

-CALL FOR PAPERS-

9th QICSS New Researchers Conference

Investigating Social Issues with Social Statistics: The importance of detailed microdata

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Carrefour des arts et des sciences

Data access issues have been debated very frequently in 2015 by various stakeholders in the field of social statistics, highlighting the paramount importance of access to detailed microdata for research. To mention a few examples:

- The report [Accessing Health and Health-Related Data in Canada](#) by the Council of Canadian Academies, that emphasizes in its conclusion: “For effective research with health and health-related data, disparate sources of data must be brought together. Providing these data in an “analysis-ready” format, thereby allowing statistical relationships or patterns to be derived, is a central methodological challenge.”
- The announcement by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services to provide access to the [Ontario Social Assistance Database](#) through the Canadian Research Data Center Network (CRDCN) in order to better understand disability, incentives to work and employment outcomes, potential effects of social assistance on various demographic sub-groups as well as long-term dependency on social assistance.
- The presentation to the Commission des institutions of the Quebec Government by Quebec Chief Scientist highlighting the importance for researchers to have access to detailed microdata.
- The decision of the new federal government to [reinstate the census long form](#).

In this context, it is more important than ever to demonstrate how access to timely adequate detailed data can help researchers shed light on a wide range of social issues and to show how crucial it is for training the next generation of researchers. This discussion has inspired the upcoming 9th QICSS New Researchers Conference theme, which aims to showcase a range of approaches that use social statistics to study various social issues such as daycare services, poverty, health determinants, immigration, and ageing. We wish to take advantage of the opportunity this event presents to demonstrate the vitality and relevance of research conducted by young researchers, as well as the necessity of giving access to appropriate data to such research endeavours within university settings.

Graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and recent graduates conducting (or having conducted) research at the QICSS are invited to submit a proposal for a presentation examining various approaches (data sources, quantitative methods, statistical models) used to shed light on a wide range of social issues. Potential topics could include:

- the data sources, their richness and limitations to address primary research questions,
- the choice of the statistical model, its underlying hypotheses in view of the existing literature within a specific area of study,
- the demonstration of the soundness of the research with appropriate findings.

Speakers can choose to present in French or in English. Proposals must include a title and an abstract including the rationale and objectives of the study, the methodology and the main results (maximum one page); submissions should be sent to catherine.blanchard.gougeon@ciqss.org by **February 21, 2016** at the latest. The scientific committee will assess the proposals and announce its decision no later than **February 29, 2016**.

Researchers from outside of the Montreal area will be eligible for financial support.