Introduction to surveys

Matthew J. Salganik Department of Sociology Princeton University

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science June 22, 2017





Why should I care about surveys?

Why should I care about surveys in the age of big data?

▶ limitations of big data (fubu vs. nufu-nubu)

- ▶ limitations of big data (fubu vs. nufu-nubu)
- ▶ internal states vs. external states

- ▶ limitations of big data (fubu vs. nufu-nubu)
- ▶ internal states vs. external states
- ► inaccessibility of big data

- ▶ limitations of big data (fubu vs. nufu-nubu)
- internal states vs. external states
- ▶ inaccessibility of big data

But how we are going to ask is going to change

Total survey error framework

Total survey error framework

Who we ask (representation)

- sampling error
- coverage errors
- non-response error

How we ask (measurement)

- question wording
- question ordering
- social desirability bias

Problems with either representation or measurement can wreck estimates

	Sampling	Interviews
1st era	Area probability	Face-to-face

	Sampling	Interviews
1st era	Area probability	Face-to-face
2nd era	Random digital dial probability	Telephone

	Sampling	Interviews
1st era	Area probability	Face-to-face
2nd era	Random digital dial probability	Telephone
3rd era		

	Sampling	Interviews
1st era	Area probability	Face-to-face
2nd era	Random digital dial probability	Telephone
3rd era	Non-probability	Computer-administered

	Sampling	Interviews	Data environment
1st era	Area probability	Face-to-face	Stand-alone
2nd era	Random digital dial	Telephone	Stand-alone
3rd era	probability Non-probability	Computer-administered	Linked

	Sampling	Interviews	Data environment
1st era	Area probability	Face-to-face	Stand-alone
2nd era	Random digital dial	Telephone	Stand-alone
3rd era	probability Non-probability	Computer-administered	Linked