

JPSM/MPSM

Survey Methodology Seminar Series

Can Participants Be Good Evaluators?

JEFFREY SMITH

Presenter

Professor of Economics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R Ford School of Public Policy and Faculty Associate, Survey Research Center, ISR

Monday, March 25, 2013

12:10-1:00pm

Speaker will be at the University of Michigan
Video Room 368 - ISR South Basement
Room 2208 LeFrak Hall– Maryland

Abstract

Evaluators attempt to estimate the impact of treatments on those who receive them by comparing the outcomes of treated units to the outcomes of similar non-participants using various econometric / statistical methodologies. A simple yet largely untried alternative to econometric program evaluation consists of asking the treated units about their impacts on a survey. My talk will describe existing survey questions that attempt to do this, summarize the available evidence on their performance (spoiler: it is not very pretty) and then outline some ideas for alternative survey questions that might do better than those used in existing studies. My goal is to obtain feedback on these suggestions as well as new and different ideas for survey questions designed to obtain reliable self-reported treatment effects.

The Survey Methodology Program hosts this series of brown bag seminars on survey methods. The purpose is to have informal presentation and discussion of topics in survey methodology. They are open to anyone interested. If you would like more information, or if you have suggestions for methodological topics you would like to see presented, please contact: Jodi Holbrook at 647-3592

Coming: April 8th, Roderick Little - A modeler's view on total survey error