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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS of Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

In June 2021, *JSSAM* received its opening impact factor (1.957 for 2020), ranking *JSSAM* as 46/125 in Statistics and Probability and 29/52 in Social Sciences Mathematical Methods. This ranking is especially gratifying given the relative youth of this journal, and credit should be shared among the dedicated editors (present and emeritus), associate editors, contributing authors, and readership. Truly, the past few years have brought about personal and professional challenges thanks to the coronavirus disease pandemic. Despite this, *JSSAM* has maintained its high standards, continuing to make great inroads toward its objective of being “the flagship journal for research on survey statistics and methodology” (see [About the Journal](#)).

Over the past 18 months, there have been a few changes underway for *JSSAM*. For returning authors, perhaps the most noticeable change is the double-blind review process, implemented in July 2021. Implementing this process brings *JSSAM* in line with other AAPOR and ASA-sponsored journals and allows “honest” reviews.

However, *JSSAM* has made other—perhaps less immediately noticeable—changes. First, we started accepting a new article type: research notes, an original research paper with 3,000 words of text. Research notes should have one to three tables or figures and should highlight an important research finding. Research notes are especially useful for smaller methodological experiments that are important contributions to survey practice or theoretical contributions that do not require 6,500 words to explicate. We encourage you to consider sharing important components of your work in this format. Of course, we continue to accept longer original research papers and review papers on topics related to survey methodology, survey statistics, and applications.

Second, we updated the “About the Journal” statement to reflect the full range of topics that *JSSAM* considers for publication. This update will bring the statement in line with the actual contributions published by the journal. In particular, the new text will include “topics of interest include survey sample design, comparisons of probability and nonprobability samples, statistical inference, nonresponse, questionnaire design, pretesting, measurement error, the effects of modes of data collection, interviewer effects, paradata and responsive survey design, use of administrative records for population inference, use of organic or social media data for population inference, combining data from multiple sources, record linkage, disclosure limitation, and other issues in survey statistics and methodology. . . . The Survey Methodology section presents papers that focus on methodological research, including methodological

experiments, questionnaire design and testing, methods of data collection, interviewer effects, nonresponse and recruitment protocols, responsive designs, new data sources, and use of paradata.”

Third, we have updated our author guidelines to reflect the need to cite the data set used in a submitted manuscript, to make data and software available when feasible, to state whether the data collection and analysis were preregistered, and the policy related to preprints.

Finally, Katherine J. Thompson¹ joined *JSSAM* as Editor-in-Chief of Survey Statistics, on paper replacing Michael Elliott in July 2021. We are grateful to Mike for his invaluable contribution to the journal throughout his three-year tenure and for making the transition process relatively painless by continuing his editorial duties until all his previous manuscripts were exhausted. Like his two predecessors (Rod Little and Joseph Sedransk), Mike has set an extremely high bar for the Survey Statistics Editor-in-Chief.

As an applied statistician employed by a federal agency for her entire professional career, Jenny brings a very different perspective than her predecessors. Her vision statement is “to develop and implement statistically sound generalized solutions to shared problems, striving to find straightforward solutions without ignoring computational complexities and data nuances.” This vision applies directly to *JSSAM*, as cutting-edge research is most useful when strongly grounded in realistic applications and motivated by existing problems.

The distinction between the survey statistics and survey methodology is blurring. In upcoming issues, we hope to see more applications papers (papers or notes) that encompass both, demonstrating innovative theory that is grounded in practical applications being encountered “in the field.” This year’s Special Issue on Privacy, Confidentiality, and Disclosure Protection (Volume 10, Issue 3) provides an excellent example of this, as will the upcoming Special Issue on Data Integration (forthcoming in 2023). We encourage authors to continue to submit high-quality manuscripts on cutting-edge topics in survey statistics and methodology as well as innovative and relevant applications (combining both) to *JSSAM*.

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1. Known as Jenny Thompson to everyone except her father.