**MSSP Consulting: Limited Duration Project**

**Description and Intended Scope**

**Client:**  Jessica Ghai

**Department:** School of Education

**Graduate Student or Faculty:** Graduate Student

**Advisor (if student):** Donna Lehr

**MSSP Team**: Team C2: Shuai Jiang, Shuoqi Huang, Weiling Li, Daisy Yu

**Intake Date**: Oct 7, 2019

**Purpose of the consulting:** The purpose of this consulting arrangement is 1) to train both MSSP and PhD students on the process of statistical consultation and 2) to provide a service to improve the quantitative aspects of research/projects on Boston University’s campus. Student consultants will be monitored by MSSP faculty in order to help the consultants provide their best possible service. Nevertheless, we ask that you understand that students are not (yet!) professional consultants and we thank you for your patience and cooperation in this regard.

**Scope of the project:** The project described below has been approved for what we call “limited duration” consultation. As the name suggests, such projects are intended to be fairly focused, with a total duration of no more than 10 student hours worth of work. Consultation will involve MSSP student consultants and PhD leaders, supervised by MSSP program faculty. An initial intake meeting should have been held in the MSSP Conference Room at 2 Cummington Mall and additional meetings, as needed, will be arranged at the mutual convenience of the client and the student consultants.

**Project description:**

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| The client presented a survey about animal assisted therapy for children with autism that is aimed towards clinicians (including those who are Board Certified Behavior Analysts and those who aren’t). The survey was sent through Qualtrics, and she has 544 valid responses. She has more responses, but she removed 87 clients because they did not answer the “work location” question. The survey mainly consisted of 2 parts: demographic questions about the respondent and questions about the intervention, animal assisted therapy for children with autism. These questions center around the respondent’s attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, etc about the intervention. Questions come in different forms: yes/no questions, scale questions, categorical, etc.  The client’s main research question is:   * If the different demographic groups perceive differently towards the intervention. * If so, how different? * Can any predictions be made from these demographic groups.   Client had done some EDA on the original data and a Chi-square test on some of the data but was not sure if she had done it correctly. |

**Initial milestone:**

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| To address the client needs, our proposal is to provide the following by the end of November.   * *The data are stored in SPSS file. We will have other forms of data from her soon.* * *After we get the data we will do the EDA. If most of the responses of questions are “sometimes”, we might need to adjust the questions into Yes or No questions.* * *Initial EDA in a week, reliability assessment the following week* |

**Attribution:** When the scope of the work is of `limited duration’ but nevertheless is used in any sort of academic product (e.g., presentation, project, abstract, or publication), we would ask that you please include an appropriate acknowledgment. For example, clients may include “We acknowledge the help of [NAME] of the MSSP statistical consulting service under the guidance of Professor [NAME].” as a footnote accompanying grant support and related[[1]](#footnote-0).

**Modification of Intended Scope of Work:** At any time during this process if both parties mutually agree that the above proposal is suboptimal in addressing the client needs we leave open the possibility of holding additional discussions to alter the above proposal. Consultations anticipated to require substantially more than roughly 10 hours of work may be recommended for collaborative consulting. Evaluation of such recommendations typically will include a discussion of co-authorship on resulting end-products.

1. We explicitly do not insist upon co-authorship for projects of `limited duration’ type -- although, of course, if the conventions of your field permit, co-authorship for at least a subset of the consulting team is always greatly appreciated. This MSSP policy is intended to allow clients maximum flexibility in seeking out and benefiting from our statistical consulting work while, at the same time, promoting best practice regarding academic intellectual property. Our perspective is informed by the [American Statistical Association’s guide *When You Consult a Statistician … What to Expect*](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/AMSTAT/8bd153bf-f076-4d42-b3f4-6f522d50d935/UploadedImages/SCSBrochure%202013.pdf), which states that any such product “should acknowledge the participation of the statistician, consistent with the value of that participation.” [↑](#footnote-ref-0)