



**Contemporary Issues in Household Travel Behavior Survey Design and Management:  
Best Practices and Pitfalls to Avoid**

January 9-10, 2008

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**Cynthia Chen, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, City College of New York/CUNY**

Dr. Cynthia Chen has over 10 years' experience in travel behavior analysis, demand forecasting, and survey design. She has published over 20 peer-reviewed articles in the field. Her current interest is to understand the role of the built environment in activity and travel behavior using panel datasets and advanced econometric methodology. Recently, Dr. Chen was invited to write a guest editorial "The Built Environment and Travel Behavior: Making the Connection" for *Transportation*, a top-ranked journal in Transportation. She currently chairs the subcommittee on Time Use and Activity and Travel Patterns at the Transportation Research Board, a division of the National Research Council, which is jointly administered by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. She also serves as a member of the Travel Behavior and Values committee and Telecommunications and Travel Behavior Committee at the Transportation Research Board. Currently, she is a on the organizing committee for the Next Generation Travel Model Conference sponsored by the Transportation Research Board in Portland, Oregon in 2008.

**Hongmian Gong, Associate Professor of Geography, Hunter College/CUNY**

Dr. Hongmian Gong has 12 years of research and teaching experience in urban GIS, urban transportation, and urban geography. She has published a dozen of peer-reviewed articles and obtained over \$200K in funding to support her research, most of which came from government agencies such as U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, and NASA. Her recent research project involves pilot testing the use of GPS in the next household travel survey in New York Tri-state metro region, funded by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council.

**Robert E. Griffiths, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

Mr. Robert E. Griffiths is the Technical Services Director for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Department of Transportation Planning. During his 30-years at COG he has been deeply involved in the development of technical methods, data, and information systems for the analysis of regional growth and transportation issues. In his career at COG he has worked both as a regional and transportation planner and has served as the project director for several large-scale transportation surveys in the metropolitan Washington region. He is currently serving as the Project Director for the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) 2007 Household Travel Survey -- a major regional effort to obtain current information on the daily travel and activity patterns of persons living in the greater Washington metropolitan area.

**José Holguín-Veras, Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.**

Dr. José Holguín-Veras is Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He received his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering, Magna Cum Laude, from the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in 1981. He received his M.Sc. from the Universidad Central de Venezuela in 1984; and his Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin in 1996. He has taught at California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo, The City College of New York (1997-2002), and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2002-present). He is the author of more than a hundred publications in leading journals, professional conferences, and book chapters on subjects related to transportation modeling, intermodal freight transportation, transportation economics and multicriteria decision making, Intelligent Transportation Systems, simulation, and transportation planning.

**Neil Kilgren, Puget Sound Regional Council**

Mr. Neil Kilgren is a senior planner at Puget Sound Regional Council in Seattle. A graduate of the University of Washington (Geography), for the last 20 years he has been involved with four large household travel survey projects for the PSRC.

**Kyung-Hwa Kim, Portland Metro**

Ms. Kyung-Hwa Kim is a principal planner at Metro, Portland Oregon. She has been working at Metro for 20 years as a modeler. Her 20 years of experience covers from simple data analysis to complicated activity model development. Her strength on data understanding and model structure lead to involve with region's the most challenging projects such as Land Use Transportation and Air Quality (LUTRAQ) study, Transportation Analysis and Simulation System (TRANSIM), Activity Model Development, and Regional Freight Modeling Project. She has been served for numerous peer modeling review committee, member of the Oregon Modeling Steering Committee, Transportation Research Board (TRB) Transportation Survey Methods Committee, and Transportation Research Board (TRB) Task Force on Moving Activity-Based Approaches to Practice Committee.

**Elaine Murakami, Federal Highway Administration**

Ms. Elaine Murakami is a community planner with the Federal Highway Administration Office of Planning in Washington, D.C., where she has worked for 15 years. Previous to her job with FHWA, she worked for 9 years at the Puget Sound Regional Council, the MPO for Seattle. She has worked on innovations in household travel and activity surveys, with particular focus on increasing response rates and reducing item non-response, including financial incentives, diary design, and the use of new technology (GPS, cell phones, web interface). She is interested in using multi-day GPS data for analyzing activity space. At PSRC, she initiated the Puget Sound Transportation Panel, the first general purpose longitudinal transportation survey in the U.S. Ms. Murakami also serves as Chair of the TRB New Technologies in Travel Survey Methods Subcommittee.

**Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Assoc. Professor of Urban Affairs & Planning, Hunter College/CUNY**

Dr. Laxmi Ramasubramanian is an associate professor in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning at Hunter College. Ramasubramanian holds master's degrees in architecture (University of Madras, India) and city planning (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and a doctorate in environment-behavior studies (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee). She has previously held research and teaching appointments at the University of Illinois-Chicago and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and postdoctoral fellowships at the University of New England (Australia) and the University of Auckland. She seeks to inform and transform planning policy and its practice in order to create a just and equitable society. Dr. Ramasubramanian's research falls within the larger umbrella of Critical GIS research (investigations that examine how GIS adoption and use can alter social and political processes and the power of individuals and institutions). Her area of expertise is in setting up and implementing participatory planning projects that use affordable and accessible digital technologies. Dr. Ramasubramanian's research has uncovered that technology use by relatively powerless actors alters the nature of knowledge creation and thereby the discursive strategies they can use to solve strategic planning problems.

**Guy Rousseau, Atlanta Regional Commission**

Mr. Guy Rousseau is the Modeling Manager for the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the MPO for Atlanta, Georgia, which he joined in 1998. He is a member of the TRB Committees on Transportation Planning Applications, Metadata, and Travel Survey Methods. He is a member of the TRB oversight panel for the ACRP Mode Choice Models project. He is also on the TRB/NAS Committee for the Determination of the State of the Practice in Metropolitan Area Travel Forecasting (TRB Special Report 288, Metropolitan Travel Forecasting, Current Practice and Future Direction). He has participated in the FHWA's Travel Model Improvement Program peer review of metropolitan travel forecasting for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Memphis, San Diego, St. Louis, Seattle and Knoxville. He holds an MSCE degree from Laval University and a BSCE degree from the University of Montreal. He is also the Co-Chairman of the TRB Household Travel Survey Subcommittee.