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# Second RC33 Cologne 2000 Social Science Methodology Conference Report

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- 1 The October 2000 of the *BMS* (number 68) was a special issue on the 3-6 October 2000 RC33 Social Science Methodology Conference in Cologne in which some 700 persons participated. That issue also included the Fall 2000 issue of the RC33 Newsletter and extensive information and reports concerning the Conference. Organizer Jörg Blasius wrote a detailed "RC33 2000 Conference Organizer's Report" which described the main categories or streams in which the sessions were grouped and provided a complete list of the sessions in alphabetical order by organizer's name (*BMS*, 68: 18-21).
- 2 We also published extended summaries of the two plenary sessions: Don A. Dillman (Washington State University), "Survey Research Methods in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: New Threats, New Concepts and New Opportunities"; Willem J. Heiser (Leiden University), "Early Roots of Statistical Modeling" (*BMS*, 68: 22-24).
- 3 In the rather short period of time between the end of the Conference and the publication of the *BMS*, 24 session organizers were able to prepare reports on the papers presented at Cologne. They were:
  - Wijbrandt H. Van Schuur, "Unidimensional Unfolding Analysis" (pp. 25-26);
  - Hans van der Zouwen, "Trends in Social Research Methodology" (pp. 27-32);
  - Tony Manners, "Computer-Assisted Interviewing" (pp. 33-34);
  - Tony Hak, "Translation and Validation of Measurement Instruments" (pp. 35-36);
  - Carole Truman, "Ethical, Social and Political Processes in Social Research" (p. 37);
  - Cornelia Zuell, "Variants of Automatic Coding of Text Data" (pp. 38-39);
  - Anuska Ferligoj, "Cluster Analysis of Network Data" (pp. 40-41);
  - Gideon J. Mellenbergh, "Non-Parametric Item Response Theory" (pp. 42-43);
  - Nathaniel Beck, "Bayesian Statistics" (pp. 44-45);
  - Siegfried Gabler, "Sampling Methods" (pp. 46-47);
  - Vasja Vehovar, "Web Surveys" (pp. 48-49);

- Chikio Hayashi, "Design and Analysis of Data in Social Surveys" (p. 50);
  - Dorien J. DeTombe, "Methodology for Handling Complex Societal Problems" (pp. 51-52);
  - Jost Reinecke, "Panel Analysis" (p. 53);
  - Jörg Blasius, "Geometric Data Analysis" (pp. 54-55);
  - Capitolina Diaz Martinez, "Methodological Issues in Feminist Research" (pp. 56-57);
  - Karl M. van Meter, "Sensitive Topics and Sensitive Questions" (p.58);
  - Galina Saganenko, "General Methodology" (pp. 79-80);
  - Ger Snijkers, "Cognitive Research for Testing Questionnaires" (pp. 81-83);
  - Simona Balbi, "Analysis of Structured Data" (pp. 84-85);
  - Klaus G. Troitzsch, "Agent-Based Social Simulation" (pp. 86-87);
  - Jost Reinecke, "Differential Equations and Stochastic Processes" (p. 88);
  - Boris Belikov, "From Quantitative-Qualitative to a New Modality" (p. 89);
  - Giampietro Gobo, "Bridging Qualitative and Quantitative Methods" (p. 90).
- 4 The report presenting the session, "Sensitive Topics and Sensitive Questions" was accompanied by the publication of a detailed analysis of the research literature in the Social Research Methods (SRM) Documentation Centre, then at Rotterdam University and now at NIWI in Amsterdam, and in Sociological Abstracts (Van Meter, 2000).
- 5 These session reports give not only a "feel" for the meeting itself, but often comment on specific presentations, often associated with a prepared article. At that time, there were 167 articles prepared and published in the first edition of the Conference CD (Blasius, Hox, de Leeuw and Schmidt, 2000) which was distributed to all Conference participants along with paper copies of the program and abstracts (Social Science Methodology in the New Millennium, 2000) and a "list of participants" booklet. These, of course, were also included in the CD, along with those full papers that were available at the time of the deadline. By the time the *BMS* had published its special issue on the Conference, there were no more CDs available, even though there was a large demand for them. Since there had already been talk at the Conference concerning a second edition of the CD, many participants let it be known that they would be happy to use the additional time to prepare a full paper based on their presentation.
- 6 This, in addition to a lot of work by the editors -- Jörg Blasius, Joop Hox, Edith de Leeuw and Peter Schmidt -- resulted in the second edition of the Conference CD which was published last year (Blasius, Hox, de Leeuw and Schmidt, 2000). It is indeed an updated and extended version of the proceeding since there are a total of 241 papers which represent 34,2 Mo of text and graphics which represents a vast resource for sociologists and other social scientists interested in the research process and methodology.
- 7 Already, eight of the articles in the first version of the CD have resulted in publications in the *BMS*. These include the article mentioned above (Van Meter, 2000), and Popping (2001), Klein (2001), Marpsat (2001), Hagerty *et al.* (2001), Ferris (2001), Aluja-Banet and Thio (2001), Krause (2001). Others are under consideration.
- 8 Below, we publish the complete list of articles available in the second edition of the Conference CD. The surname of the author(s) is used to organize them in alphabetical order. The names of the author(s), title and CD file number is given for all entries. It should be noted that the articles vary in format for extended abstracts or summaries to long, detailed analyses.

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Tomas Aluja-Banet and Santiago Thio (2001), "Survey Data Fusion", *BMS*, 72: 20-36.

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Harald Klein (2001), "Overview of Text Analysis Software", *BMS*, 70: 53-66.

Jürgen Krause (2001), "WWW -- Search Engines, An Alternative to the Social Science Database", *BMS*, 72: 37-46.

Maryse Marpsat (2001), "Problems in Comparative and Triangulated Homelessness Research", *BMS*, 71: 5-57.

Roel Popping (2001), "Modal Auxiliaries in Text Analysis", *BMS*, 70: 5-22.

*Social Science Methodology in the New Millennium. Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Logic and Methodology* (2000), Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung, Universität zu Köln, 450 pp.

Karl M. van Meter (2000), "Sensitive Topics -- Sensitive Questions: Overview of the Sociological Research Literature", *BMS*, 68: 59-78.

## APPENDIXES

### Papers Sorted on Author's Name

#### Name-Key - Author(s) - Title - File Name

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Akkerboom - Hans Akkerboom, The Netherlands; Eric Jacobs, The Netherlands; Fred Mulder, The Netherlands; Rika Verhoef, The Netherlands - STUDENTS DISCUSSING VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM AND ITS OPERATIONALISATION IN A VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT - P011201

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- Bertrand - Lynda Bertrand, Canada; Olaf Krassnitzky - RESEARCH ON SECOND LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND 'CRITICAL THINKING': CURRENT THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES - P110206
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## ABSTRACTS

With the second edition of the conference CD, we analyze the contents of the CD and the evolution of the production of the conference which increases from 167 papers (19,8 Mo) to 241 papers (34,2 Mo), and compare it with what we presented in the *BMS* n. 68 (October 2000).

**Second rapport sur la conférence Méthodologie en sciences sociales du RC33 à Cologne en 2000:** A l'occasion de la seconde édition du CD sur cette conférence, nous analysons le contenu de ce CD et l'évolution de la production de cette conférence qui passe de 167 contributions (19,8 Mo) à 241 (34,2 Mo), et la comparons avec ce que vous avons présenté dans le *BMS* n. 68 (octobre 2000).

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**Mots-clés:** Cologne, Méthodologie, RC33, Sciences sociales, Statistiques

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