

# Stalking the Wild Dataset

Social Sciences 208B

Dissertation Workshop

Course code: 68825

Course units: 2

Spring Quarter, 1998, Thursdays, 5-6:50 p.m.

Location: Technology Enhanced Classroom, 228 Main Library, lobby,  
University of California, Irvine

Lecturer: Tsang, Daniel

380 Main Library

824-4978, [dtsang@uci.edu](mailto:dtsang@uci.edu)

Social Science Data Archives homepage:

<http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~dtsang/ssda.htm>

Office Hours: Tues. 3-4; Thurs. 3-4 and by appointment

Description: This class aims to acquaint students with the diversity of data that are available out in the research community, and how to find it. Students will get practical experience creating and documenting a dataset; discuss issues of ethics and privacy relating to data collection and use; discuss data sharing issues; learn how to locate data around the world; and especially learn to use the Internet to locate data.

On Reserve in Student Center (across from Main Library entrance):

1. Beyond Conjecture in International Politics: Abstracts of Data-based Research, by Susan D. Jones and J. David Singer (Itasca, IL: Peacock, 1972). JX 1291 J65
2. Quantitative Data Analysis for Social Scientists, by Alan Bryman and Duncan Cramer (New York: Routledge, 1990). HA32 .B79 1990
3. Sharing Social Science Data: Advantages and Challenges, ed. by Joan E. Sieber (Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1991). H 61.92 U6 S53 1991
4. Statistical Computing Environments for Social Research, ed. by Robert Stine and John Fox (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1997). HA 32 S678 1997
5. Data Policy and Policy Change: The Fragility of Data in the Policy Context (Boston: Kluwer Academic, 1990). H 97 D465 1990
6. War of Numbers: An Intelligence Memoir, by Sam Adams (S. Royalton, VT: Steerforth Press, 1994). DS 559.8 M44 A33 1994
7. Statistics and Public Policy, ed. by Bruce D. Spencer (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997). H 97 S763 1997
8. Researching Sexual Behavior: Methodological Issues, ed. by John Bancroft (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1997). HQ 60 R47 1997

Online resources:

1. ICPSR Data Deposit Form

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/Archive/Deposit/depositform.html>

2. ICPSR Guide to Social Science Data Preparation and Archiving

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/Archive/Deposit/dpm.html>

Schedule of classes:

1. April 9 Overview
2. April 16 Data? What's that? Data and the Research Process. The Social Science Data Archives Home Page  
For this session, locate recent news articles about data, and be prepared to discuss what you find in class. Check out WWW News Resource Page  
  
<http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~dtsang/netnews1.htm> or  
the news search engines  
<http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~dtsang/newssrch.htm>
3. April 23 Data Archives: ICPSR's Collection  
For this session, browse: ICPSR Guide to Resources (Main Library Ref. H62 I277]; and its Web-site: [www.icpsr.umich.edu/archive1.html](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/archive1.html).
4. April 30 Other Data Archives  
For this session, browse and search for holdings from one data archive linked at [www.nsd.uib.no/cessda/europe.html](http://www.nsd.uib.no/cessda/europe.html) [European and non-European Archives]
5. May 7 Data and Policy Change I  
Read chapters 2 and 4 in Statistics and Public Policy
6. May 14 Data and Policy Change II  
Read preface, chapters 3-5 and appendix, War of Numbers. Video presentation: "Vietnam Deception"
7. May 21 U.S. Government/IGO Data [Guest speakers: Kay Collins; Margaret Renton]
8. May 28 Data Sharing, Confidentiality, Privacy and Ethics.  
For this session, read:
  - a: ICPSR Guide to Social Science Data... : Confidentiality chapter, pp. 17-19.
  - b: "Sharing Social Science Data," chapter 1 in Sharing Social Science Data.
  - c: "Sharing Confidential and Sensitive Data," chapter 4 in Sharing Social Science Data.
- 9 June 4 Getting data under public records acts.
- 10 June 11 Intro to Data Analysis [Guest speaker: JoAnn Prause]  
For this session, read: "Analyzing Data with Computers," chapter 2-3 in Quantitative Data Analysis..., pp.16-60. Recommended: Statistical Computing Environments...

Papers or Projects:

1. Write an abstract of a data-based journal article using a format similar to what is in Beyond Conjecture.  
Due: April 23.
2. Describe how the trials and tribulations of obtaining an actual dataset (of your choice) for secondary analysis.  
Due: May 14

3. Create a questionnaire or coding instrument and a sample dataset with documentation ready for deposit.  
Due: June 11.