

[118] From: Michael Morgan <mmorgan@comm.umass.edu> at SMTP-po 11/29/94 3:09AM (1959 bytes: 41 ln)
To: fgg at POST1
Subject: Re: Re[2]: Lin Sun diss

----- Message Contents -----

Text item 1: Text Item

Received: by ccm ail from pobox.ucs.umass.edu
From mmorgan@comm.umass.edu
X-Envelope-From: mmorgan@comm.umass.edu
Received: from titan.ucs.umass.edu by pobox.ucs.umass.edu (PMDF V4.3-8 #6523)
id <01HK15A9W1E0006GF4@pobox.ucs.umass.edu>; Tue, 29 Nov 1994 00:04:15 -0500
Received: from localhost (mmorgan@localhost)
by titan.ucs.umass.edu (8.6.4/8.6.4) id AAA28545 for fgg@asc.upenn.edu; Tue,
29 Nov 1994 00:04:14 -0500
Date: Tue, 29 Nov 1994 00:04:13 -0500 (EST)
From: Michael Morgan <mmorgan@comm.umass.edu>
Subject: Re: Re[2]: Lin Sun diss
In-reply-to: <9410287860.AA786071369@asc.upenn.edu> from "fgg@asc.upenn.edu" at
Nov 28, 94 05:09:29 pm
To: fgg@asc.upenn.edu
Message-id: <199411290504.AAA28545@titan.ucs.umass.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.4 PL22]
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
Content-length: 855

> Let me know if anything else occurs to you that may
> be helpful.

Only that the specific committee she's got is probably not the wisest choice in terms of keeping everyone satisfied with what she's doing theoretically, methodologically, and analytically, and I suspect that that concern is adding fuel to her anxiety. (Full time job and child add enough distractions.) I don't think that it would be fair to attempt to convince her that not much more work would be needed or that it would be accepted pretty much as is, unless Bob and Charlie have mellowed significantly with age. ;-) I think that circulating the abstract and/or draft to other committee members would be very good and useful to do at this point. (Again, I'd still like to see somebody do some serious work with these two datasets.)

Good luck, let me know what happens, -m

[108] From: fgg 11/28/94 5:09PM (4569 bytes: 82 ln)

To: fgg

Subject: Re: Lin Sun diss

----- Forwarded -----
From: Michael Morgan <mmorgan@comm.umass.edu> at SMTP-po 11/28/94 3:34PM (4420 bytes: 82 ln)

To: fgg at POST1

Subject: Re: Lin Sun diss

----- Message Contents -----

Text item 1: Text Item

Received: by ccmil from pobox.ucs.umass.edu

From mmorgan@comm.umass.edu

X-Envelope-From: mmorgan@comm.umass.edu

Received: from titan.ucs.umass.edu by pobox.ucs.umass.edu (PMDf V4.3-8 #6523) id <01HK0BBXFQZ40081XM@pobox.ucs.umass.edu>; Mon, 28 Nov 1994 09:46:35 -0500

Received: from localhost (mmorgan@localhost)

by titan.ucs.umass.edu (8.6.4/8.6.4) id JAA20397 for fgg@asc.upenn.edu; Mon, 28 Nov 1994 09:46:34 -0500

Date: Mon, 28 Nov 1994 09:46:34 -0500 (EST)

From: Michael Morgan <mmorgan@comm.umass.edu>

Subject: Re: Lin Sun diss

In-reply-to: <9410287860.AA786010631@asc.upenn.edu> from "fgg@asc.upenn.edu" at Nov 28, 94 00:17:11 am

To: fgg@asc.upenn.edu

Message-id: <199411281446.JAA20397@titan.ucs.umass.edu>

MIME-version: 1.0

X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.4 PL22]

Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Content-length: 3288

Hi --

It's difficult to tell much on the basis of the abstract alone (and the bottom half of the second page got folded over somehow and didn't come through, so I'm not sure what she is saying about mainstreaming). And, you know her work better than I do, but my inclination is to encourage her to do it -- unless she is truly set against it (how's that for waffling! ;-). A dissertation is tough enough for most people; if someone is highly uncomfortable with it, it'll only make them sick and/or produce a lousy dissertation.

Now, the problem of 'negative results' is another issue, and it's probably one of the reasons we never did more with the US-Soviet data. The Soviet data generally show no associations of any kind (and not only with viewing -- my recollection is that Soviet responses were remarkably but perhaps understandably homogeneous, and attitudes were little affected by age, education, etc. US attitudes varied *far* more by demographics, opening the door for a fair bit of mainstreaming. (Of course, this is an interesting finding!) I also recall there were differences in US cultivation depending on whether the weekday or combined weekend/weekday measure was used (I believe the former was stronger). (This could also be an interesting but minor methodological issue for her to explore.)

Working with these data sets is indeed a challenge, for many reasons, but I'd hate to see these data continue to languish -- so much effort went into collecting them that SOMEONE should really do some extensive, thorough analysis of them, and (of course) let the chips fall where they may.

I don't understand what she means by a "segmentation approach" -- it's not explained in the abstract. Also, from the abstract, it seems as if she's only using two or three dependent variables -- (first two points on p. 2): "fear of being a victim of crime," and "the perception of the danger of being victimized" (are these two vars or one??), plus whether women are happy staying home. Is she NOT also looking at the question of danger walking alone in one's own neighborhood? That was the strongest crime-related dependent var in the US data. Also, what of meanworld, anomia, life satisfaction, and institutional confidence items?

The final paragraph of the abstract doesn't say much of anything. Or, there's some point buried between the lines that I'm not getting clearly. It sounds like euphemisms or apologies intended to cover up something.

If the *main* problem is that she's finding a lot of "negative results" then I would by all means STRONGLY encourage her to keep plugging away; there *are* some useful findings beneath the surface and there's a great deal of important stuff that should be done with these data. But if she has little interest in the project and/or if you doubt her ability to pull it off, then I would get her to refocus on something else immediately.

Hope this helps...

-m

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