

# Finding and Defining Quantitative Psychology

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# Motivating Question

- How can we encourage more undergraduates to pursue quantitative psychology at the doctoral level and as a career?

# But What Do We Actually Want?

- More quantitative psychologists!
- Undergraduate recruitment is an important part of this goal, but only part. More on this later...

# Undergraduate Recruitment

- “Finding” Quantitative Psychology
  - Exposure to the field
  - Online information
  - Points of contact
- “Defining” Quantitative Psychology
  - Need for concise, non-technical description of our field
  - A bit of salesmanship, perhaps?

# Personal Experience

- Small liberal arts school
  - (total enrollment ~ 1300 students)
- No graduate programs
- No quantitative faculty
- Advisor a social psychologist from Arizona State University

# How I Found Quant

- ME – “I think I want to go to grad school for psychology”
- KR – “What kind of program?”
- ME – “What do you mean, ‘program’ ”
  - SNIP ■
- ME – “Oh. Well what’s the farthest I can get from clinical and still be in psychology?”
- KR – “That’s probably quantitative psychology.”
- ME – “What’s that?”
  - SNIP ■
- ME – “Well that sounds good, I’ll try that.”

# Finding Quantitative Psychology

- Not all colleges have graduate programs
  - It is likely that many students from smaller schools will have limited exposure to graduate studies in psychology
- Very few schools have quant programs
  - ~15 schools have “quant” programs
  - Even students at these schools often don't know about quantitative psychology

# The Name Game

- Different names
  - From 2004 APA “Graduate Study in Psychology”
    - Educational Measurement
    - Educational Research and Evaluation
    - Psychometrics
    - Quantitative (including measurement)
    - Quantitative Methods
    - Research Methodology
- Division 5: Evaluation, Measurement, & Statistics

# Online Resources

- The Division 5 website does not currently have a listing of quant programs...
- Nor does the psychometric society website...
- Nor does the NCME website...
- The SMEP website has a partial list, but it is hidden under “Other Links”
  - And SMEP might be hard for undergrads to find

# www.gradschools.com

- In several google searches on variants of “quantitative psychology”, this is always one of the top websites listed.
- Provides a list of schools with quant programs, but the list is:
  - Inaccurate
  - Incomplete
  - And just generally a bit confusing

# Helping Students Find Us

- Recruiting talks at universities that do not have quant programs (or grad programs)
- Work to have quantitative psychology included in rankings
- Try to simplify some of the different naming conventions
- Using our networks of non-quant colleagues
- More information online

# Maybe A Centralized Web Resource?

- None of these web addresses are currently spoken for:
  - [www.quantpsych.com](http://www.quantpsych.com)
  - [www.quantpsych.org](http://www.quantpsych.org)
  - [www.quantitativepsychology.com](http://www.quantitativepsychology.com)
  - [www.quantitativepsychology.org](http://www.quantitativepsychology.org)

# Appear on Oprah?



# Appear on Oprah?



# Defining Quantitative Psychology

- So once they find it, what is “it”?
- “Quantitative Psychology is the development and application of mathematical models, statistical methods, and measurement in psychological research.”

(from a quant program website)

# From APA's “Careers In Psychology”

- Quantitative and measurement psychologists focus on methods and techniques for designing experiments and analyzing psychological data. Some develop new methods for performing analyses; others create research strategies to assess the effect of social and educational programs and psychological treatment. They develop and evaluate mathematical models for psychological tests. They also propose methods for evaluating the quality and fairness of the tests.

# Helping Students Know What We Do

- Once they've found us, we need to do a better job explaining what we do
- Profiles of quantitative psychologists
- Highlight strong points
  - Employment opportunities
  - Variety
  - Potential for broad impact

# How Do We Get More Quantitative Psychologists?

- Recruit more undergraduates
- More quantitative programs
- “Borrow” other programs’ graduate students
- “Borrow” other programs’ students after they graduate (Quantitatively oriented post-doctoral positions)