

MAPOR NEWS

Research Excellence | Leadership | Student-Friendly

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 - * First Webinar: April 30 @noon CST

Key Highlights:

- MAPOR has 268 members
- Two Webinars planned in 2021
- Membership survey results coming in next newsletter!



A Message from the President:

**Dana Garbarski, MAPOR President,
Loyola University Chicago**

Happy Spring 2021! As your MAPOR president I am pleased to be able to discuss some upcoming MAPOR events and initiatives.

I was pleased to see so many of you online at the 2020 MAPOR Annual Conference--our very first (and hopefully only) fully remote conference! This year we are planning to have a hybrid conference to allow for both in-person and virtual attendance, should that be allowable for public health. Please see our 2020 conference highlights (<http://www.mapor.org/2020-annual-conference/>).

Get ready for the first of two MAPOR webinars this year coming in April on April 30th (see p. 4 and <http://www.mapor.org/webinars/> for more info). I am also happy to report that your MAPOR Executive Council has been helping to prepare for the chapter events at the 2021 AAPOR Annual Conference, being held online May 11-14. We hope to see many of you at these events.

We also launched the new MAPOR Student Fellowship Program. The students selected for the Student Fellowship Program will be matched with a MAPOR fellow based on the topic they describe in their abstract. This is a unique opportunity to work with a MAPOR fellow and receive guidance on the project.

The effects of COVID-19 on academic and private research organizations will be with us for a few years. We are currently planning to launch a Student Support Grant and Colleague Support Grant to help our students and colleagues attend the MAPOR Annual Conference. Please be on the lookout for more information on that when we launch the 2021 call for abstracts in May.

We also launched the annual membership survey earlier this year. This survey was a chance for you to reflect on MAPOR in general as well as the annual conference. MAPOR Council weighs the survey results very heavily in our planning and so we highly value your feedback and candor and ask you to participate. We'll release the survey results in the next newsletter this summer and via social media.

General MAPOR Updates: MAPOR currently has 268 members, 71 (26%) of whom are students. MAPOR has maintained a stable membership base for a number of years with relatively steady numbers, both for general and student members -- even with not being able to host an in-person conference in 2020. We are pleased especially with respect to our student membership counts, at least partly attributable to the student-friendly nature of our organization (significant outreach, financial discounts, etc.).

As of February 2021, we had \$28,665 on hand in our checking and \$46,968 in our savings accounts for total assets of \$75,633. Our financial health has enabled us to make organizational improvements and to create networking and educational opportunities to our members. We also have been able to make MAPOR resources more available during the pandemic, such as free and reduced cost webinars, and the virtual conference in November 2020. Our Executive Council is actively reviewing our financial reserves and planning for additional member support opportunities -- keep an eye out for announcements!

Finally, if you have any ideas, comments, questions, or concerns about MAPOR, please reach out to me directly at president@mapor.org or at dgarbarski@luc.edu. I am interested in hearing what your thoughts are with respect to MAPOR and how we can make it an even better community for public opinion researchers.



MAPOR Student Fellowship Program

**Evgenia Kapousouz, Student Liaison
University of IL at Chicago**

Students and early career researchers are essential to the MAPOR community! Especially at this challenging time, the MAPOR council focuses on supporting students. Therefore, we offered both webinars and conference registration for free for students. We were excited that even though the conference was virtual, we had a sizable turnout, especially since many of the students were first-time attendees. Nevertheless, we tried to engage with students more. We hosted a happy hour before the beginning of the conference and we were pleased that it was the first time that members of the Executive Council also attended. In addition to the poster session and coffee breaks, students had the opportunity to participate in the networking session and ask for information and advice from people in the field. Overall, after surveying the students, we believe the conference was beneficial for them.

We are excited that MAPOR Council constantly finds new ways to support students. This year we launched the Student Fellowship Program. Students have the opportunity to work with a MAPOR fellow on a paper and receive guidance. MAPOR council chose three outstanding proposals from students: (1) Kruthika Kamath was matched with Joe Murphy; (2) Rafiuddin Najam was matched with Leo Jeffres; and (3) Robert Schultz was matched with Paul Lavrakas. We look forward to all three presentations. In addition, we plan to launch the Student Support Grant for the 2021 MAPOR conference. Stay tuned for more information!

Moving forward, we plan to increase the prospects for students and early careers. We have multiple ideas, but our priority is to increase the opportunities for students to network with other researchers attending MAPOR. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please reach out to the student liaison Evgenia Kapousouz at ekapou2@uic.edu. Stay tuned for more news and opportunities.

MAPOR 2021 Webinar Series

MAPOR is excited to announce our April webinar! Andrew Stavisky at the US Government Accountability Office and Issac Rogers at 2020 Research and Schlesinger Group will discuss how qualitative research has moved to a virtual environment due to the COVID pandemic.

Andrew Stavisky
Assistant Director
Applied Research and Methods Group
US Government Accountability Office



Isaac Rogers
CEO, 20|20 Research
Chief Innovation Officer, Schlesinger Group



This past year has seen qualitative research move entirely to a virtual environment. Andrew and Isaac will talk about their experiences in leading their organizations into the virtual world of data collection and they will talk about their visions for how qualitative research will look post-Covid. At GAO, Andrew has led a best in practice movement that includes virtual site visits and virtual small group methods. At 2020/Schlesinger, Isaac has overseen thousands of virtual groups and worked with clients to solve critical challenges when migrating their work to digital platforms. Coming out of Covid, many of these virtual methodologies will remain and the post-Covid landscape will be forever changed for qualitative researchers.

April 30th, 12-1 pm central time

ADMISSION:

Free for students, \$10 for non-student MAPOR members, \$20 for non-members

Recordings of the webinar will be available for those who cannot attend the event live. If interested, please register and you will receive a link to the recording after the event.

Register online at <http://www.mapor.org/webinars/webinar-registration/>

2020-2021 MAPOR Council

President

Dana Garbarski
Loyola University Chicago
dgarbarski@luc.edu

VP/President-Elect

Kevin Ulrich
University of Chicago
Survey Lab
ulrichkv@uchicago.edu



Past-President

Ned English
NORC at the University
of Chicago
english-ned@norc.org

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Conference Chair

David Sterrett
NORC at the University of
Chicago
sterrett-david@norc.org

Associate Conference Chair

Leah Dean
RTI International

Webinar Coordinator & Webmaster

Patrick Hsieh
RTI International
yph@rti.org

Communications Coordinator

Justine Bulgar-Medina
NORC at the University
of Chicago
bulgarmedina-
justine@norc.org

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