

## **Advantages and Disadvantages of an Innovation Panel**

**Should NSF fund an on-going survey/panel that could be used by researchers to test innovative ways of collecting data and survey content for PSID, GSS, and ANES?**

**Ongoing work on innovations in survey methods:**

- 1. PSID**
- 2. GSS**
- 3. ANES**

**Existing Innovation Panels (attached to a single study):**

**Common features:**

- initial sample design that matches target study**
- surveys of similar length and burden to target study**
- regular competitions accepting proposals for modules/experiments by researchers**

## **1. U.K.: Understanding Society Innovation Panel**

<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/about/innovation-panel>

1,500 households, Wave I in 2008, now 8 Waves

### **Open Competition for Modules:**

**Proposals can include:**

- **Substantive social science studies** must include experiments or evaluations of questions for measuring new content.
- **Methodological studies** could relate to the design of survey instruments (e.g. question wording, item order, etc) or to survey design features (e.g. procedures intended to reduce non-response or to improve fieldwork efficiency).

### **Examples of experiments:**

- effects of conditional and unconditional monetary incentives
- mixed modes: telephone and face-to-face
- mixed modes: web and face-to-face (6 papers)
- comparing different types of advance materials
- quality of recall data in different modes
- methods of reducing item non-response in web surveys

### **US Advisory Committees**

- Scientific Advisory Committee
- Methodological Advisory Committee

## **2. German Socioeconomic Panel Innovation Sample (SOEP-IS)**

**In 2015, 5,500 people in 3,500 households. Many have been answering SOEP-Core survey since 1998.**

**New smart-phone subsample in 2014.**

**Call for Proposals: “SOEP-IS can accommodate not only short-term experiments but also longer-term survey modules that are not suitable for SOEP-Core, whether because the survey instruments are still relatively new or because of the specific issues dealt with in the research. Up to now, the SOEP-IS has included (complex) economic behavioral experiments, Implicit Association Tests (IAT), and complex procedures to measure time use (Day Reconstruction Method, DRM).”**

### **Issues:**

#### **a. Scientific**

- improved survey cost-effectiveness**
- larger, more formal methods experiments than are feasible in-survey**
  - out-of-sample experiments maintain integrity of main sample**
  - regular input from research community via competitions**
    - encourage publication of results; communication of contributions to survey methods to broader research community**
  - sufficient overlap between surveys to serve as common resource?**

**b. Institutional**

- multidisciplinary, cross-survey oversight board
- communications between surveys, funders
- governance issues