

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**

1

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**

2

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).

3

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

4

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).”

5

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?**

6

b. Institutional

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