

# Dissertation Defense

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in 368 ISR  
and

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## An Investigation of the Nonresponse – Measurement Error Nexus

This dissertation examines the nexus between nonresponse and measurement errors in sample surveys. Recent research has shown no strong relationship between nonresponse rates and nonresponse bias. Nonetheless, best practices argue that researchers should attempt to maximize response rates. One voiced concern about practices involving nonresponse reduction is that reluctant sample persons, successfully brought into the respondent data set through persuasive efforts, may provide data filled with measurement error. However, no study has looked at how the propensity to be a respondent, true values on a question of interest, and the respondent's measurement error properties for that question. This research fills this gap by addressing two goals. First, under what circumstances is nonresponse propensity related to the survey variables of interest? Second, what is the relationship between nonresponse propensity, nonresponse bias and measurement error? In particular, how do properties of questions and characteristics of respondents affect the nexus between nonresponse bias and measurement error? Data from one national and one regional survey are analyzed to answer these questions.