

NIMLAS New Measurement Technologies Working Group Meeting

April 16, 2026, Noon-1pm EST

Attendees: Esther Friedman (NIMLAS), Amelia Karraker (NIA), Cecilia Higgs (NIA), Andrew Aschenbrenner, Andrew Hupp, Yalian Pei, Mao Li, Leping Wang, Lisa Christian, Mao Li, Dan Liao, Robert Reinecke, Mohammed Salama, Dan Horn, Chengming Han, Jerry Timbrook, Arie Kapteyn, Aaron Guest, Neil Alexander.

1. Updates from NIMLAS

- a. NIMLAS plenary - Esther provided brief updates on materials from the plenary.
- b. NIMLAS pilot - Esther provided brief updates on pilots.
- c. Thematic area white papers - Jerry Timbrook provided an update on the white paper. Subdomain of mental health is not explicitly covered and they are working on adding that. Adding more on cost of technologies. Plan to have draft/ updates after AAPOR.
- d. Upcoming workshops – Discussed possible ideas for workshops: 1. Measurement through social media (screen capture, content capture; EMA data on daily experiences/wearables/phone-based metrics); 2. Interest in EMA and wearables - Arie has people doing that in his group who could present. 3. Arie expressed interest in learning more about Tasso blood collection. They are doing a pilot now at UAS. AddHealth parent study is in data collection with Tasso and has paradata about collection/interviewers collect a lot of observations that could be useful.

2. Updates from working group members

a. New people/studies

Lisa Christian gave an overview of the NCHAT (National Couples Health and Time) study. 50% LGBTQ. Representative of cohabitating couples across US. She works on biological data collection. Wave 1 inflammatory markers. Wave 2 epigenetic aging DNA methylation. Wave 3 pilot live last week – dried blood spots.

Dan Liao – RTI – works on several longitudinal studies including AddHealth, NLSY, NSOC.

Mohamed Salama – PI Egyptian longitudinal study of aging (HRS family study/HCAP); north Africa dementia agency. Determinants of dementia in Egyptian population.

Robert Reinecke part of SHARE team in Switzerland discussed new SHARE data using smartphones. Interested in speech-specific data where people tell a story and recollect the story. Trying to understand if people who develop dementia have markers earlier.

Mao Li. 5th year PhD candidate. Research interests in social media and large language models. Trying to understand how we can use LLMs to understand cognitive processes.

Daniel Horn, Generations and Gender Survey, interested in looking at measurement diagnostics and instrument development, particularly for mixed-mode and innovative data collection.

Yalian Pei. Department of communications disorders. Speech language pathologist. Linguistic markers for monitoring cognitive changes.

Amelia introduced herself to new attendees.

b. Study updates

Neil Alexander – described pilot data on wearable sensors/EMAs. Interests in other types of sensors/accelerometers/voice recordings.

Arie Kapteyn – UAS updates. Fitbits; Air quality project/monitors; GPS permissions – most have consented. Data from Washington University on satellite data of air quality. Air quality in house worse than anywhere else. Good air quality at work/good at home; best at work/best at work. Conference coming up. They developed their own EMA app.

Aaron Guest – he has been working with social network and geospatial data and how they interact. Project focus is specifically on the analysis of activity space, which will be examined in terms of size, shape, and distribution. Focusing on SDE and space buffers. Self-report of geospatial contact so far. Follow up to look at EMA. They are hiring an RA/student analyst if anyone has someone.

Aaron Guest posed a question about geospatial tracking devices. Most are watches/cell phone. Are there stand-alone devices that still exist? No one knew of anything. May need expert speaker to discuss device options and pros/cons.

Lisa Christian posed a question about opportunities to get involved in white papers. Jerry will be in touch about whether she can help with mental health technologies.

b. New publications

None noted, but several papers will be presented at conferences coming up – PAA, AAPOR. There will be more updates after then.

3. Other matters arising

None. Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm EST.