



## **QIPSR, 2010-2013 Progress Report**

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Presented to Mark Kornbluh, Dean  
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### **Overview**

In May of 2010, Dean Mark Kornbluh and the leadership of the College of Arts and Sciences had the foresight and vision to authorize and fund the creation of the Quantitative Initiative for Policy and Social Research (QIPSR) in the College of Arts and Sciences. Now after three years of operation, it is possible to demonstrate in a variety of ways that the Initiative has been a remarkable success, benefitting the College, the University and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

**Background:** QIPSR was officially launched in September of 2010, and is funded by the College of Arts and Sciences and contributions from various units on campus. QIPSR's mission is to support cutting-edge research and analysis of policy issues at the University of Kentucky that enlightens educators, policy officials, students, and the general public. QIPSR carries out its mission in several ways, by: 1) providing education and training in quantitative research methods and policy issues to students and faculty in the social sciences via workshops and conferences by leading scholars, 2) providing workshops and seminars on grant writing, and 3) encouraging high-quality interdisciplinary research across departments and colleges at the university and in the Commonwealth.

**What follows:** Below we present some of the highlights of QIPSR events and achievements followed by a more detailed assessment of QIPSR events in terms of their attendance, co-sponsorship and benefits, and conclude with a more general assessment of how QIPSR has been able to enhance research, grant writing and networking.

### ***Highlights***

- In just three years, QIPSR has organized an impressive *number of events*—44 altogether. This includes the Software Workshops (20), the 3-day Statistical Workshops in May (4), Grant Workshops (4), Methods Workshops (11), and the Annual Interdisciplinary Conferences (3) (**Table 1, Figure 1**).
- Attendance is equally impressive—1,719 *participants have attended*, including approximately 700 who were faculty, 530 were graduate students and 460 were undergraduates from over 60 different departments and 11 colleges at the university (**Table 1, Figure 1**).

- Some of our most *distinguished speakers* include the following social scientists: Gary King (Harvard), Paul Sniderman (Stanford), Dan Kahan (Yale), Keith Payne (UNC-Chapel Hill), Rashmita Mistry (UCLA), Douglas Massey (Princeton), Leslie McCall (Northwestern), Lane Kenworthy (U of Arizona), Phillip Schrodt (Penn State), Michael Jones Correa (Cornell), Martin Gilens (Princeton), James N. Druckman (Northwestern), and James Gimpel (Maryland).
- QIPSR has raised over \$19,725 from 16 different units on campus who support QIPSR events (**Table 2**).
- QIPSR now organizes the annual Fall Software Festival of approximately 10 two-hour workshops.
- QIPSR has organized *three Interdisciplinary Conferences* and *three national surveys* (i.e., the Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES)).
- QIPSR's *website* serves a variety of functions--registering participants, announcing future events and providing continued instruction through the videos, slides and annotated software syntax posted from past events.

Below we describe the types of high-quality events that QIPSR has organized over the last three years in terms of their attendance, co-sponsorship and benefits. We then report open-ended comments from participants who were recently surveyed about how QIPSR events they attended improved their research, grant writing and networking.

### **QIPSR Events, 2011-2013**

In just three years, QIPSR has organized an impressive number of events—44 altogether. This includes the Software Workshops (20), the 3-day Statistical Workshops in May (4), Grant Workshops (4), Methods Workshops (11), and the Annual Interdisciplinary Conferences (3). As indicated earlier, attendance at QIPSR events is quite high (*Table 1, Figure 1*). In the past three years, the total number of attendees at QIPSR events is approximately 1,719 participants, including approximately 700 who were faculty, 530 were graduate students and 460 were undergraduates from over 60 different departments and 11 colleges at the university.

There are several reasons why attendance is so high for QIPSR events: 1) we consult extensively with faculty across the university and the Advisory Board prior to scheduling an event, so we know there is a healthy demand; 2) we have an extensive QIPSR List-Serve that we use to notify people about events, 3) people register several weeks prior to attending the event so they know exactly what to expect beforehand, and where the materials for the event are posted afterward; and 4) we go to great lengths to lay the proper groundwork for successful events without frustrating glitches and downtime.

QIPSR organizes several different types of events listed in Table 1, each of which serves a different purpose.

#### ***Fall Software Festival***

QIPSR coordinated with several departments, especially Agricultural Economics, to organize the 10 two-hour software workshops each year for the annual Fall Software Festival introduced in 2011 and 2012, where people attend introductory hands-on workshops in a computer lab to learn a particular software package, such as R, Stata, SAS, SPSS, MatLab, and ArcGIS.

**Attendance:** The software workshops have been quite a success, with over 202 participants in 2011 and 168 in 2012, many of whom are incoming graduate students or current faculty who want to expand their software repertoire.

**Benefits:** A two-hour introductory lab can make all the difference in overcoming the problems associated with learning new software. Software such as R, a free, open-source menu of thousands of statistical packages used by statisticians, can open a window to an array of new methods for analyzing data and presenting results graphically.

**Funding:** Agricultural Economics contributes \$1,000 each year to QIPSR, provides several instructors and participants.

**Sum:** *With attendance high and costs low, since most instructors are UK faculty and advanced graduate students who volunteer their time, the Software Festival provides a great service to graduate students and the university.* There is, however, a substantial cost in the time required to organize 10 workshops each Fall semester.

### **3-Day Statistical Workshops in May**

**Description:** Every May, QIPSR schedules one or two 3-day intensive workshops where faculty and graduate students can learn a new method. The May workshops are not a substitute for a semester-long methods class, but can offer faculty and graduate students with enough of an introduction to use the method in their research and study further. The usual format is for the speaker to present conceptual material in the morning session, and a hands-on computer lab session in the afternoon. Presenters are highly trained individuals with an excellent reputation for teaching 1-4 week methods courses at ICPSR or similar venues. Like other methods workshops, the benefit of the 3-day workshops is long-lasting, since the primary materials for learning (slides, papers, software syntax) [remain online](#). Finally, they serve to stimulate students to take additional advanced methods courses during the regular school year.

**Attendance:** Attendance has been phenomenal in both the morning and afternoon sessions, and is limited only by the seating capacity in the computer lab. An average of about 65 faculty and graduate students from 6 colleges registered for “Spatial Analysis”, “Multilevel Modeling with Stata”, “Missing Data,” and “Longitudinal Multilevel Modeling.” As the attendance graphs make plain, although participants are drawn primarily from Arts and Sciences, several colleges benefit from the workshops.

**Funding:** *Three-day workshops are an incredible bargain, since they tend cost about as much as sending 3-4 individuals to attend a week-long seminar at another university.* In addition, QIPSR is able to underwrite the cost of the three-day workshops with contributions from a variety of units across the university who want their students and faculty to receive advanced methods training. In 2011, for example, the “Spatial Econometrics” workshop was organized by QIPSR but was funded primarily by a number of departments and programs interested in Geospatial Technology and analysis: QIPSR (\$2,000), Tracy Farmer Institute (\$1,500), Statistics (\$2,000), the Geospatial Science & Technology (GST) Group, Plant and Soil Sciences (\$500), Biosystems and Agricultural Eng. (\$500), Agricultural Economics (\$500), Geography (\$150), and Earth and Environmental Sciences (\$100). The “Multilevel Modeling” workshop in 2011 was co-sponsored with Sociology (\$1,000), Political Science (\$1,500) and the UK Center for Poverty Research (\$1,000).

**Benefits:** By receiving training from an experienced presenter in a compressed format, the 3-day workshops in May offer faculty and graduate students with an invaluable introduction to a new method to allow them to use it in their research and study further.

### **Annual Interdisciplinary Conferences**

**Description.** QIPSR has organized three Annual Interdisciplinary Conferences where 3-4 leading outside scholars from several social science disciplines present new research on a vexing policy problem, such as “[Immigration Policy in an Anti-Immigrant Era](#) (March 2011),” “[Rising Economic Inequality in the 21st Century](#) (March, 2012),” and “[The Polarized Electorate](#)” (December 2012). UK faculty serve as discussants at the all-day conference and attend a conference dinner the night before with the outside scholars.

**Attendance:** Attendance at the conferences is exceptional, with approximately 100 or so individuals registering for different parts of the all-day conference.

**Funding:** Our experience is that 3-4 outside speakers is more than sufficient to generate interest and provide a focal point for a lively discussion throughout the day. Additional funding comes primarily three

departments in the college –Sociology, Psychology and Political Science, as well as the UK Poverty Research Center and the College of Communication and Information.

**Benefits:** Annual conferences serve to shine a light on policy problems that are so complex they must be studied by several social science disciplines to effectively diagnose the nature of the problem and recommend solutions. Outside scholars provide a special draw but UK faculty also share the spotlight as their research and expertise becomes a focal point of the conference as well. One of the chief advantages of a conference is to provide an opportunity for the UK community to **network** with each other as well as the outside speakers. The conferences are also excellent **recruiting** tools for prospective faculty and graduate students.

The conferences also provide an important learning experience for *undergraduates*, who are able to see how different social sciences tackle the same policy problem, and how UK faculty as well as outside scholars are engaged in the research process.

### ***Other Methods Workshops***

**Description:** Scheduling conferences requires several busy scholars to agree to visit on the same day, which is extremely difficult to pull off. More frequently, QIPSR schedules a methods workshop where an individual scholar makes two presentations—first, a working paper where a new method is applied to a particular problem, and second, the presenter demonstrates the method with a hands-on tutorial in the computer lab. In the last 3 years, QIPSR has scheduled just under a dozen methods workshops of this nature, where participants are able to learn and use a new method of research.

**Attendance:** A total of 556 people have attended such workshops, which tend to average about 50 participants.

**Benefits:** It is hard to overestimate the value of such workshops for learning new methods. To publish in a leading social science journal today often requires a mixture of methods from several disciplines that emphasize both internal and external validity. New methods are constantly being introduced that social scientists need to understand and use. In short, methods workshops allow quantitative social scientists to stay on top of their craft and to enhance their ability to **publish** in more competitive and visible outlets and to write more successful **grant** proposals.

**Examples:** QIPSR invites leading scholars who are developing and using new methods. For example, Gary King, the Director of the QISS at Harvard, and a luminary in political science, has been instrumental in developing and disseminating software on the frontiers of text analysis, matching methods, the imputation of missing data, and more. King gave 3 talks at UK, and joked that we might expect him to give a fourth talk on a bus to the airport! His software and method of “*coarsened exact matching*,” which he shared with people in a variety of departments, has transformed what social scientists know about matching techniques. Amazingly, like all good methods speakers, King emphasized the “big picture” rather than the details of the method, and gave everyone in the audience the strong feeling that we understood the new method—and also amazingly, we did understand on an applied level!

Another example is the series of 4 workshops QIPSR provided on **automated text analysis**. Virtually every social scientist can use automated text analysis in their research. Political scientists have access to all presidential speeches, legislation, website campaigns, and news coverage of events around the world. These are, in essence, the political “stimuli” that drive politics in a democracy. Scraping websites, linguistics analysis and culling information from journal abstracts are examples in other disciplines. Large amounts of digital data are more available today than ever before, but being able to download data and actually use it effectively are two very different things. For many purposes, human coding is too slow, expensive and unreliable. By contrast, supervised automated text analysis can train a program to extract and analyze a huge amount of data in seconds. QIPSR is in the process of *organizing a working group of UK faculty and graduate students* to create a series of introductory text analysis workshops to train others to use this powerful new method.

## ***Grant Workshops***

QIPSR has provided a number of grant workshops to *encourage and enhance successful external grant writing*, especially for major funding agencies that provide overhead, like NSF and NIH. QIPSR's first grant workshop, "An Insider's Guide to Social Science Grants," pulled together UK faculty from 4 different colleges who had served on review panels of major funding agencies: Janice Almasi (Education Curriculum and Instruction), Tom Janoski (Sociology), Genia Toma (Martin School), Jim Ziliak (Economics), Matthew Webster (Behavioral Science), Lawrence Gottlob (Psychology, NSF), Anna Secor (Geography), as well as Margot McCullers (UK PDO). Sixty social scientists from across the university attended the two-hour workshop and the *Faculty Outreach* reception at the Faculty Club designed to network grant seekers with grant experts.

Two workshops in 2011 and 2012 were geared toward *graduate students* and were also well attended. A workshop on "Writing Successful NSF DDIGs" on October, 2011, given by Tom Janoski, Emily Beaulieu, and Michael Samers, was attended by about 50 graduate students. Another workshop on Grant Writing presented by Kathy Doyle Grzech (UK PDO), was also well attended.

*This year, on May 9, 90 faculty and post-docs, 60 of whom are in A&S, will attend an "All-Day Grant Writing Seminar," by an outside firm, [Grant Writers' and Workshops](#), which has been used by many universities and both the Medical and Pharmacy Colleges, who provided excellent reviews. For Assistant Professors, the Seminar will be an excellent opportunity to learn sophisticated grant writing skills that apply to any major funding agency. In addition, the seminar will provide participants with more detailed information about two major funding agencies—NSF and NIH. Partial funding for the Grant Seminar is being shared by other colleges, such as Pharmacy and Public Health.*

## ***National Survey Experiments (CCES)***

Part of the funding for QIPSR provides for three years' participation in the Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES), a national survey of political attitudes conducted annually in the Fall (October and November). The CCES is an *incredible bargain* for UK social scientists. Through the economies of scale of 30-50 universities pooling their resources, *each university "team" of 6 faculty receives approximately 20 minutes of survey time with 1,000 nationally representative respondents*. The cost of the CCES is only about 30% of the cost of a telephone survey and half as much as an independent Internet survey, such as Knowledge Networks. Kentucky researchers create 10 minutes of survey experiments and CCES includes another 10 minutes of common content measuring demographics along with various political attitudes (e.g., party ID) and behavior (e.g., voting). The turnaround time for pretesting, gaining IRB approval, submitting final questions, fielding the survey and receiving the data for analysis is extremely fast—about 6 months from July to January. Thus, three faculty who submitted questions for the November, 2012 survey presented their findings at a conference in April, 2013.

*The yield in terms of research productivity for survey data that is publishable and used as pilot data for grant proposals has been tremendous. Seven papers have been presented by different faculty (Barnes, Beaulieu, Barnes, Peffley, G. Wallace, S. Wallace, Wedeking) at conferences, two faculty (Beaulieu, Wedeking) have submitted manuscripts to journals, two faculty (Wedeking, Peffley) have used their data to apply for NSF grants, two faculty (Wallace, Beaulieu) were awarded NSF-funded survey space in the program known as [TESS](#) (Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences), and two female faculty (Barnes and Beaulieu) were among the 15 women working in political methodology in the U.S. invited to the annual [Visions in Methodology](#) (VIM) Conference in 2013, one of whom (Beaulieu) has been invited to present at the Electoral Integrity Project Conference at Harvard in June, 2013!*

Although in the first two years the participants have mostly been political scientists (and a psychologist), this spring we expect about half the participants to be non-political scientists.

In conclusion, the *yield in research productivity* has been enormous considering the small annual cost per participant (\$2,000 per 6 participants).

## Summary

To summarize, after just three years of operation, from all available signs, QIPSR seems to be working remarkably well. Not only are QIPSR events widely attended by a large number (1,719) of social scientists in Arts & Sciences and other colleges, but QIPSR also receives generous contributions from various quarters inside and outside the College.

## **Performance Assessment: How Has QIPSR Helped?**

Realistically, three years is not long enough to gauge precisely QIPSR's impact on various performance outcomes, such as research productivity, grant submissions and so forth. But we can provide some insight into QIPSR's performance in these areas by examining the open-ended comments that past participants made in a recent survey when asked how QIPSR had helped their "research productivity," "grant writing," and "professional networking." Because the survey was administered recently, responses are doubtless influenced by more recent events. Nevertheless, attendees' comments are further evidence of QIPSR's beneficial impact among both faculty and students.

### **Research Productivity**

Faculty and graduate students alike view QIPSR as a vital resource for their research by learning new approaches, acquiring new data and networking with leading scholars at UK and elsewhere.

#### ***Faculty Comments:***

Some faculty, such as Steve Borgatti in the Gatton College and Tom Janoski in Sociology, emphasize the value of QIPSR workshops for *graduate training*, which make graduate students more valuable collaborators, produce better dissertations and thus more marketable.

- As **Steve Borgatti**, a sociologist in the Gatton College wrote, "Workshops are very useful for bringing graduate students up to speed, making them more valuable co-authors on research papers."
- **Tom Janoski** in Sociology comments that "Five years ago as DGS I set a goal for our graduate students to become competent in multilevel modeling (MLM). The QIPSR summer program helped spread this technology among our new faculty and graduate students. The follow-up this summer will provide the needed expertise to get research going on this relatively new method that allows individual and group level data to be combined and analyzed in a scientific manner. This is helping to produce much more competitive papers and dissertations."

Other faculty praise the value of QIPSR workshops and conferences for *their own research*:

- As **Edward Jennings** of the Martin School commented, "I am working on a paper that draws heavily on one of the workshops dealing with survey experiments."
- As **Justin Wedeking** in Political Science writes, "I have 2 conference papers that I have developed with the support of QIPSR. These papers use CCES data (sponsored by QIPSR and the College of Arts and Sciences). Both papers have been submitted to major peer-reviewed journals."
- **Tiffany Barnes**, a new faculty member in Political Science, "Of special note: I am presenting this research at Visions in Methodology a NSF funded conference. This conference has competitive admission for a small number of paper presentations (about 15). Access to the CCES allowed me to develop a survey experiment that generated interesting findings of broad interest which enhanced the quality of my proposal for the VIM conference."
  - "Gender and Perceptions of Election Fraud." (With Emily Beaulieu) To be presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in the fall of 2013.

- “Framing Comparable Worth: Public Opinion toward Pay Equity for Women.” (With Erin Cassess and Gina Branton). Presented at the Annual Meeting of Visions in Methodology, Tallahassee, Florida, April 26-27, 2013.
- **David Fardo**, a faculty member in Biostatistics, “Gary King's talk was great and dovetails with some methodological interests of mine.”
- **Jason Gainous**, a faculty member at the University of Louisville, “I learned a new method for analyzing quasi-experimental data at a session of QIPSR. This method serves as the foundation for a manuscript that has been presented at a conference that will soon be under review at a major journal. Without this QIPSR session, I don't think I would even thought of this inventive cutting edge approach. I believe it will continue to inform my long-term research agenda.”
- **Janet Stamatel**, a faculty member in Sociology, “QIPSR is very valuable for new junior faculty to generate ideas for research, cross-fertilization across disciplines, networking, etc.”
- A faculty member in Statistics writes, “I was exposed to many interesting ideas.”

### ***Graduate Student Comments:***

Likewise, graduate students across a range of departments and colleges praise a variety of QIPSR workshops for opening up new possibilities for quantitative research informed by new methods and approaches:

- A graduate student in Sociology, “QIPSR has been very useful in supplementing the research skills I have learned via my normal coursework. The QIPSR workshop I attended covered using weighted survey data such as the GSS survey. This will be extremely useful for my future scholarly endeavors.”
- A graduate student in Political Science, “I have written a paper using matching (CEM) after Gary King's presentation on the method that I have presented at 2 conferences, and I am in the process of submitting it to a journal.”
- A graduate student in Economics, “I was able to use ArcGIS and R coding to complete a project for a professor's research.”
- A graduate student in Linguistics, “I haven't begun formal research yet, but the R Workshop I attended introduced me to a wonderful tool. Next year I will be attending more workshops of this nature.”
- A graduate student in Geology, Statistics, “QIPSR has helped me substantially in my interdisciplinary area between geophysics and statistics by introducing me to such useful topics as time series and spatial analysis and R, none of which were covered in my regular courses.
- A graduate student in Gerontology, “Attending the "Missing Data and Applied Solutions" workshop by Fred Boehmke was very helpful to my research. I do work with longitudinal data and missing data is the norm. Knowing methods on how to deal with missing data has been helpful.”
- A graduate student in Statistics, “The QIPSR survey data workshop has helped encourage me to practice other statistical languages, STATA, SAS, as those appear to be the more commonly used languages in the survey world.”
- A graduate student in the Martin School wrote, “It helped me learn STATA and ArcGIS.”
- A graduate student in Psychology, “The introduction to several statistical methods helped me in both my course work and staff work at UK.”
- A graduate student in Public Health, “It helps me a lot in statistical analysis.”
- A graduate student in Geography, “Yes! Where else on campus could I go for a service like this?”

### **Grants**

There are two ways that QIPSR increases grant success. First, workshops and conferences provide researchers with the quantitative skills and substantive knowledge to write more successful grant proposals. Second, QIPSR's grant workshops are designed to boost researchers' motivation and expertise to write proposals more likely to receive funding.

### ***Faculty Comments:***

The comments of QIPSR participants make plain that QIPSR has elevated grant submissions and success in both ways. For example, **Carrie Oser**, a faculty member in Sociology, writes:

“QIPSR has helped me acquire statistical skills that have been helpful in writing grants and will be used in writing future manuscripts. I attended the 3-day statistical workshops on “Multilevel Modeling (MLM) Using Stata” by Brandon Bartels (May 2011), and “Missing Data and Applied Solutions” by Fred Boehmke (May 2012). I submitted the following grant to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) which received a perfect priority score of 10, where it's currently pending a funding decision. Other grants on which I am not the PI have also been submitted which incorporate the multilevel modeling techniques and propose to use multiple imputation techniques to handle missing data. One of these NIDA grants has been funded, R01DA033836, Staton-Tindall (PI), NIH/NIDA (R01), \$2,944,920.

*QIPSR has been extremely helpful in providing the foundation for the use of advanced statistical approaches. The incorporate of state-of-the-art statistical techniques has made my grant proposals more innovative, and thus, more competitive. I have incorporated the use of multilevel modeling and approaches for handling missing data in three National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) grant proposals, one of which was funded. The other two proposals are pending with excellent scores and funding looks promising.”*

An example of how QIPSR helps to motivate and elevate grant writing comes from **Justin Wedeking**, a newly tenured faculty member in Political Science:

“I found the “An Insider's Guide to Social Science Grants” to be helpful for when I applied for an NSF grant this past summer. The grant informed me of the general steps I should go through and also gave me the necessary contact information of people that I needed to contact with questions. While the grant was unsuccessful, I am confident that with a revision of the grant and some additional pilot data we can be successful in the future.”

A&S faculty, **Janet Stamatel**, **Horace Bartilow**, and **Tiffany Barnes** also express appreciation for QIPSR's help with grant writing:

- “I'm looking forward to the upcoming grant writing workshop!” (Janet Stamatel)
- “The QIPSR workshops have helped me to acquire additional methods skills that I will utilize for future research projects. An upcoming grant work shop that is organized by QIPSR will certainly motive me to submit a grant proposal.” (Horace Bartilow)
- “I will attend my first grant writing workshop organized by QIPSR next month. This will be an extremely valuable opportunity for me because my research relies on fieldwork which necessitates grant writing.” (Tiffany Barnes)

A combination of both pathways to grant success is expressed by **David Fardo**, an Assistant Professor in **Biostatistics and Public Health**, who was recently selected to serve on the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center's (NACC) Scientific Review Committee:

“Some of the ideas from QIPSR talks were helpful and may point towards methodological developments for a future grant.”

### ***Graduate Student Comments:***

Graduate students also report help from attending QIPSR events:

- “I am currently working in a grant much enhanced by the workshop I attended.” (A graduate student in Geography).
- “I received a travel grant from ISA-south (2012 Oct) and an NSF grant to attend the methods conference, “Empirical Implication of Theoretical Models (EITM).” (A graduate student in Political Science).



- “QIPSR helped me with a training grant I submitted with the NIH a few weeks ago, and I am gearing up to write a F32 pre-doctoral dissertation grant and an AHRQ R36 grant. Having the knowledge obtained in the workshop helped give me the motivation (and the appropriate level of fear!) to try and submit a grant.” (A graduate student in Gerontology (Public Health)).
- “The workshop on grants helped inform me what grants are available and how I can proceed through my education in order to be competitive for funding. I became more knowledgeable and motivated to submit grant proposals and generate more research projects in order to publish.” (A graduate student in Counseling Psychology).

One department where Director Mark Peffley has first-hand information of grant submissions is Political Science, where 3 NSF proposals were submitted in the last two years, a substantial increase over past years. Another faculty member received a fellowship for a semester at the Kellogg Institute of International Studies during the Fall 2013 semester at the University of Notre Dame. As mentioned earlier, two Political Science faculty used their CCES survey data to apply for NSF grants, while others used CCES studies to submit journal manuscripts and expand their research with NSF-funded survey space through [TESS](#), the Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences.

More recently, **60 A&S faculty are registered to attend the all-day Grant Seminar on May 9!**

## **Networking**

In addition to enhancing research and grant submissions, another goal for QIPSR is to enhance networking among social scientists across departments and colleges. Before turning to the open-ended comments, it is important to point out how the networking function is emphasized in the very structure of QIPSR through its Advisory Board, Website, List-serve and funding sources.

- QIPSR’s *Advisory Board* meets twice a year and includes a dozen faculty from several colleges across the university who are energetic and want to see the Initiative work.
- QIPSR’s *website* is an ongoing informational resource that serves a variety of functions--registering participants, announcing future events and providing continued instruction through the videos, slides and annotated software syntax posted from past events.
- QIPSR’s *Listserve* is extensive and constantly updated, including faculty and graduate students of departments throughout the university. It is an extremely efficient way to notify people of upcoming events at the university.
- Contributions: One strong indicator of QIPSR’s networking and outreach across campus is the level and source of *contributions* from different units. As indicated in **Table 2 (Table of Contributions)**, *QIPSR received \$19,725 in contributions from 16 different units* that helped to cosponsor inter-program events, including Agricultural Economics, Communication & Information, the Gatton College, the College of Law, Pharmacy, the Tracy Farmer Institute, and the UK Center for Poverty Research, as well as Latin American Studies, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Statistics.

Naturally, QIPSR’s events are designed to bring people from different units together. In particular, QIPSR *conferences* create networks of social scientists with similar substantive interests, while the *workshops* help connect scholars with similar methodological interests. All events afford opportunities to make social and professional connections through receptions, dinners, lunches and other social gatherings.

QIPSR’s role in connecting social scientists who inhabit academic silos is very much in evidence in the comments from faculty and graduate students:

### ***Faculty Comments***

- Carrie Oser (Sociology) writes: Yes, I have met people with similar research interests at UK via QIPSR hosted workshops. Also, the statistical training provided by QIPSR has been very useful to

my graduate students. They have used these advanced approaches in their dissertations, making them more competitive on the job market. After I have attended QIPSR training, I am able to collaborate and better advise graduate students.

- Richard Smith (Psychology) comments: It certainly has been useful and enjoyable to chat with folks who were attending the talks.
- Janet Stamatel (Sociology): Through QIPSR I've met people in psychology and political science who have similar research and/or methods interests. I imagine collaborating with people from QIPSR in the near future as I build my research plan for the next few years. The networking opportunities with the people who come to the QIPSR conferences has been excellent. QIPSR brings nationally recognized scholars to campus and creates many opportunities to interact with these folks. That has been one of the major highlights of my 2 years at UK so far.
- Tiffany Barnes (Political Science): Faculty networking facilitated by QIPSR has created multiple opportunities for me in the short time I have been at UK (8 months). In the fall of 2012 we brought Michelle Taylor-Robinson to campus to give a research presentation. This was an excellent contact for me because our research interests are closely aligned. Since then she has invited me to Texas A&M to give a research presentation for her department and to give a talk on my research design and field work for her graduate seminar. Additionally, she invited me to take part in a peer reviewed special issue of Uruguayan Journal of Political Science that will focus on women in legislatures in Latin America. Michelle is a leading scholar in my field. She will almost certainly be a tenure-letter writer for me. Getting to know her has been an invaluable opportunity.
- Horace Bartilow (Political Science): QIPSR has been a tremendous resource for putting me in touch with colleagues at UK that have expertise in particular research methods that I find indispensable for my research.
- Edward Jennings (Martin School): QIPSR has been a valuable resource for my students and other students in the Martin School.
- Emily Beaulieu (Political Science): QIPSR events have been invaluable networking opportunities for me. Both the Political Polarization workshop and Michelle Taylor-Robinson's visit were incredibly helpful to me in making connections in the discipline.
- Jason Gainous (University of Louisville, Political Science): The QIPSR program has been instrumental in facilitating my connection to researchers in the political science department at UK. I can't stress how important and useful I think it is for local academics to build these relationships across universities.

### ***Graduate Student Comments:***

As the comments below make clear, graduate students meet other grad students, UK faculty and outside speakers with similar interests. They also learn about other resources at UK, like the consulting services of the *Applied Statistics Lab (ASL)*.

- Psychology: QIPSR provided me the opportunity to network with other psychology graduate students, in the sense that I was able to discuss R a bit with them--they will now be there to help with R statistics when I need it, and they won't be overwhelmed by the task of showing me how to use R from square one when I do call upon them for help.
- Psychology: Bumping into so many people at the well-attended conference made we realize that several psychology grad students were interested in politics and psychology that I was unaware of before. At least two of these people could end up being collaborators in the future.

- Sociology: I learned more about available resources on campus through a QIPSR workshop. I will likely have the Applied Statistics Lab review how I am interpreting and analyzing data in the near future.
- Gerontology: Yes, I knew some people who were taking the workshop and it was an opportunity to meet other students/professors I would not have had a chance to meet otherwise.
- Psychology: I connected with a colleague from UK and the Department of Ed; thank you!
- Political Science: I found that through my contacts in QIPSR, I've been able to get into contact with people who would be very beneficial to my training as a researcher and student of political behavior.
- Counseling Psychology: I was able to meet and connect with others in other departments and my own. This was helpful in building a mindset of interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Biology: I became more aware of the folks who could be potential resources in Statistics.
- Political Science: I met Kevin Arceneaux, who is one of the theorists I use in my conference paper.
- Statistics/ASL: I have met a number of other students and a few faculty at QIPSR events who are interested in statistics or at least need help writing code for their projects and interpreting the results of the code.
- Public Health Systems and Services Research: I was able to meet new people with similar interest in research.

Finally, as pointed out by Tom Janoski and Janet Stamatel in Sociology, QIPSR helped to build the trust necessary to enable *collaboration between Sociology and Political Science in offering graduate methods classes*, which has benefits for both departments:

- “QIPSR brought about the networking and trust that then led to the cooperative efforts between the sociology and political science departments to share and coordinate methods courses. This will lead to better methods courses, and also to freeing up time of instructors to teach more substantive courses and/or more advanced statistics courses. Sociology for instance is planning to add a more advanced course to the required menu. This can be an example of the ‘perhaps unintended’ synergies of departments in the social sciences working together. It wouldn’t have happened unless faculty from both departments had numerous occasions to meet together and discuss their methods needs. The conferences along with the methodologically specific sessions both contributed to this bridge building. With everyone following their own substantive areas of interest, this cooperation would not have happened.”

### **A Final Observation: QIPSR’s Exemplary Staff**

QIPSR’s success would not be possible without the dedication and extraordinary effort and competence of its exemplary staff. Currently, John Poe, a PhD student in Political Science, serves as the full-time Research Assistant. For the last two years, the graduate assistant was absolutely essential for making QIPSR events run smoothly--checking and rechecking event details (e.g., installing software in computer labs, sending announcements, posters, emails, setting up and monitoring registration, making sure the A-V setup is right, sending reminders to TASC and other A-V people, and just making sure the myriad details of the events don’t fall through the cracks. John Poe helped to organize the 2012 Fall Software festival. He is obviously an extremely hard worker!

Megan McCrosky (A&S) has been absolutely phenomenal as the budget person for QIPSR. I can’t say enough about how Megan has helped manage the budget, event planning and other details to keep QIPSR afloat. Without Megan McCrosky, QIPSR would be much less efficient and doubtless much less successful than it is! She does an absolutely amazing job.

## **Conclusion: Broader Impacts**

There is no question that QIPSR provides an extraordinary benefit to (quantitative) social scientists in the College and the University. *The benefits for the College lie in the ability to recruit (and retain) top-flight faculty and graduate students, enhance research productivity and competitive grant submissions, as well as to externalize and publicize the scholarship of UK faculty.*

In particular, *Assistant Professors and graduate students need the services of an organization like QIPSR.* Prior to the creation of QIPSR and ASL, UK had no initiative, center or institute focused on providing the specialized assistance to quantitative social scientists that most research universities provide through *multiple* centers and institutes.

In addition, *there is a tremendous benefit from communicating to faculty and graduate students that their research is valued and that **this College, more than any other College,** is committed to making a serious investment in helping them to achieve scholarly success.*

There is also a tremendous benefit to the College from *demonstrating to the rest of the University* how investments in initiatives like QIPSR can yield a substantial return for social scientists across the university.

Thankfully, the leadership of the College of Arts and Sciences had the vision and commitment to take the first substantial step toward addressing the needs of quantitative social scientists at the University of Kentucky with this most important Initiative that by all available signs has been a remarkable success.

**Table 1. List of QIPSR Events & Attendance, 2011-2013**

<b>QIPSR Events</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>Software Workshops (Labs, 10/year = 20)</b>	
R, Stata, SAS, Matlab	202 (2011)
R, Stata, SAS, SPSS, MatLab, and ArcGIS.	168 (2012)
<b>3-day Statistical Workshops in May (4)</b>	
“Spatial Regression Analysis (Lab)” Paul Voss (May 2011)	62
“Multilevel Modeling (MLM) Using Stata (Lab)” Brandon Bartels (May 2011)	52
“Missing Data and Applied Solutions (Lab)” Fred Boehmke (May 2012)	68
“Applied Longitudinal Multilevel Modeling,” Lesa Hoffman (May 2013)	65
<b>Grant Workshops (4)</b>	
"An Insider's Guide to Social Science Grants" Janice Almasi, Tom Janoski, Jim Ziliak Matthew Webster, Lawrence Gottlob, Anna Secor, Margot McCullers (February 2011)	61
"Writing Successful NSF Dissertation Improvement Grants" Tom Janoski, Michael Samers, Emily Beaulieu (October 2011)	43
"Grant-Writing Basics" UK Proposal Development Office (February 2012)	35
"All-Day Grant Writing Seminar," Grant Writers' and Workshops (May 2013)	90
<b>Annual Interdisciplinary Conferences (3)</b>	
"Immigration Policy in an Anti-Immigrant Era" (March 2011)	60
"Rising Economic Inequality in the 21st Century" (March 2012)	110
"The Polarized Electorate" (December 2012)	72
<b>Methods Workshops on Automated Text Analysis (4)</b>	
"Automated Content Analysis for Social Scientists" Daniel Hopkins (March 2011)	36
"Using TABARI, Text & Event Data Analysis (Lab)" Phil Schrodt (November 2011)	31
"How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism But Silences Collective Expression" Gary King (April 2012)	140
"Computer-Assisted Clustering and Conceptualization from Unstructured Text" Gary King (April 2012)	35
<b>Other Methods Workshops (9)</b>	
"Applied Survey Data Analysis," Arnold Stromberg, Abby Córdova, Dominique Zéphyr, Mark Peffley (March, 2013)	41
"Electing Judges: The Surprising Effects of Campaigning on Judicial Legitimacy" James Gibson (October 2012)	40*
Not Tokens Anymore: Expanding Equality & Integration of Women in Presidential Cabinets in the U.S. and Latin America" Michelle Taylor Robinson (Oct, 2012)	35*
"Does Loss Aversion Motivate Collective Action? A Field Experiment," Kevin Arceneaux (December 2012)	32
"How the News Shapes Perceptions of the Economy" Yanna Krupnikov (October 2011)	62
"Seven Deadly Sins of Contemporary Quantitative Political Analysis" Phil Schrodt (November 2011)	62
"Matching Methods for Causal Inference" Gary King (April 2012)	37
"Voter Migration and the Geographic Sorting of the American Electorate" James Gimpel (December 2010)	45*
"New Directions in the Study of Political Geography" Demonstration of GIS software" James Gimpel (December 2010)	35*
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,719</b>

\*Attendance is estimated because registration is ongoing or participants were not required to register before the event.

**Table 2. Contributions to QIPSR, 2011-2013**

**2010-11**

UK Poverty Research Center	\$2,000
Sociology	\$1,000
Political Science	\$1,500
Statistics	\$2,000
Tracy Farmer Institute	\$1,500
Geography	\$100
<u>Communication &amp; Information</u>	<u>\$350</u>
Total	\$8,450

**2011-12**

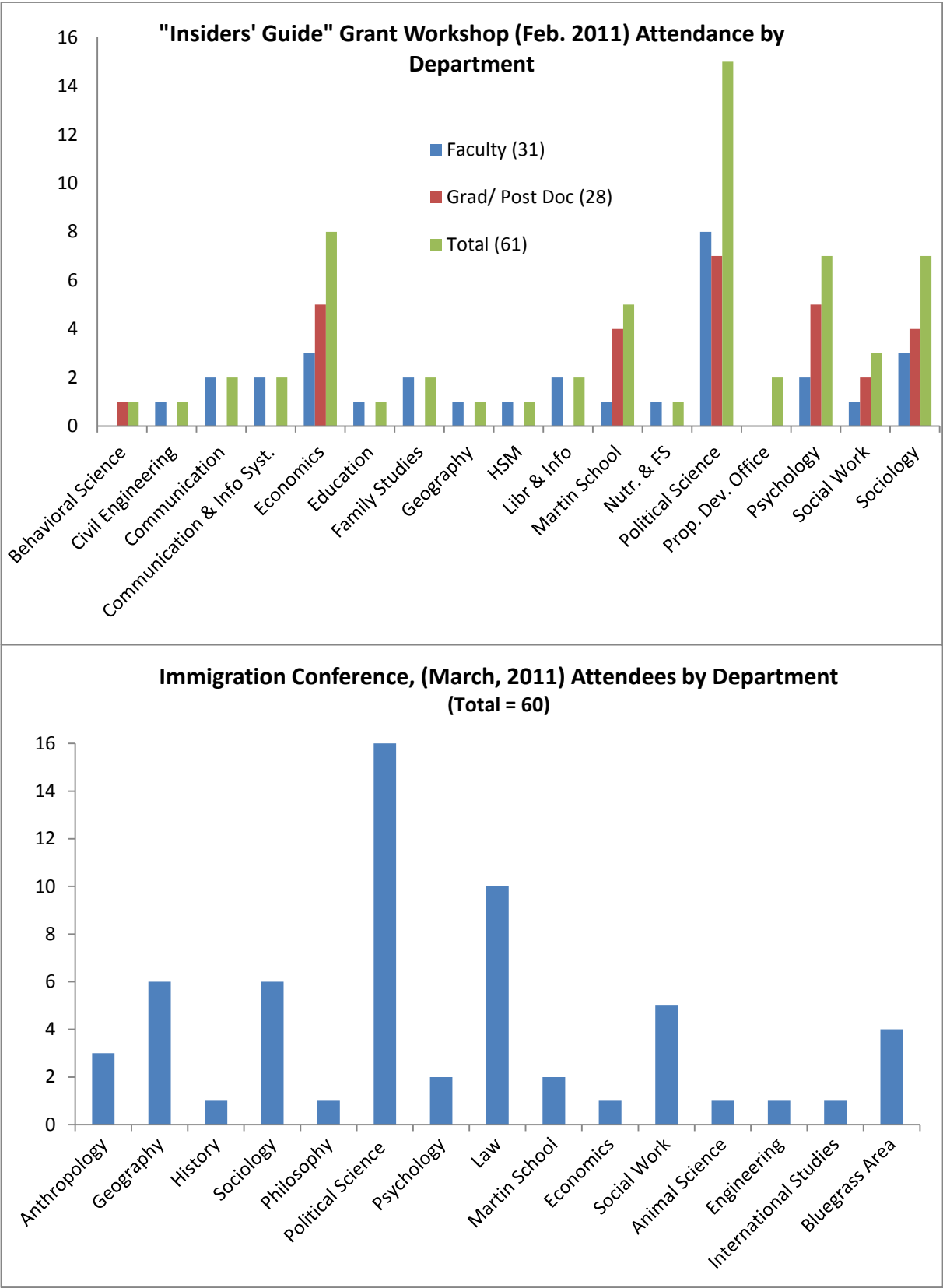
Psychology	600.00
Political Science	1,400.00
UK Center for Poverty Research	500.00
Sociology	1,000.00
<u>Agricultural Economics</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total	\$4,500

**2012-13**

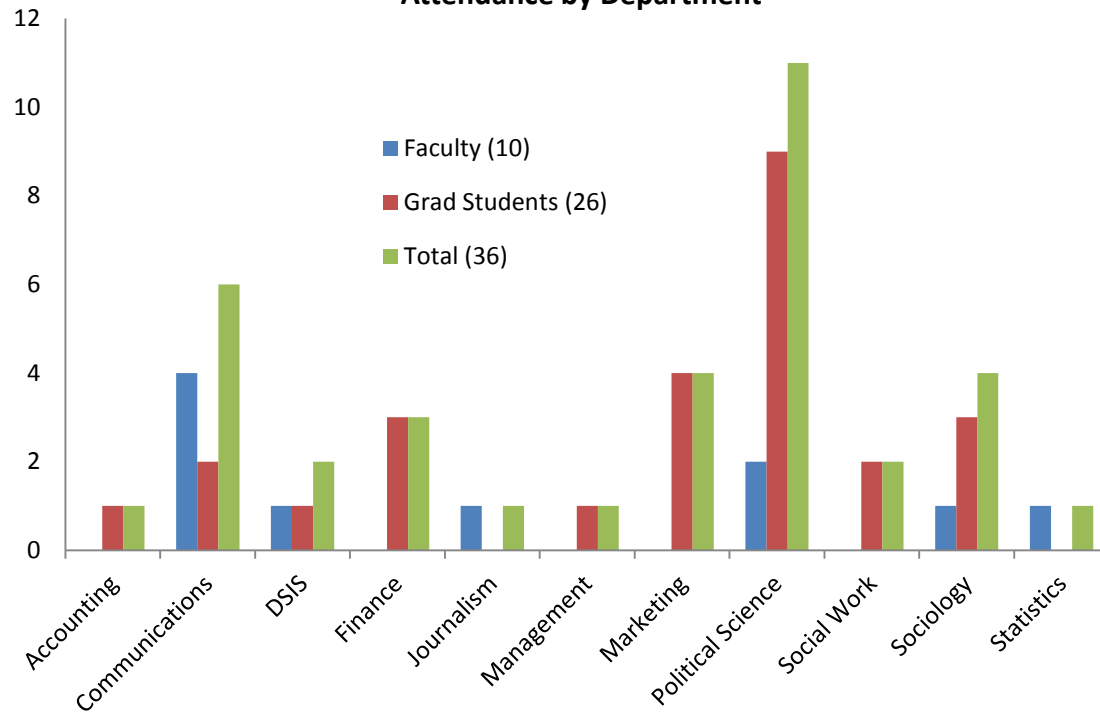
Gatton College	1,000.00
Agricultural Economics	1,000.00
Family Studies	500.00
Law College	500.00
Latin American Studies	250.00
Political Science	1,000.00
Sociology	100.00
College of Pharmacy	1000.00
Psychology	750.00
Public Health	225.00
<u>Communication &amp; Information</u>	<u>450.00</u>
Total	\$6,775.00

**Grand Total** **\$19,725.00**

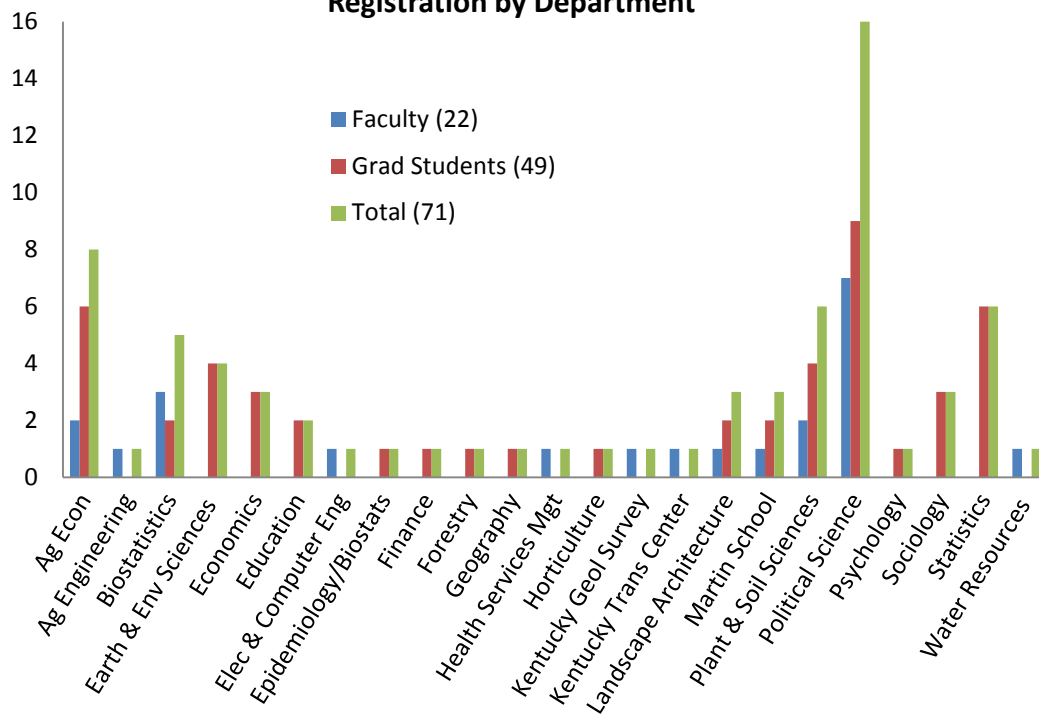
**Figure 1. QIPSR Workshop Attendance, 2011-2013 (Total = 1,719)**



**Content Analysis Workshop (March 2011),  
Attendance by Department**

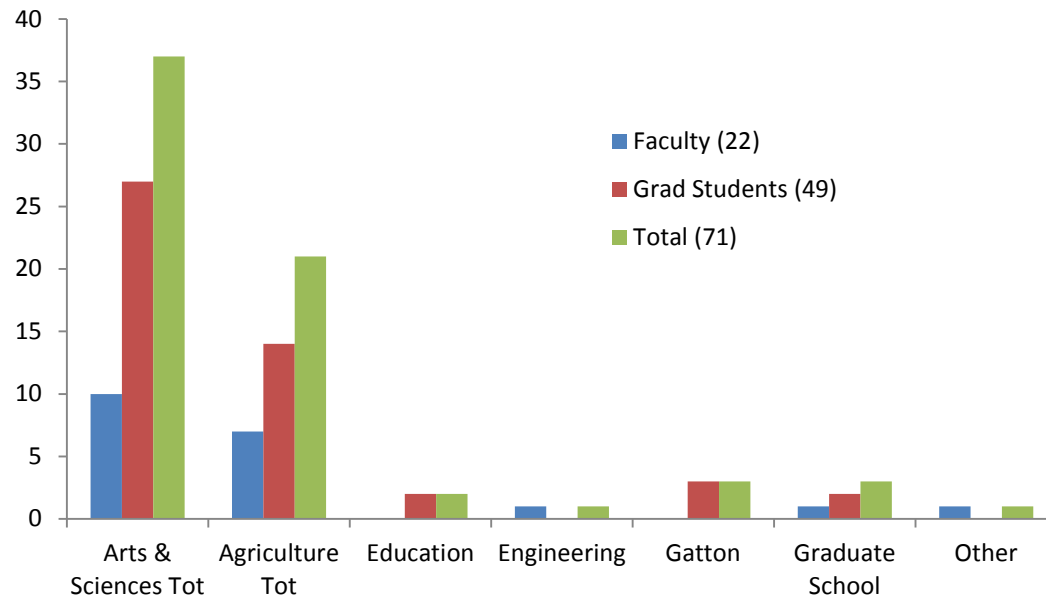


**Spatial Regression Workshop (May 2011)  
Registration by Department**

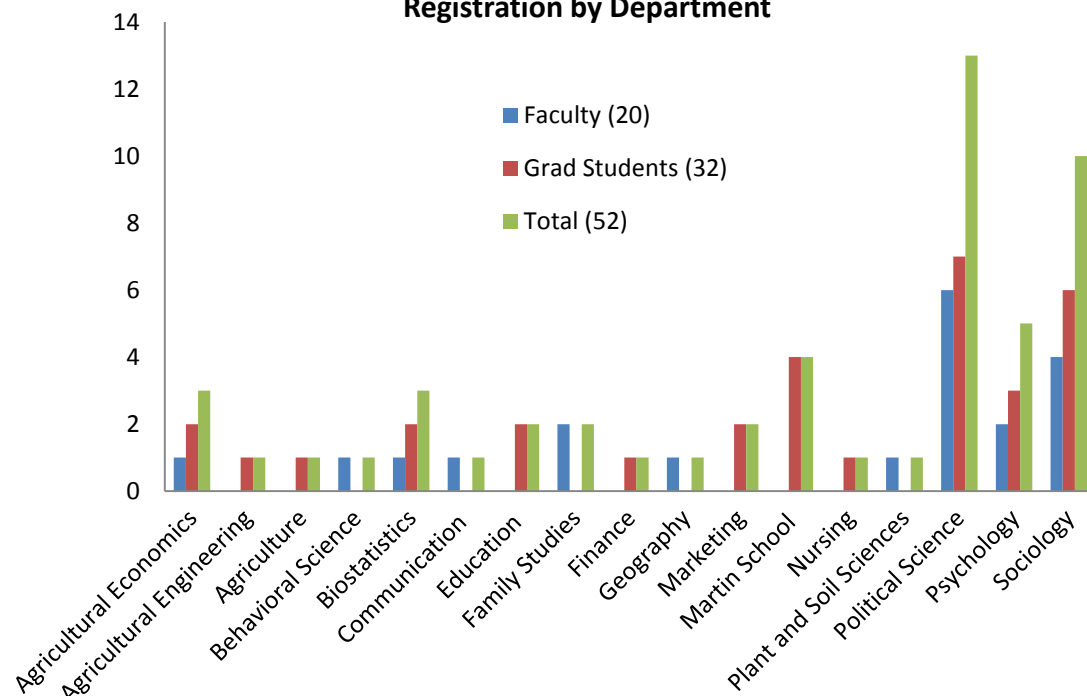


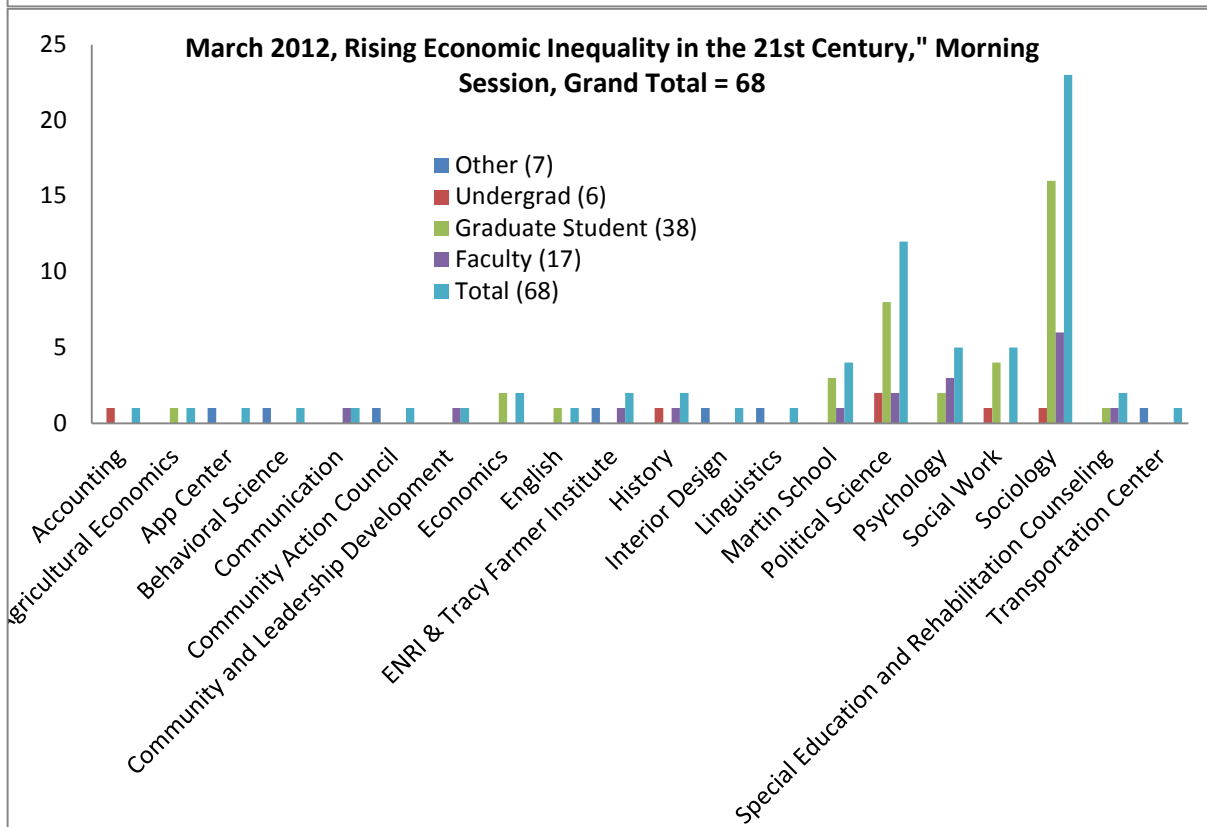
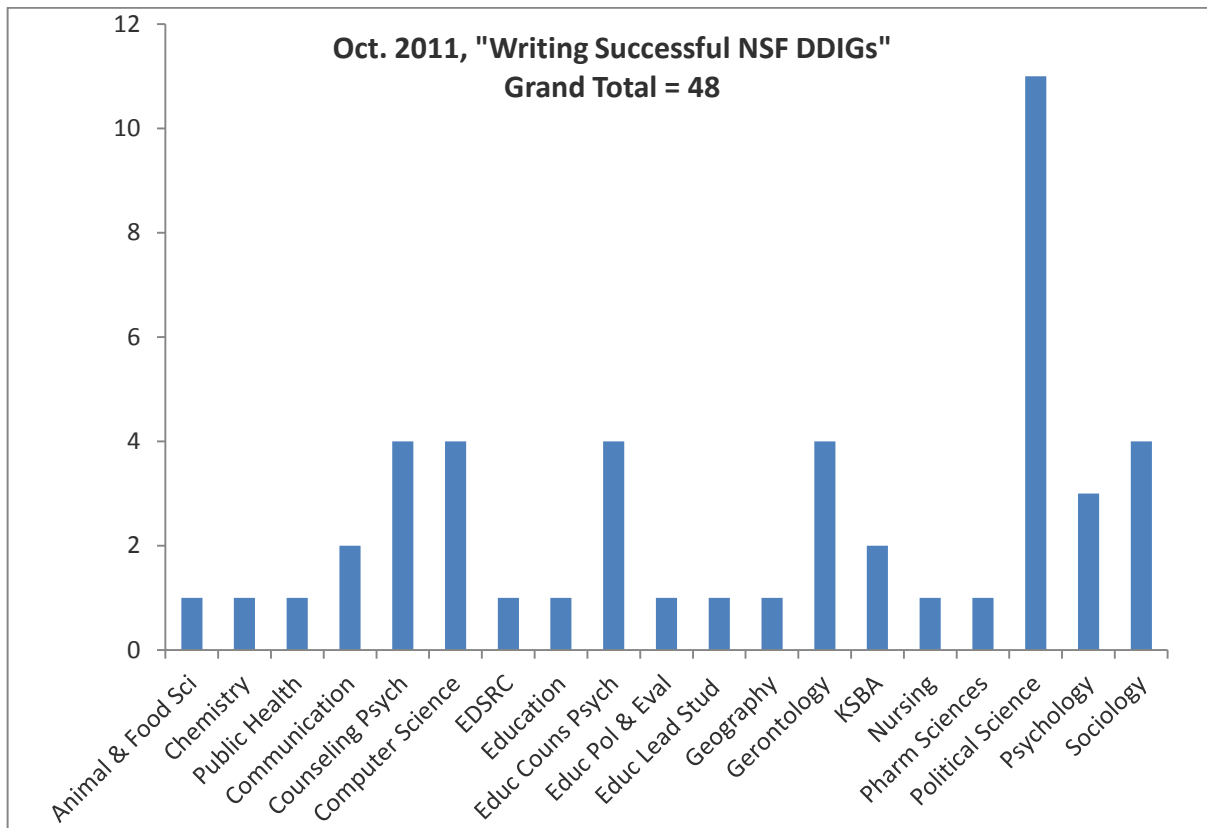


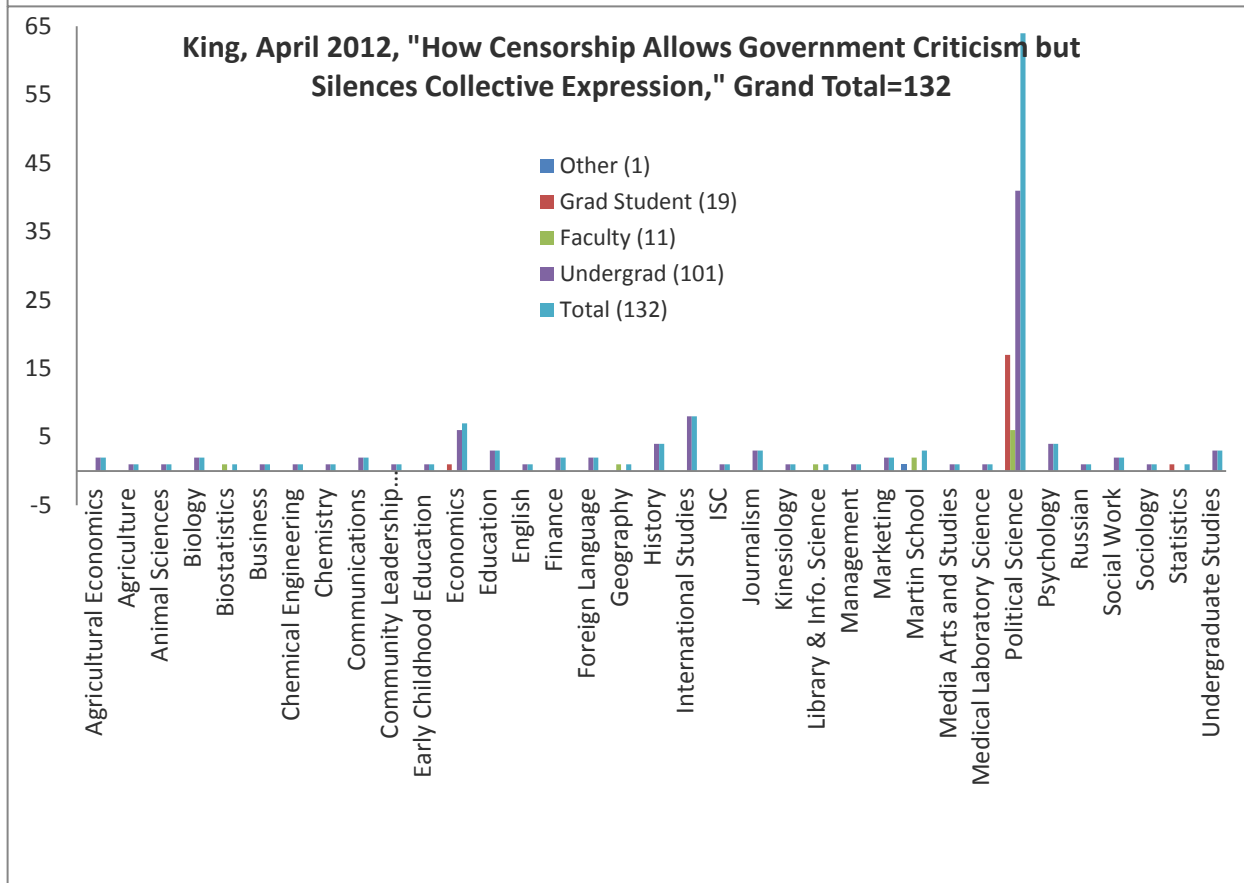
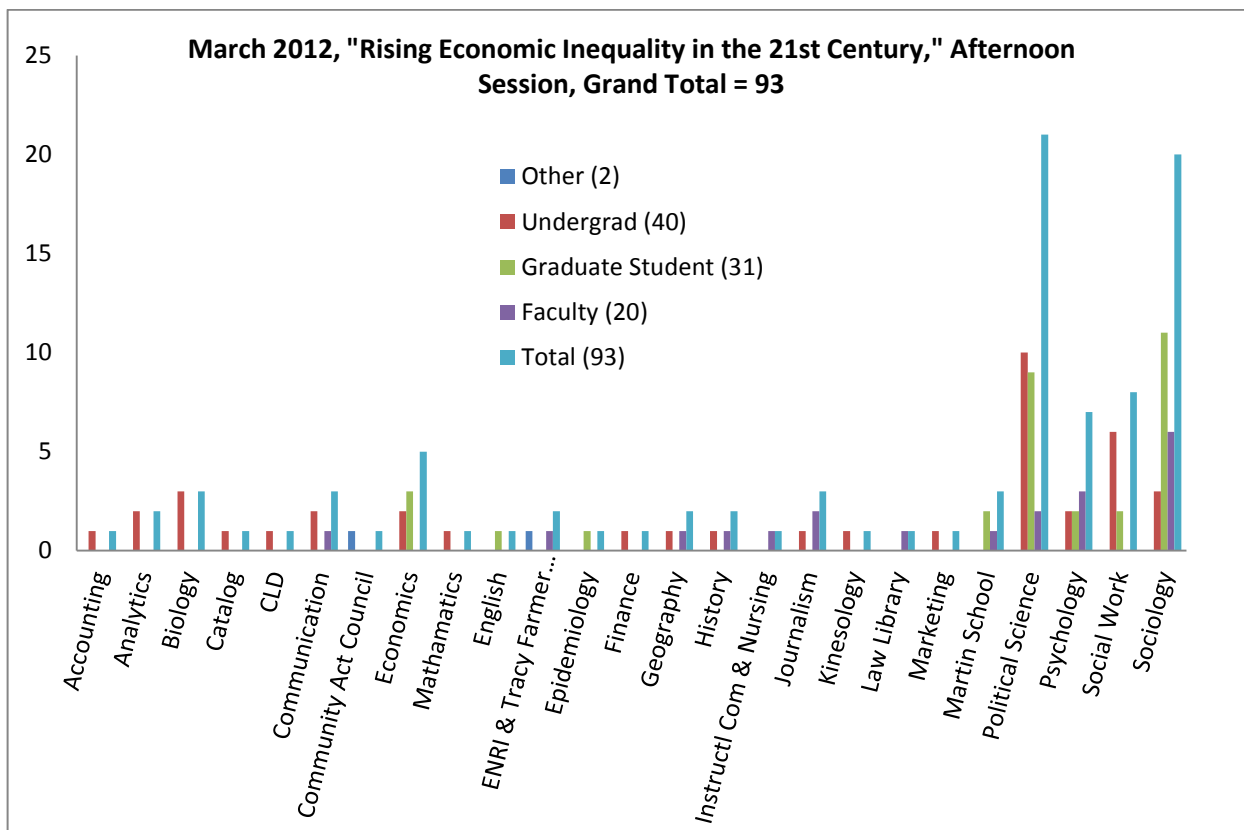
**Spatial Regression Workshop Registration by College**

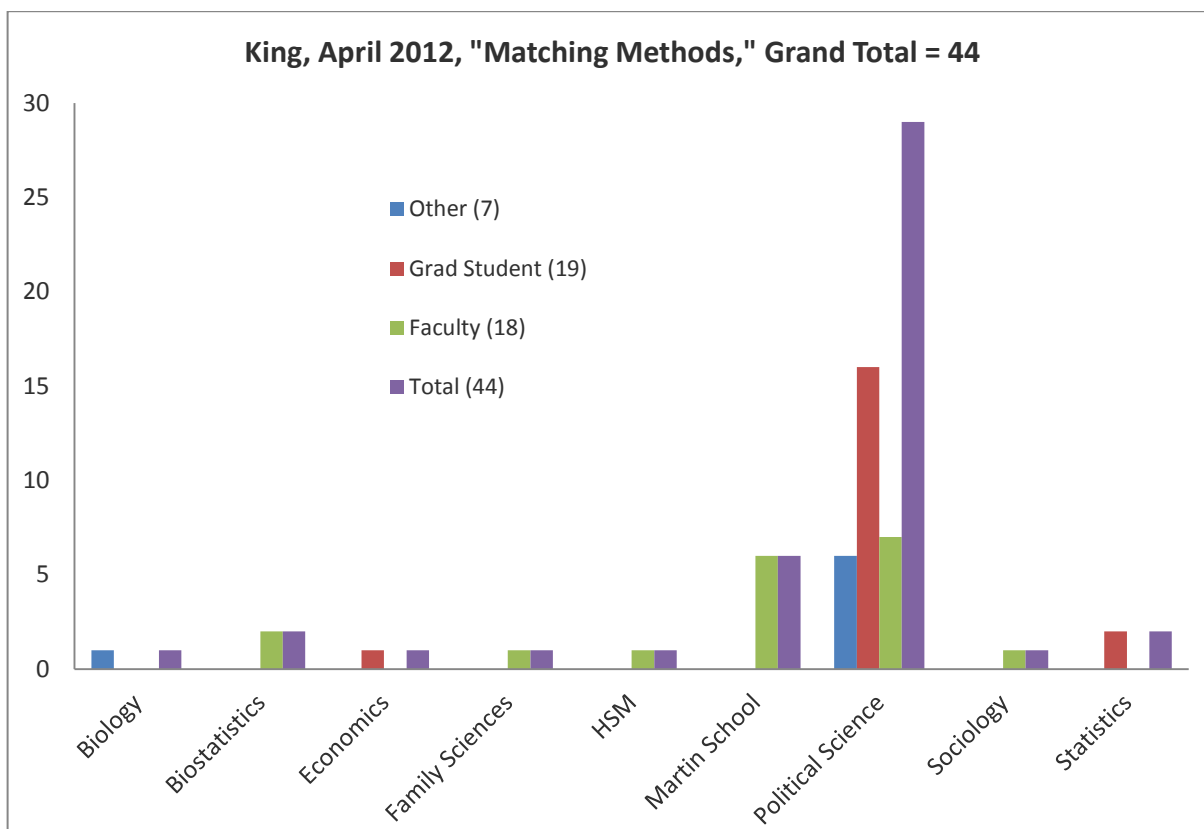
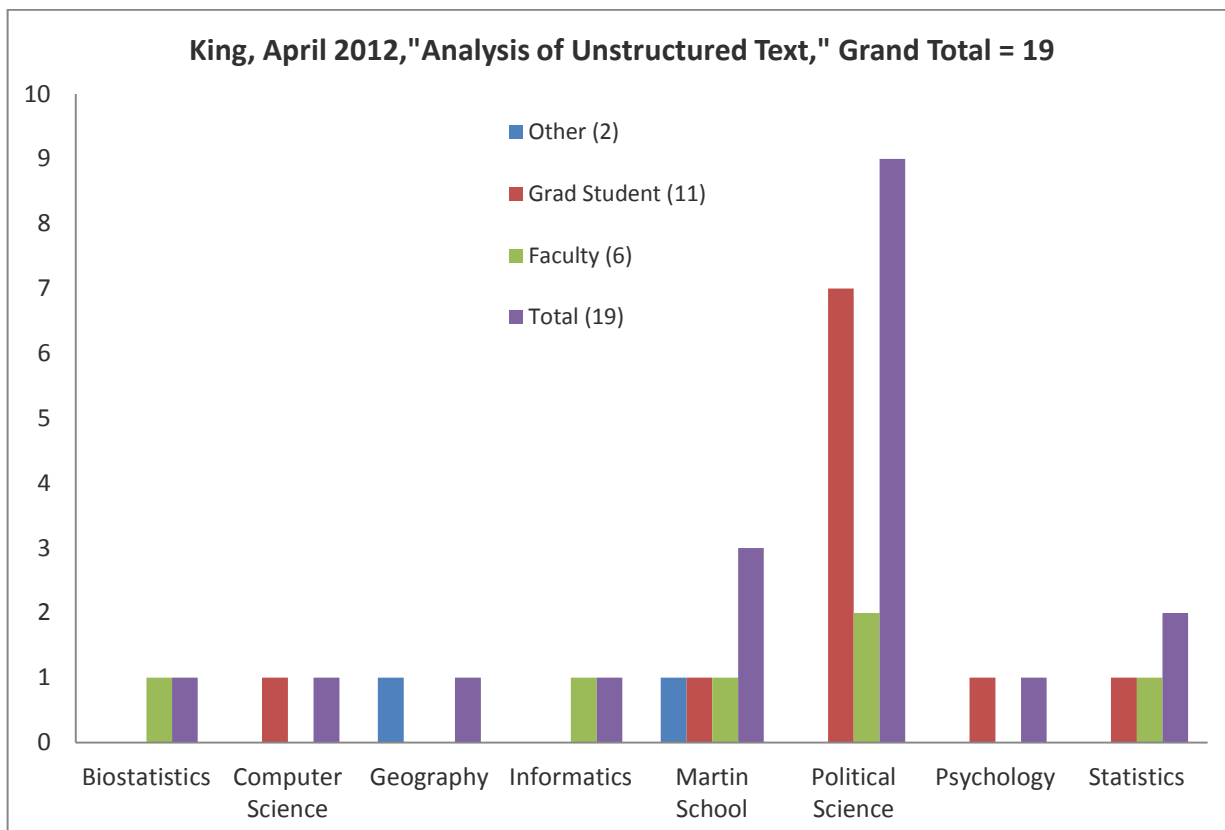


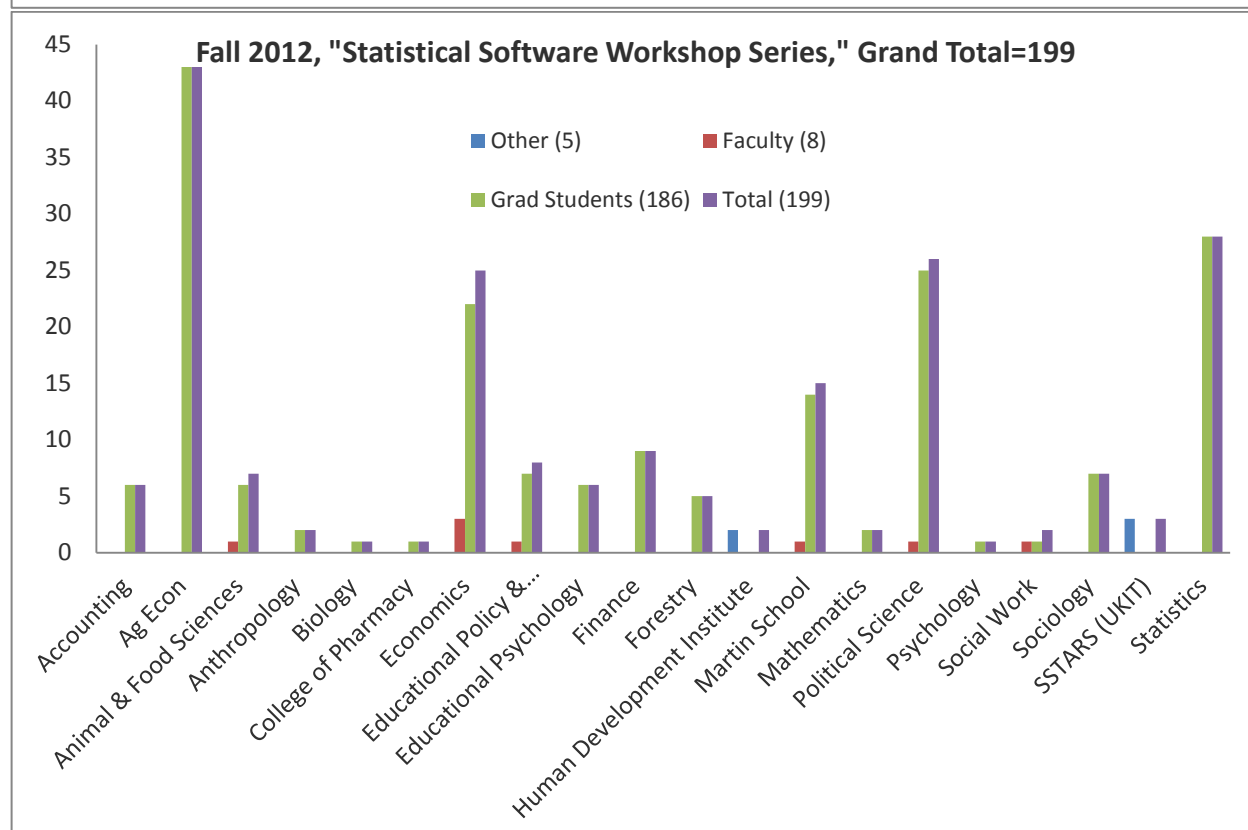
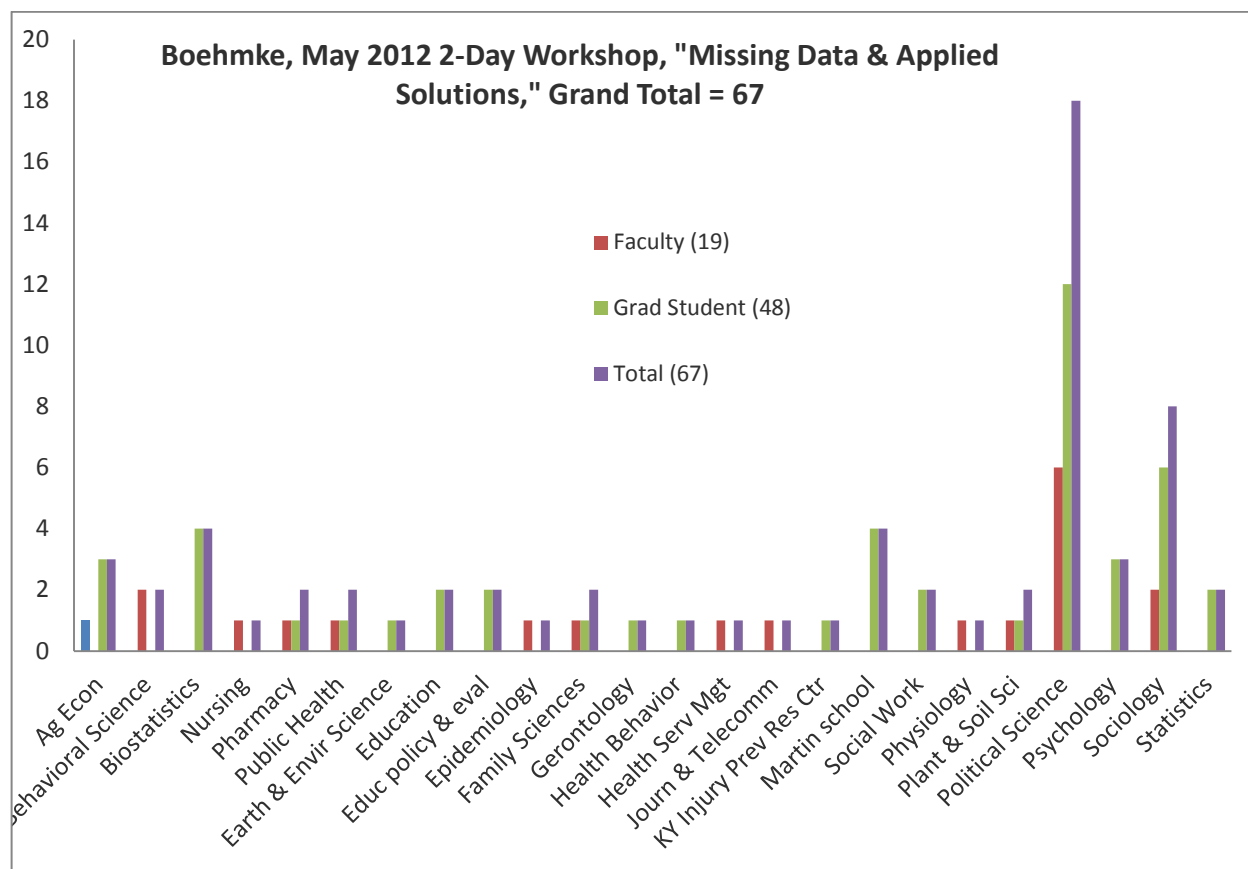
**Multi-Level Modeling Workshop (May 2011)  
Registration by Department**



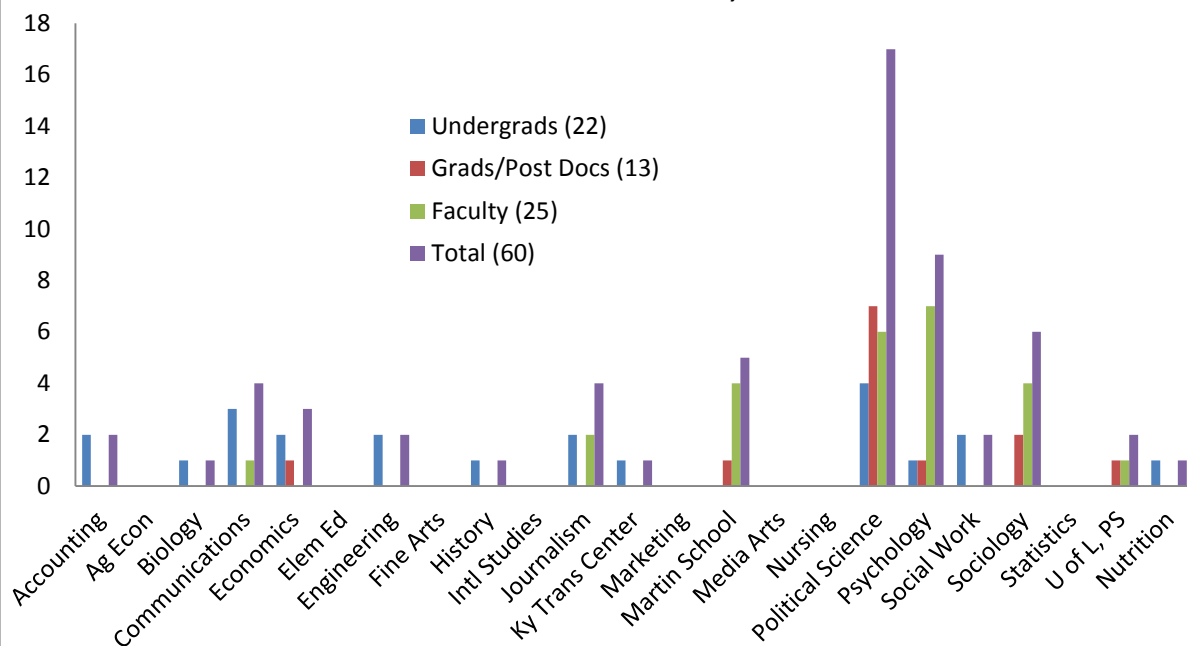








**Kahan, "Reducing Polarized Reactions to Scientific Research,"  
Dec. 2012 Polarization Conference, Grand Total = 60**



**Grant Seminar Registration, (May 9, 2013), Total = 90**

