



President's Letter

Warm summer greetings,
PAPOR community,

I've read and reread the
moving messages on

AAPOR.net about Don Dillman from PAPOR and AAPOR members. His impact on public opinion research and on those who had the privilege to work with him cannot be overstated. Among them is Benn Messer, who contributed the tribute to Dr. Dillman on pages 2 and 3.

I'm deeply grateful to have learned so much from works, events, and personal interactions with AAPOR and PAPOR members. I couldn't ask for a more generous professional community.

PAPOR members can always be counted on to contribute to the AAPOR conference and 2024 was no exception. As you'll see on page 4, four PAPOR council members presented at AAPOR. Council members also passed out information, some handy promotional clips, raffled a California wine basket, and had a lot of fun; see page 5. The California Health Interview Survey at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research AAPOR received the Inclusive Voices Award (page 6). Jeannine Pearce, University of California, received a Student Conference Award (page 7). Well done, all!

Volunteering on the PAPOR Council has been a great way to connect with other people striving to improve survey research. If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering for the 2025 council, please email Erin Pinkus at pastpres@papor.org.

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The 2024 council is excitedly putting together the final details of the 2024 PAPOR Annual Conference at KFF in San Francisco, August 22-23. We have a great line-up of presenters and Panelists planned. The plenary, Decision Points in Democracy, is sure to generate lively discussion. Be sure to register and spread the word to your colleagues, students, and any others who might be interested. You can find more conference details on page 9 and on our [website](#). Email any questions to confchair@papor.org.

Thank you all, and special thanks to our 2024 PAPOR Sponsors on page 10. I hope to see you at the annual conference! As always, if you any suggestions for PAPOR, please email me at president@papor.org.

Danell Brewster
2024 PAPOR President



Don Dillman: A Tribute

Benjamin L. Messer

The PAPOR council is sad to announce that Dr. Don A. Dillman, a beloved and distinguished member of the PAPOR community, passed away this summer. As one of Don's students and friends, I wanted to recognize a few of his PAPOR contributions and memories. It was through Don that I, and many others, became acquainted and involved with PAPOR (and AAPOR and other regional chapters). He was very encouraging and supportive to those around him to contribute to and learn from the survey methods communities. Nearly every time he and I spoke, he'd ask with excitement how PAPOR was doing and what we had planned next. He usually also had a good idea or two. Don often attended

PAPOR events to learn as much as he could, but also to teach and inspire others. No venue was too small (or too large) for him to feel welcome and honored. He graciously presented at PAPOR conferences, taught short courses and webinars, and participated in the speaker series over the many years of the chapter's history. The same goes for many of his students. PAPOR wouldn't be what it is without him and those he influenced.

Don's work beyond PAPOR was well known to many, and was truly influential and appreciated in the survey methods and sociology communities and beyond. He spent his entire career, beginning in 1969, as a sociology professor at Washington State University, rising to be one of WSU's Regents Professors and being an integral leader at the Social and Economic Science Research Center (SESRC). Don was an author on many different publications, including his (and his coauthors') classic foundational books, *Mail and Telephone Surveys: The Total Design Method* and *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method*. Don also spent some time as a senior methodologist at the Census Bureau in the 1990s, and throughout his career, served on the councils of a plethora of academic, government, scientific, professional, and other institutions in the U.S. and Europe, including the one he considered his "home", AAPOR. He received many awards and honors in a variety of fields, disciplines, and organizations, some of which are of the highest recognition that can be achieved. His last publication is fittingly a memoir about his life and experiences, aptly titled, *You've Been Randomly Selected: A Life Dedicated to Turning Research Findings Into Practical Applications*.

I think it is also important to recognize that Don's impact on PAPOR, the survey community, and those who knew him wasn't just limited to his extensive knowledge, experience, and service. Don was also one of the kindest, humblest, most positive and practical people I've ever met. And, reading from what others have wrote and shared about him, I think I'm safe in saying that most who knew him would agree. Don tried to make time for everyone and he never met a stranger. He certainly loved to chat about surveys but also was sure to make time to talk about the other important things in one's life, like family, hobbies, art, travel, and so much else. Even if it wasn't an interest to Don, he always listened. Don was the type of person happy to lend a hand, do a review, or share ideas, and took a lot of pride in participating in others' lives and work. Don not only taught me (and others) to be a methodologist and sociologist, he showed us how to be an all-around good person, friend, and colleague. He was a true joy and gem to be around, and his optimism was unwavering and irresistible. I've been and will remain marveled by his outstanding example. It was one of my greatest pleasures to know him. Don will be missed but not forgotten and PAPOR will forever remain indebted to his great service and contributions.

Don Dillman: A Tribute, Cont'd.

I'd like to take a moment to share how I met Don, it's a story that others have enjoyed and I hope you will too. I was a first-year graduate student in the sociology program at WSU in 2006-2007 and had never heard of Don or knew much about surveys. I was studying environmental and political sociology through a qualitative, historical lens, so surveys were pretty far removed from my interests. I needed work in the summer of 2007 while I remained in Pullman, and a sociology professor who I took a class with during the previous academic year mentioned that Don was looking for a summer research assistant. I interviewed with Don, still not knowing anything about him. I was completely at ease and nonchalant. He seemed nice and the work seemed interesting, but I was honestly most motivated by the pay, which was not bad for a grad student in rural Washington. Don offered me the job and I accepted, and I worked with him for a few weeks like he was just another employer, not too different from others I had in my life. I was just excited I had time to work, could afford rent and pursue summer outdoor activities, and could keep reading thick, heady books in my fields of interest. I thought it was just a job and he was just a boss. But after some time, it wasn't just a job, and he wasn't just a boss. Don and his work really won me over, and what followed changed the course of my life, I'd like to think for the best, forever. Becoming a survey methodologist was something I never dreamed of or thought about, and was a long way away from where I started academically, but has since been one of the most satisfying aspects of my life (for you other survey nerds out there, I would answer "Extremely satisfied"). Thanks, Don!

After I learned just how much of an impact Don had in the profession, and beyond, I would often look back on my story and think of how lucky and fortunate I was at the time without knowing it (and also wonder if I did something a little too nonchalant!). We both got to start our relationship just being ourselves, and it was most rewarding that way. It's also not too dissimilar from some of the turns and surprises that occurred in Don's own life and career, and is something we later bonded over. I hope this inspires you take time to reflect on your own stories with or about Don, or the mentors and friends in your life. Sadly, Don's passing is a reminder that none of us can be together forever, but we can share their memories and legacies with others.

I want to close by sending much love and condolences to Don's family, who he was very close with, to fellow PAPOR members, and to all the communities graced by his life. Rest in peace Don.

For more information:

- One of Don's last contributions to PAPOR was in our Speakers Series: Profiles in Research forum. A recording of his talk can be found [here](#) (starting at 3:50 in the video).
- A memorial service for Don will be held on August 23, 2024 at 11:00 AM Pacific Time at the Simpson United Methodist Church in Pullman Washington. I believe it will also be livestreamed online. More details about it, along with Don's full obituary and a place to send a sympathy note or gift is [here](#).
- Learn more about and make a donation to the Don Dillman Fellowship at Washington State University [here](#).
- Don's autobiographical memoir will be available soon via WSU Press [here](#).

Thanks for taking the time to read this and for your support of PAPOR,

Benjamin L. Messer

2024 PAPOR Treasurer and member since 2011

PAPOR Does AAPOR!

This year, several members on the PAPOR executive council were able to present their research at the AAPOR annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Here's a brief summary of what you might have missed:

PAPOR Secretary, Meagan Doll, discussed mixed methods approaches for studying media trust in her presentation, "[Media Trust, Qualitative Methods: Expanding Our Understanding of Trust in News.](#)"



PAPOR Vice President, Ashley Kirzinger, and Associate Conference Chair, Shannon Schumacher, participated in a panel on the KFF/LA Times survey of immigrants titled "[Methodological Insights, Analytical Insights, and Reporting Narratives from a National Probability Survey of Immigrant Adults.](#)"

Benjamin L. Messer, PAPOR Treasurer, presented on early stage scoping methods in "[To Moderate or Not? a Comparison of Early-Stage Scoping Methods for Designing a New Survey.](#)"



PAPOR Student Representative and Student Paper Award winner, Justine Orgel, presented her work on knowledge of abortion's legal status across U.S. states in "[Do Misconceptions about Abortion's Legal Status in One's State Impact Opinions on State Policy?](#)"

PAPOR Does AAPOR!



PAPOR council members also manned a PAPOR booth at the AAPOR annual conference this year. Council members shared information and promotional clips, and even raffled a California wine basket!

AAPOR 2024 Inclusive Voices Award

The AAPOR Inclusive Voices Award recognizes the important data sets, research, and survey methods that have improved the ability to study complex social phenomena related to understudied populations. This year, the award was granted to the [California Health Interview Survey](#) (CHIS), the largest population-based state health survey in the United States.



Since 2001, the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) has been a leader in equity-centered population health measurement, demonstrating a commitment to health equity through data equity. With an annual sample size of 20,000 Californians, CHIS provides comprehensive data on the health and healthcare needs of California's diverse population. It supports the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's efforts to impact policy and serves as a national model for data collection on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and immigration status. CHIS also includes underrepresented populations such as Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Asian subgroups.

CHIS's inclusivity is achieved through multicultural community advisors, large sample sizes, oversampling small groups, and encouraging participation from non-English speakers. Predictive modeling ensures the sample reflects California's diversity. Multilingual materials and bilingual telephone interviewers are available in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Tagalog.

The robust sample allows for studying social and health phenomena in small or understudied populations, pooling samples across multiple years. Recent partnerships have enabled oversampling of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and specific geographic areas to meet local health departments' and delivery systems' needs. This data disaggregation helps measure small population groups' health and well-being, ensuring a more accurate portrayal of their health narratives.

Researchers and organizations nationwide use CHIS data for reports, dashboards, and peer-reviewed journal articles. In 2023, CHIS data were referenced in over 435 media stories and cited in bills, amicus briefs, proposed rules, and policy formulations, including historic healthcare reform legislation in California and the Food4All bill.

To maintain its leadership in inclusive data collection, CHIS researchers rigorously review survey design, data collection methods, data processing, and weighting and variance estimation. Each year, CHIS interviews over 20,000 households on various health topics, including healthcare access, health insurance, health conditions, health behaviors, public program participation, mental health, oral health, immigrant health, intimate partner violence, food insecurity, child care, school connection, employment, income, discrimination, and more.

For more information about CHIS, see the [Making an Impact](#) report, which highlights all of the publications and uses of the CHIS data for a given year.

Spotlighting AAPOR Student Award Winner

Jeannine Pearce from UC Irvine was one of five student researchers from around the world who obtained a student travel award from AAPOR earlier this year. At the [annual conference](#) in May in Atlanta, she presented her paper “Resilience Inequity: The Shadows of Siloed Urban Planning”, co-authored with Dr. [Elisa Borowski](#) and Dr. [Nicola Ulibarri](#), at the panel “Understanding Local Issues: Surveys About Transportation and Housing.” Jeannine was gracious enough to answer a few questions for the summer edition of the PAPOR Trail.



First, we want to congratulate you on obtaining one of the highly competitive AAPOR student travel awards this year. We’d like to learn a little bit more about your background. What brought you to UC Irvine, and what do you like about living in the LA area?

I had a non-traditional upbringing that included adoption and poverty, among others. Despite these challenges, I put myself through community college, followed my husband to California for his graduate degree, and graduated *magna cum laude* with a BA from California State University, Long Beach, after ten years. Long Beach quickly became home as I immersed myself in its diverse community and organized around social justice issues.

My internship with the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy ([LAANE](#)) turned into a career in community organizing and public policy. Co-founding [Long Beach Rising](#), an educational program that has empowered over 1,000 community leaders, I contributed to a paradigm shift in the city’s approach to marginalized communities. My journey then took me to the Long Beach City Council, where I drove significant policy changes while facing an incredible degree of personal adversity. I continued to advocate for change, negotiating a human resources audit and securing trauma-informed training for city staff. However, choosing to focus on my daughter (who you see in the photo taken at Crystal Cove) and my own healing, I decided not to run for office again but to apply to graduate school to deepen my impact.

That sounds like a lot of first-hand experience in community politics. You are now in the Urban Planning and Public Policy ([UPPP](#)) program at UC Irvine. Please tell us more about your academic trajectory. What are your current research interests and areas of emphasis in the urban planning program?

I hold a BA in sociology and have over 20 years of experience in political campaigns, focusing on economic, social, and environmental justice. Transitioning from party politics, I pursued a graduate degree in Urban Planning at UC Irvine to concentrate on governance, climate change, and labor markets, balancing teaching and mentoring with public policy research. I have enjoyed organizing the “write to the city” space for UPPP students and served as Legislative Director for the Graduate Students Association. This fellowship would allow me to focus on my research agenda and personal growth, aiming to graduate within five years.

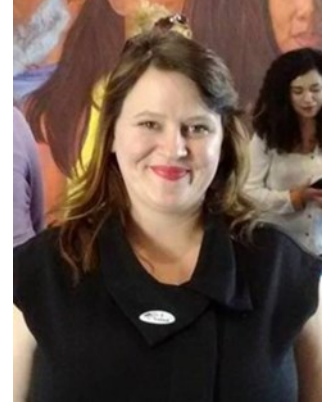
My research interests lie at the intersection of social movements, resource mobilization, regime theory, urban governance, network analysis, and political influence. I investigate how urban planning can address social inequities and enhance resilience against climate impacts, particularly through the lens of infrastructure equity and environmental justice. My work delves into the challenges faced by cities in implementing effective climate policies amid conflicting political interests and entrenched business regimes. By evaluating interagency coordination and prioritizing social equity, I highlight the critical role of community involvement in creating resilient and inclusive transportation systems. Through an interdisciplinary approach, I aim to develop inclusive strategies that prioritize community voices and foster equitable and resilient urban spaces.

Spotlighting AAPOR Student Award Winner, Cont'd.

AAPOR's support provided a chance to research and write my first manuscript in my second year of grad school, I learned so much in a short time and feel confident our paper will help shape resilience planning.

How did you first get into public opinion research?

Public opinion research has always been integral to my work in policy prioritization and implementation. Starting in political campaigns, my team and I canvassed neighborhoods to gather and share information, drastically improving engagement and trust. We utilized online polling to understand public priorities, using this data to shape annual policy goals. This grassroots approach underscored the importance of public opinion and governance.



How did you first hear about AAPOR?

I discovered AAPOR through my research on siloed planning in the Los Angeles region. My PI for a related project recommended attending the conference to enhance my understanding of public opinion research methodologies.

This was the first AAPOR conference you attended. What did you like the most?

Attending my first AAPOR conference was an enriching experience. I was impressed by the presentations addressing current community challenges, the innovative methodologies discussed, and the opportunity to network with academics, government agencies, and private sector professionals. The camaraderie at the dinner and engaging with the Gallup team was a highlight. I eagerly anticipate future conferences.

And what are you currently working on?

I am currently revising and analyzing new data for the AAPOR conference paper where I examine 17 planning documents across four jurisdictions in the LA Region, identifying silos in equity and climate planning. My team and I recently submitted a report titled "Between the Forest and the Trees: Community Strategies to Transform Roadways in California's San Joaquin Valley," which investigates community strategies for addressing roadway hazards. Additionally, I am deciding on my dissertation topic, focusing either on the political network analysis of air reduction strategies in A.B.617 regimes or on the Long Beach Climate Action Plan.

Lastly, what could PAPOR do to better support students and early-career professionals in the area of public opinion research and/or survey research methodology?

PAPOR could better support students and early-career professionals by creating affinity groups before conferences to facilitate engagement and implementing a methodology fellowship to support students in statistical analysis.

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer our questions and sharing your insights. Congratulations again!

Thank you for reaching out! I look forward to contributing to and growing within the AAPOR and PAPOR communities.

PAPOR 2024 Conference



2024 PAPOR Annual Conference

Thursday, August 22 – Friday, August 23
Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF)
185 Berry Street, San Francisco, California

The Annual PAPOR Conference features multiple days of professional growth and networking in a collegial, friendly setting that also provides ample opportunity for good conversation and fruitful collaboration. We also recognize the next generation of opinion researchers.

Register [here](#).

Conference Schedule

Thursday, August 22nd

12:45 pm – 1:00 pm Conference Check-In, drop bag at KFF or your hotel
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Session 1
2:45 pm – 4:15 pm Session 2
4:30 pm – 5:15 pm Poster Session
5:30 pm – 6:15 pm Dinner
6:15 pm – 7:15 pm Plenary

Friday, August 23rd

9:00 am – 9:30 am Speed Networking (sign up in advance)
9:30 am – 11:00 am Session 3
11:15 am – 12:30 pm Session 4 Profiles in Research
12:30 pm – 1:15 pm Lunch

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[The Harris Poll](#) is a global consulting and market research firm that strives to reveal the authentic values of modern society to inspire leaders to create a better tomorrow. It works with clients in three primary areas: building twenty-first-century corporate reputation, crafting brand strategy and performance tracking, and earning organic media through public relations research. One of the longest running surveys in the U.S., The Harris Poll has tracked public opinion, motivations and social sentiment since 1963, and is now part of Stagwell, the challenger holding company built to transform marketing.

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PAPOR Member Profile

PAPOR serves to support public opinion researchers in the western region of the US and Canada, including areas west of the Rocky Mountains as well as Alaska and Hawaii, but welcomes members from across the US and Canada. Although PAPOR is the local chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), membership in AAPOR is not required to join PAPOR.

As of July 2024, PAPOR has 148 active members:

130 Regular members
11 Students
7 Honorary Lifetime members

Gender:

Male 52%
Female 46%
Non-Binary/Other 2%

Age:

Under 40 years 25%
40 or older 74%
Unknown 1%

Education:

College or less 21%
Master's 40%
Doctorate/JD/MD 39%

Region:

53% California; 14% Washington; 6% Oregon; 4% Utah; 2% Arizona; with the remainder spread across the United States and Canada.