

The Challenges of Implementing the China Family Panel Study (CFPS)

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Abstract:

The Chinese Family Panel Survey (CFPS), conducted by Institute of Social Science Survey at Peking University, is the largest and most comprehensive national panel study ever undertaken in China. The CFPS survey has features modeled after the Panel Survey of Income Dynamics (PSID), the National Longitudinal Study of Youth (NLSY) and the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). CFPS started data collection in April, 2010, and is expected to complete data collection by September, 2010.

The sample is large, targeting 16,000 households in 25 provinces that are expected to yield more than 60,000 interviews. The survey has five substantive focuses (social well-being, economic well-being, demographic outcomes, education, and health); and there are seven Blaise instruments (Community, Household Screening, Family Member, Family, Adult, Child, and Interviewer Observations).

This paper discusses the challenges of implementing CFPS in China, specifically:

- The seven CFPS Blaise instruments and how data moves from one instrument to another.
- How Blaise was implemented in Chinese and issues that arose using a non-Unicode system.
- The CFPS sample management system (SMS) in Chinese, and how it was adapted from the University of Michigan SurveyTrak system in English.