Call for Papers

Education Research in a New Data Environment

Over the last 15 years, quantitative education research has undergone a methodological transformation, expanding beyond correlational and regression-based methods to randomized trials and quasi-experimental designs. A second transformation is also underway, fostered by the increased availability of new forms of data, including:

a. administrative data (student-level longitudinal data, institutional data, individual census and tax records, geo-coded data, etc.);
b. natural language and text data (text-as-data from textbooks, policy documents, websites, social media interactions, online classroom conversations, and the like);
c. data from digital education environments (MOOC data, data from technology-enhanced courses and programs);
d. data scraped from websites and social media platforms, including online transactions;
e. biological, neurological, and genetic data (FMRI scan data, cortisol data, polygenic score data); and
f. social network data.

Such data provide potentially rich information on educational processes for whole populations or very large samples, or might provide very detailed data about smaller samples. But they also introduce a new set of challenges for education research. Many are not collected in ways designed to measure educational processes or outcomes; nor are they necessarily generated by processes that facilitate causal inference. Their use for education research purposes may require new or specialized analytic techniques. How can education research leverage such new forms of data to learn about educational processes and effects? What opportunities do these data afford, what challenges do they pose? What new analytic techniques or research designs might help the field to address those challenges?

JREE invites papers for a special issue on the topic of "education research in a new data environment." We seek both methodological and substantive papers. Papers of interest might include (but are not limited to):

a. Methodological papers describing new study designs or analytic techniques using these novel forms of data;
b. Review papers synthesizing existing research that uses new forms of data and analytic techniques;
c. Commentaries that provide insight and guidance for the field regarding new data and associated research methods;
d. Substantive papers demonstrating the use of innovative analytic techniques with new forms of data to study educational processes and/or their effects.

We ask that interested authors submit a one-page abstract of a proposed paper; we will provide quick feedback (within two weeks) about the general suitability of the paper topic for the special issue. Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit a full paper. Submitted papers will undergo the usual JREE peer review process. Note that an invitation to submit a paper is by no means a guarantee of acceptance for publication.

The deadline for submissions of full papers is **August 1, 2018**. Please send one-page abstracts to Jennifer Bishop (jenn@sree.org) by **June 1, 2018** (though we encourage early submission of abstracts to ensure adequate time to prepare manuscripts for submission). Please mention "JREE call for papers" in the subject line. Questions about the special issue can be addressed to Liz Stuart (estuart@jhu.edu) and sean reardon (sean.reardon@stanford.edu).