work also involves the development of software for multidimensional models for item response data, and the improvement of models and estimation methods for the analysis of data from large-scale assessments.

Dr. von Davier's areas of expertise includes topics such as item response theory, latent class analysis, diagnostic classification models, and more broadly classification and mixture distribution models as well as computational statistics, person-fit, item-fit, and model checking, as well as hierarchical extension of models for categorical data analysis, and the analytical methodologies used in large scale educational surveys. Dr. von Davier's applied research uses these methodologies to analyze data from educational testing, large scale survey assessments of student and adult skills, computer-based assessments, as well as questionnaire data.



**Kentaro Yamamoto** is a deputy director/principal research scientist for the Center for Global Assessment at Educational Testing Service (ETS). He obtained his Ph.D. in educational psychology and his M.S. in statistics—both from the University of Illinois. He has been a technical advisor for OECD, UNESCO Institute of Statistics, World Bank and Department of Education of USA. He has designed and directed analyses for the major national and international large scale surveys of various subject domains for adults as well as for special populations such as NAEP, TIMMS, PISA, IALS, ALL, and PIAAC for over 25 years. He developed many of analyses procedures for these surveys. He also designed several individual tests in reading, and literacy. He developed a Psychometric model called "Hybrid", a mixture model of continuous and discrete measurement models for diagnostic testing as well as IRT scaling as has been used for all literacy surveys at ETS. The model has been used for studying speededness of test and diagnostic evaluations. He also designed the online testlet adaptive testing for Prose, Document and Quantitative adult literacy skills. He has written numerous reports, research papers, technical reports, contributed chapters in multiple books and has given numerous presentations at the national and international conferences.

## MODERATORS



**Paul P. Biemer** is Distinguished Fellow in Statistics at RTI and Associate Director of Survey Research and Development in the Odum Institute at UNC. He has over 40 years of experience in survey methodology, complex survey design and data analysis and over 100 publications related to these areas. Prior to joining RTI, Dr. Biemer was Head of the Department of Experimental Statistics at New Mexico State University and Assistant Chief of Statistical Research Division at the Census Bureau. An internationally recognized expert and researcher in survey methodology, Dr. Biemer's co-authored book, *Introduction to Survey Quality* is a widely used course text. He co-invented and co-developed Computer Audio Recorded Interviewing (CARI) and pioneered the field of latent class analysis for survey evaluation. His recent book, *Latent Class Analysis of Survey Error*, is the first book to describe how latent class analysis can be applied to complex surveys, including panel surveys, to evaluate survey error. His current research has focused on the implications of data errors on 'big data' analytics. Dr. Biemer is a Fellow of the ASA and the AAAS and an Elected Member of the ISI. He holds a number of awards for his contributions to the field of survey methodology and statistics, including the including the Morris Hansen Award.





**Francesca Borgonovi** is a Senior Analyst in the Directorate for Education and Skills at the OECD which she joined in 2008. She has been responsible for analytical and developmental work in PISA and PIAAC, with a particular focus on gender and socio-economic disparities in information processing skills and self-rated beliefs; the outcomes of migrant and language minority students; student engagement and motivation. She worked in the OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) on the Social Outcomes of Learning (SOL) project examining the health and civic outcomes of education. Before joining the OECD she was based in the Department of Social Policy and in the Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Dr. Borgonovi has been Adjunct Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs at SciencesPo (Paris) and held visiting positions at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley and the London School of Economics. She holds a PhD from the London School of Economics.



**Stephanie Eckman** is a Fellow at RTI International specializing in the combination of survey and geospatial data. She worked for five years in Germany and has taught survey statistics and survey methodology around the world. Her research interests include coverage error in household surveys and measurement error due to motivated misreporting.



**Ursula Jaenichen** has studied economics and got her doctoral degree at the University of Hannover. She is a senior researcher in the department "Statistical Methods" of the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) at Nuremberg. She has worked on various topics of applied labour market analysis, e.g. on the evaluation of labour market programmes or on the effects of labour market reforms. More recently, her research also addresses aspects of data quality both in survey data and in administrative data.



**Patrick Sturgis** is Professor of Research Methodology in the Department of Social Statistics and Demography at the University of Southampton and Director of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM). He is past-President of the European Survey Research Association (2011-2015), chaired the Methodological Advisory Committee of the UK Household Longitudinal Survey (2011-2016), and is vice-Chair of the Methodological Advisory Committee of the ESS. He chaired the British Polling Council Inquiry into the failure of the 2015 UK election polls and has published widely in the areas of survey and statistical methods, public opinion and political behaviour, social cohesion and trust, social mobility, and attitudes to science and technology. He is an editorial board member of *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Survey Research Methods*, and *International Journal of Social Research Methods*.