

# Using audit trails to monitor interviewer behavior under CAPI mode in China Family Panel Studies

*Yan Sun and Yanhui Zou; Peking University*

CFPS moved from a paper-and-pencil instrument to Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) in 2009. With CAPI came the ability to capture timing and the sequence of keystrokes associated with an interview, via an audit trail. Audit files produced by CAI software present a record of the actions and entries made by interviewers as an interview is completed. The audit trails contain a wealth of information for instrument diagnostics and survey methodologists.

In this study, we used the audit data from CFPS, which has collected audit trail information for around 100,000 complete surveys in the past few years. The data enabled us to consider a statistical study on selected interviewer actions under CAPI mode.

Survey production files were then analyzed to answer a series of questions including:

1. How interviewers chose to enter data (keyboard vs. mouse)?
2. How interviewers handled edit messages when they were triggered
3. How often do they use F1 (QbyQ) ? Under what circumstances do they activity this function?
4. How often do interviewers enter notes (F2)?

All aspects will be discussed from the interviewer's point of view (age, sex, academic level and etc.) and from the questionnaire's point of view (open/closed ended questions, questions about dates/facts/feelings ...). This paper will also discuss how interviewer behavior changed over time.

Besides, this paper aims at provide objective feedback on the interviewing process, which can lead to changes in training or supervision. Perhaps more than the results on our survey, this may give ideas to anyone who would analyze an audit trail file and extract.on for Blaise IS questionnaires.