

POPULATION STUDIES CENTER

INFORMATION SERVICES

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Welcome New Staff

Szymon Dyjas has joined Social Sciences Computing as a new IT support specialist. Szymon and Adam Biedermann will both be handling requests from PSC.

What is RSS (and why do I want to use it)?

RSS stands for several things, including Really Simple Syndication and Rich Site Summary. It is a way to get all your favorite web content delivered to one place, so you don't need to repeatedly visit sites looking for new information. RSS is often described as being a feed to which you can subscribe. Depending on whose feed you are viewing, RSS feeds can include a title and a small excerpt or even the entire content. There is an endless amount of content you can get with RSS including news, blog posts, forum posts, images, and journal tables of contents.

So where are all these feeds gathered? You need a feed reader (or aggregator). Feed readers can be online, built into another application, or a stand-alone downloadable program. Bloglines and Google Reader are two examples of free online aggregators. Thunderbird and Firefox are applications that have RSS built-in, and additional add-ons to make them more useable. RSSOwl and FeedDemon are two stand-alone aggregators. For reviews of some of these readers, visit Penn Computing's RSS evaluation site: <http://www.upenn.edu/computing/eval/2006/rss/finalreport.html>



Once you have an aggregator, subscribing to feeds is easy. If a page has a feed you can subscribe to, you will usually see the orange icon somewhere on your browser. If you use Firefox, it can be found on the right-hand side of the address bar. In some cases, websites list all their available feeds, and you can copy the feed's link, and paste it directly into your feed reader. Look for small orange icons that say XML, RSS, or sometimes ATOM. In Bloglines, you can enter the main URL of a site, and it will show you a list of the feeds available to you.

RSS can save you a lot of time, especially if you are trying to keep up with more than just a few websites. Keeping abreast of current literature and research in your field with RSS is only a matter of subscribing to specific topical feeds. You can choose how often you want the feeds updated, and new content is highlighted or bolded. In addition, you can mark items to save for later, and go back and look at articles from the past.

We will be holding a short workshop demonstrating RSS on Tuesday, April 10, from 11am-noon. UDAL (108-9 McNeil).

For more information on RSS, visit the Penn Library's site:

<http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/engineering/alerts/whatisrss.html>

Call for Submissions:

PSC Working Paper Series

http://repository.upenn.edu/psc_working_papers/

PSC Research Associates, Affiliates and Students are encouraged to submit working papers reflecting their research to the PSC Director for consideration. All papers go through a peer review process. Students should ask the faculty member they are working with to forward their paper to the Director.

Three new papers were added to the PSC Working Paper Series this Fall:

"Black-White Differentials in Cause-Specific Mortality in the United States during the 1980s: The Role of Medical Care and Health Behaviors." Irma T. Elo and Greg L. Drevenstedt. PSC 06-02.

"What Determines Adult Cognitive Skills? Impacts of Pre-Schooling, Schooling and Post-Schooling Experiences in Guatemala." Jere R. Behrman, John F. Hoddinott, John A. Maluccio, Erica Soler-Hampejsek, Emily L. Behrman, Reynaldo Martorell, Manuel Ramirez-Zea, and Aryeh D. Stein. PSC 06-03.

"The Impact of Nutrition during Early Childhood on Education among Guatemalan Adults." John A. Maluccio, John F. Hoddinott, Jere R. Behrman, Reynaldo Martorell, Agnes R. Quisumbing, and Aryeh D. Stein. PSC 06-04.

Valentine's Day Party

Feb. 14, 11am-12 noon in the Demography Library. Come join us!

PSC Colloquium Upcoming Speakers

February 5: David Bloom

February 12: Michelle Poulin

February 19: Giovanna Merli

February 26: Robert Hummer

March 12: John C. Henretta

March 19: Kathleen Mullan Harris

April 2: John Hobcraft

April 9: Kenneth Hill

April 16: Angus Deaton

All PSC colloquia events are held on Mondays from Noon to 1:00 PM in 103 McNeil, for details see: <http://www.pop.upenn.edu/news/news-colloq.html>

New Online Open Access Journal

Methodological Innovations Online is an international peer reviewed social research journal. It publishes high quality papers in research methods and methodology from all social science disciplines. Papers which focus on new methodological approaches, or using traditional methodologies in new ways or methodologies which cross disciplines are especially welcome. The journal publishes peer reviewed papers and short discussion pieces and offers a 'rapid response' facility to encourage discussion of papers published. The journal aims to be progressive both in access and the means by which it encourages those near the beginning of their careers to publish. Nevertheless each issue will contain papers by leading international social science researchers. <http://methodologicalinnovations.org>

Demography Library Workshops

Creating Posters for Professional Meetings: Tuesday, February 20, 11am-12pm. Please email nmperez@pop.upenn.edu if you will be attending. Location TBA.

Penn Library Workshops

Register online at: http://www.library.upenn.edu/cgi-bin/workshopmgr/workshopMgrTop?xslt_style=viewList

Upcoming Conferences

February 23-24, 2007: [The 28th Annual Ethnography in Education Research Forum, "Ethnography and Education in Trying Times,"](http://www.gse.upenn.edu/cue/forum.php) will be held at the Center for Urban Ethnography, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, 3700 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. <http://www.gse.upenn.edu/cue/forum.php>

March 15-18, 2007: [The Eastern Sociological Society 77th Annual Meeting, "New Diversity, Persistent Inequality,"](http://www.essnet.org/AnnualMeeting.aspx) will be held at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. <http://www.essnet.org/AnnualMeeting.aspx>

March 29-31, 2007: [The Population Association of America's 2007 Annual Meeting](http://www.popassoc.org/meetings.html) will be held at the Marriott Marquis in New York, NY. <http://www.popassoc.org/meetings.html>

June 28-July 1, 2007: [The National Women's Studies Association 28th Annual Conference, "Past Debates, Present Possibilities, Future Feminisms,"](http://www.nwsaconference.org/) will be held at the Pheasant Run Resort & Spa in St. Charles, Illinois. <http://www.nwsaconference.org/>

July 29-August 2, 2007: [The 2007 Joint Statistical Meetings, "Statistics: Harnessing the Power of Information,"](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2007/) will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2007/>

August 11-14, 2007: [The American Sociological Association's 102nd Annual Meeting, "Is Another World Possible? Sociological Perspectives on Contemporary Politics,"](http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/meetings/2007_annual_meeting_convention_home) will be held at the Hilton and Sheraton in New York, NY. http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/meetings/2007_annual_meeting_convention_home

New Acquisitions

Books on statistical analysis and methods

Agent-Based Computational Modelling: Applications in Demography, Social, Economic, and Environmental Sciences: with 95 figures and 19 tables. Francesco C. Billari, Thomas Fent, Alexia Prskawetz, and Jurgen Scheffran, eds. BK QA76.76.I58 A39 2006

Analysis of Incomplete Multivariate Data. Joseph L. Schafer. BK QA278 .S33 1997

Bayesian Survival Analysis: with 51 illustrations. Joseph G. Ibrahim, Ming-Hui Chen and Debajyoti Sinha. BK QA276 .I27 2001

Inverse Projection Techniques: Old and New Approaches: with 50 figures and 17 tables. Elisabetta Barbi, Salvatore Bertino, and Eugenio Sonnino, eds. BK HB849.53 .I58 2004

Methodology and Epistemology of Multilevel Analysis: Approaches from Different Social Sciences. Daniel Courgeau, ed. BK H61 .M4924 2003

Multilevel Statistical Models. Harvey Goldstein. BK H61.25 .G65 2003

Qualitative Methods in Public Health: A Field Guide for Applied Research. Priscilla R. Ulin. BK RA440.85 .U43 2005

Regression Analysis By Example (4th edition). Samprit Chatterjee and Ali S. Hadi. BK QA278.2 .C5 2006

Regression Modeling Strategies: With Applications to Linear Models, Logistic Regression, and Survival Analysis. Frank E. Harrell, Jr. BK QA278.2 .H387 2001

Resampling Methods: A Practical Guide to Data Analysis (3rd edition). Phillip I. Good. BK QA278.8 .G66 2006

Resampling Methods for Dependent Data: with 25 illustrations. Soumendra Nath Lahiri. BK QA278.8 .L344 2003

Robust Statistics: Theory and Methods. Ricardo A. Maronna, R. Douglas Martin and Victor J. Yohai. BK QA276 .M374 2006

Statistical Methods in Bioinformatics: An Introduction: with 30 figures (2nd edition). Warren J. Ewens and Gregory R. Grant. BK QH324.2 .E97 2005

The PSC Information Services newsletter is published once a semester by Demography Library staff. Content will include information about services, resources, news, and events relevant to PSC researchers.

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